

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
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June 8, 2021

Strengthening Oversight of School Law Enforcement Services

Los Angeles County (County) and its cross-sector partners have made substantial progress in recent years toward shifting the paradigm of the County’s criminal justice system from a punitive approach to an evidence-based rehabilitative model. As the Board of Supervisors (Board) continues to implement Youth Justice [Reimagined](#), the Alternatives to Incarceration [Initiative](#), and other critical reforms, it must ensure that School Resource Deputy services, and other services provided to enhance school safety and security, avoid over-criminalization, and support schools in their efforts to improve student well-being and enhance academic achievement.

Research and data provide evidence that law enforcement presence on school campuses can have a negative impact on students. A [review](#) of school policing by the WestEd Justice and Prevention Research Center found no evidence of improved school safety with the presence of School Resource Officers on campus. The School Crime Supplement of the National Crime Victimization Survey showed that the presence of School Resource Officers on campus [increases](#) students’ fears and makes them feel less safe. Researchers further find that schools with high security not only have more suspensions, but also a greater Black-White [disparity](#) in these suspensions. In addition, researchers found evidence of unnecessary criminalization, where it is [more likely](#) that minor misbehavior will result in arrest and court referral. Moreover, repeated low-level

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MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND SHEILA KUEHL

June 8, 2021

PAGE 2

contact with law enforcement significantly [reduced](#) test scores and [increased](#) levels of anxiety for young men of color.

In the past, the Board has delegated authority to the Sheriff to negotiate with schools within the County to provide law enforcement services. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) has provided full-time law enforcement services to school districts for 23 years. Currently, 17 school districts contract for School Resource Deputy (SRD) services. Participating schools – including elementary, middle, and high schools – have a full-time Sheriff's deputy on campus or available on call. However, the County has a broader array of services to offer schools to meet their needs that may not be within the Sheriff's Departments' purview.

Given the evidence of adverse impacts of similar programs in other jurisdictions, the County must take a closer look at the impact of its SRD services. While the Sheriff has begun collecting limited data on this program, more oversight of data collection and reporting is needed to promote transparency and address the issues identified by research. Such data should be made available on a public website so stakeholders can see the impact of these services. In addition, given the [higher](#) than usual incidents of trauma and anxiety in this stage of the pandemic, additional information and data on the SRD program is needed to ensure that students are receiving the services they need. A critical analysis of data is needed to better understand the program's impact on health, educational, and justice outcomes.

The County has already engaged in meaningful work to document holistic approaches to school climate, discipline, and safety through the Youth Justice Work Group. [Researchers](#) find that school mental health services improve behavior and school climate and reduce disciplinary referrals. In addition, a review of studies involving participants of restorative justice programs finds a [decrease](#) in exclusionary discipline and harmful behavior, as well as improved school climate. Programs like the Department of Mental Health's School Threat Assessment Response [Team](#), along with the County's Division of Youth Development and Diversion under the Office of Diversion and Reentry, provide existing County infrastructure and alternative strategies for meaningfully improving safety and well-being on school campuses. Furthermore, comprehensive

school-based programming like those facilitated by Social Justice Learning Institute, California Conference for Equality and Justice, and the Brotherhood Crusade Bloom Initiative have demonstrated the value of providing youth with targeted academic, professional, social, emotional, and cultural development opportunities.

As schools continue to welcome students back to their campuses, the County has an opportunity to promote its Care First vision and reimagine school safety, especially given the support that many students will need as we emerge from a global pandemic.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Approve the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department's (Sheriff) Board letter dated May 18, 2021 entitled, "Approval of Amendment Number Three to School Law Enforcement Services Agreement for the School Resource Deputy Program," and amend Directive No. 2, which delegates authority to the Sheriff to execute Amendments to the School Agreements with the various school districts to extend the term of the School Agreements for the third one-year extension option from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, to require that the Inspector General review and approve each amendment prior to its execution.
2. Require the Sheriff to return to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for approval of future agreements or extension amendments with each school district for school law enforcement services no later than 90 days in advance of the effective date of each agreement or amendment.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) to oversee the implementation of the following directives:
4. Instruct the CEO and Director of ODR, in collaboration with the Sheriff, school districts within Los Angeles County which currently contract for School Resource Deputy Program (Program) services, the Inspector General, Superintendent of the County Office of Education (LACOE), Executive Director of the Information Systems Advisory Body, Chief Information Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services, Chair of the Probation

