

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM  
AT BILLINGS MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

**CITY OF BILLINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

We do hereby agree that it is mutually beneficial to all parties for Billings Police Officers to be assigned as School Resource Officers to schools within the City of Billings. It is understood by all parties that officers are employees of the City of Billings Police Department.

The purpose of this document is to facilitate a clear understanding of roles, duties, and responsibilities. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being set forth on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 with full recognition that the agreement and document must be a living document to allow for program evolution and provide for some City of Billings and Billings School District variances, needs, and future changes. It is recognized that the School Resource Officer Program has enjoyed a Twenty-two (22) year history within the City of Billings, since a limited pilot project at Billings West High School was implemented by the West End Community Oriented Policing team, and has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the schools. This MOU is being set forth to provide universal clarification of expectations, to minimize confusion, and to provide for consistency between officers, schools, principals, and directors.

**The Billings Police Department recognizes and supports the need for safe schools and a safe learning environment for our youth.** In furtherance of that goal, the Billings Police Department School Resource Officers shall work in partnership with school officials toward this end. The schools will provide a private office, office furnishings, telephone, and a computer to the SRO for his/her use in the school. The Police Department will provide any required police equipment, including radios and motorized and non-motorized vehicles to the SROs.

## **MISSION STATEMENT - BILLINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*The Billings Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life through a customer service, problem solving partnership with the community.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT - SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

*Through education and enforcement and by cooperative efforts with the school staff, the students, the parents, the courts, the surrounding neighborhood, and the community's social service organizations, the SRO program strives to assist the schools with providing a safe school and neighborhood environment, and strives to hold juveniles responsible for their actions and prevent individual problems from developing into patterns of delinquency.*

**BILLINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM  
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

1. Friendly contact between the Police Department and the City's youth.
2. Assistance and information sharing concerning problems and issues affecting the schools and students.
3. Education of children regarding the role of laws, courts, and Police in society.
4. Protection and education of children involving molestation, involvement with older law violators, and other harmful influences.
5. Investigation of cases involving juveniles and use of effective alternatives to court whenever possible.
6. Prevention of crime or delinquent behavior by juveniles within the School Resource Officers' areas of assignment.
7. Effective problem solving and liaison with neighborhoods surrounding the **middle schools**, which are affected negatively by the conduct of students.

It should be recognized that School Resource Officers:

- ◆ are encouraged to be a part of Student Council /Groups and School Staff when requested, and to work as a team with other school officials for the betterment of students and the school and neighborhood environment as a whole;
- ◆ are encouraged to work extra curricular activities as requested by the school administrator. It is recognized by all parties that these assignments provide further opportunities for crime prevention and crime detection. Any work by the SRO in this capacity will be approved by the assigned Police Department Supervisor and will be consistent with the FLSA and Police Union Contract. The SRO will not be used as a replacement officer for off-duty/special duty assignments. It will not relieve the School District of the need to provide adequate security at special events. All after hour work shall be approved by the SRO supervisor in advance;
- ◆ are expected to keep the school principal or his designee informed about law enforcement action which occurs on school property and/or which may involve a student. This, of course, will not occur if the information is inappropriate for release according to the Montana Criminal Justice Information Act of 1979;
- ◆ are police officers assigned as Uniform Patrol Officers of the Operations Division of the Billings Police Department. As such, their primary responsibilities are to

investigate criminal cases involving youth, maintain order through the enforcement of local, state and federal laws, to recover stolen property, bring perpetrators to justice, and support the enforcement policies of the Billings Public Schools;

- ◆ are governed by the rules, policies, shifts, schedules, procedures and practices of the Billings Police Department and the City of Billings, under the supervision of an assigned Sergeant;

- ◆ are expected to attend all training, meetings and appointments assigned by the Police Department. It is recognized that some of these will conflict with officer availability at the school during normal school hours. These conflicts will be minimized as much as possible but the potential exists that such requirements will take precedence over school presence. The officer shall strive to keep the school principal or his representative informed about his/her absences and/or activities as appropriate on a need to know basis;

- ◆ are governed and covered by the current Collective Labor Agreement between City of Billings and the Montana Public Employees Association-Billings Police Unit;

- ◆ are considered by the City of Billings as “non-exempt” employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act and subject to it and the Police Union Contract for compensation and pay; Duty assignment in the summer months, when school is not in session, will be under the direction of the Police Operations Commander. SRO's may also be required to work regular police duty assignments, at other times when school is not in session, when so directed by the Police Operations Commander;

- ◆ SROs, School Administration for the respective middle and/or high schools and the assigned Police Supervisor will meet at the beginning of each school year to determine the goals and objectives of the SRO for the respective school. An assessment mechanism will be developed jointly, in an effort to determine the effectiveness of the SRO program. Quarterly and year end meetings will be held to determine progress and to make adjustments as needed.