Oversight Commission (POC), Chair of the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), District Attorney, Director of the Department of Public Health, Executive Director of the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, and other relevant County, school district and community stakeholders, to report back in writing in 90 days with a proposed set of quarterly data points and a plan to collect and publish this data, including:

- a. The Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 data;
- b. School site crime incidents reported to, or observed by, the Sheriff or other law enforcement agency;
- c. The number of inquiries into the Los Angeles County Regional Identification System by school police departments or by Sheriff personnel who are stationed at schools (disaggregated by school site);
- d. Number of times that the Sheriff or other law enforcement agency was called to a school site and included for each incident: (a) the type of call, (b) related offense (e.g., trespassing, disruption, battery, possession of a weapon), and (c) resolution of call;
- e. Randomly selected redacted/anonymous iStar and incident reports detailing incident(s) for which staff referred to law enforcement;
- f. Number of times Sheriff or other law enforcement officers issued a citation to a student:
 - i. On-school sites for school-related offenses; On-school sites for non-school-related offenses; and Off-school sites for school-related offenses.
- g. Number of times Sheriff or other law enforcement officers contacted students off the school site for matters pertaining to school-related incidents;
- h. Number of times that Sheriff or other law enforcement officers handcuffed, restrained, or summoned students on campus;
- i. Number of arrests of students made by Sheriff or other law enforcement officers:

- i. On-school sites for school related offenses; On-school sites for non-school related offenses; and Off-school sites for school related offenses.
 - j. Number of times any arrested student was offered or placed in diversion;
 - k. Complaints/grievances: The number of complaints and grievances against Sheriff or other law enforcement officers, disaggregated by the number of complaints lodged against individual officers, identified by the officer's individual assigned code or identification number. Complaints and grievances should include but not be limited to any reports of injuries or excessive force;
 - l. Referrals: The number of referrals by Sheriff or other law enforcement officers of students from school sites to wellness centers, medical facilities, tutors, mentors, or other resources in lieu of arrest or citation, including referrals pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code § 5150;
 - m. Full and complete copies of Sheriff or other law enforcement officers' logs pertaining to activities on school campuses;
 - n. Any other information Sheriff or other law enforcement believes is relevant, including but not limited to information regarding the nature of any collaborative efforts between the parties.
- 5. For the required data elements in 4 a – j, the data shall be disaggregated by school site, offense, and student subgroup, including age, race, ethnicity, student English learner status, foster youth status, gender, and disability (if applicable), whether the student has an Individualized Education Plan or section 504 Plan, and the disposition of the matter;
- 6. Request the Chief Probation Officer, Superintendent of LACOE, Director of ODR, Sheriff, District Attorney, and other relevant County departments make readily available relevant records used in the collection and reporting of data to the Office of Inspector General for verification and investigation; and to the COC and the POC, excluding records that cannot be legally shared for confidentiality purposes, for public discussion and analysis;

7. Building upon the documentation of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs to transform school climate, discipline and safety from the Youth Justice Reimagined Report (“Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined,” October [2020](#)), instruct the Director of the ODR, in collaboration with County, school district and community stakeholders, to report back in writing in 120 days on the existing supports and community interventions currently implemented throughout school districts within the County that eliminate or reduce the need for law enforcement intervention. This report should include:
 - a. Estimates of program costs, input from school districts that currently contract for Program services, and an assessment of the need for school climate and youth development supports and services in these school districts, including any data needed for the implementation of recommended programs and services;
 - b. A discussion and consideration of how strategies such as restorative justice programs, indigenous healing practices, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy interventions, Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports, and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports can be incorporated;
 - c. How existing programs like the County Community School Initiative and the County’s Youth Diversion and Development program could be leveraged and expanded;
 - d. Alignment with current criminal justice initiatives in the County, including Youth Justice Reimagined and the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative;
 - e. Identification of barriers to connecting students with community-based services on school campuses.
8. Request the Sheriff to provide within 30 days information pertaining to Program services on program structure, staffing, budget, and other relevant information, including training manuals, to the Director of the ODR to assist with the implementation of Directive No. 7a;
9. Instruct County Counsel to review any relevant mandates or regulations and report back to the Board in writing in 120 days on any issues that may preclude or

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND SHEILA KUEHL

June 8, 2021

PAGE 7

otherwise affect the ability of the ODR, any other County department, or community-based organizations to provide services identified in the report back requested in Directive No. 7 above to school districts.

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