## **SUMMARY OF SRO RESPONSIBILITIES**

The SRO's primary responsibility is to maintain law and order in the schools and to insure that the students and faculty have a safe, secure and drug free educational environment. The SRO will be assigned in a full-time capacity and will be responsible for carrying his/her duties at all schools.

The SRO shall coordinate closely with the school Principals on all matters and obtain guidance as to actions that may or can be taken for non-criminal acts. The Principal has the primary responsibility for education and maintaining discipline at the school and the SRO is there to assist the Principal as he/she determines necessary.

The SRO shall be the designee of the Principals in maintaining the physical plant of the school to provide a safe environment as to law enforcement matters and school code violations. This includes but not limited to the building(s), ground(s), parking lot(s), locker(s) and other public school property.

The SRO shall be involved in school discipline and assist the superintendent, principals, faculty, and staff in enforcing the campus code of conduct and other school rules in order to maintain a safe learning environment. When it pertains to preventing a disruption that would, if ignored, place students, faculty and staff at risk of harm, the SRO will resolve the problem to preserve the school climate. IN ALL OTHER CASES, disciplining students is a School District responsibility, and the SRO will intervene and take students who violate the code of conduct to the principal where school discipline can be meted out.

The SRO shall act as and be considered a “school official” for searches and seizures based on reasonable suspicion as it pertains to New Jersey vs. TLO.

## **SELECTION AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION**

Two (2) officers will be selected by means of a joint selection committee, comprised of three (3) representatives from the Billings School District who will be appointed by the Superintendent of Schools and three (3) representatives from the Billings Police Department who will be appointed by the Billings Chief of Police. The Selection Committee will make recommendations to the Chief of Police. While he will duly consider the Committee’s recommendations, selection of each School Resource Officer is within the sole discretion of the Chief of Police. Two officers will be assigned to the four Billings Public Middle Schools.

In return for services provided by the two officers, the Billings School District will pay to the City of Billings the sum of Fifty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$56,820) by July 30, 2017.

## **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT**

The School Resource Officer Program will be assessed annually, and the evaluation will be conducted jointly between the Billings Police Department and Billings Public Schools. The following areas, at a minimum, will be used to evaluate the program:

- ◆ Success of established goals and objectives.
- ◆ An internal survey of high school administration, faculty and student council members, primarily concerning perceptions of safety and security.
- ◆ Traditional police-citizen contacts (citations, arrests, FIRs, etc.).
- ◆ Non-traditional police-citizen contacts (meetings attended, problem areas addressed, student or family interviews, etc.).
- ◆ Surrounding neighborhood feedback and reaction to police efforts to address issues concerning the schools and students.

◆ Accomplishment of tasks agreed upon as part of any work plan written in conjunction with the Principal.

Each officer's effectiveness in the program will be evaluated at the end of each school term. The Principal will provide input into the evaluation. This may include a recommendation to the Chief that the officer not be assigned to that school the following year. The Chief will seriously consider the evaluation and the input of the Superintendent when assigning an officer to a building, and will make a good faith effort to address any concerns raised. Ultimately, however, the final decision on which officer will be assigned as a school resource officer is within the sole discretion of the Police Chief.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective July 1, 2017, and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2018 unless renewed by agreement of both parties or terminated as provided herein.

### **TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

Either party may terminate this agreement upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other party. If this agreement is terminated by School District #2, then the full balance of the Fifty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$56,820) will be retained by the City of Billings in order to maintain the middle school SRO program. If the agreement is terminated by the City of Billings, then the pro-rated balance of the Fifty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred twenty (\$56,820) will be refunded to School District #2. The pro-rated balance will be based on the total number of school days for the 2017/2018 school year and the number of school days remaining after the date of termination of the agreement.

### **NOTICES**

All requests, notices, payments, demands, authorizations, directions, consents or waivers or other documents required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person to, or deposited postage prepaid in the registered or certified mails of the United States, addressed to the City of Billings at:

Chief of Police, Billings Police Department, City of Billings,  
P. O. Box 1554, Billings, MT 59103

or to School District #2 at:

Superintendent, School District #2, Lincoln Center, 415 North 30th Street  
Billings, MT 59101

**MODIFICATION; ENTIRE AGREEMENT OF PARTIES EXPRESSED**

No modification of this Agreement shall be valid or binding unless the modification is in writing, duly dated and signed by both parties.

Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kham Moua  
Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Nelsen Bouck  
Superintendent

**CITY OF BILLINGS**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney