



# **City of Fort Pierce Budget Workshop Presentation**

**School Resource Officers  
August 2, 2018**



# School Resource Officers

- As a result of the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, new state legislation requires major changes in school security.
- The legislation does provide some funding from the State although the State funding falls significantly short of the actual cost of the program.
- The School Board, Local Law Enforcement, the Cities, and the County all play a role in this issue. The School Board and the Sheriff have entered into an agreement for the Sheriff's Office to be the lead agency for providing officers in the schools.



# SRO History

- School Resource Officers Started Back in mid 1980's
- Historically, SLC and the School Board partnered (50%-50%) to fund the program
- In 2010, the # of deputies was reduced from 43 to 23 when the School Board discontinued funding
- A couple of years ago, the School Board began contributing \$400,000 to the program
- Since the time the School Board discontinued contributions, the BOCC has funded just under \$18 million
- Florida Sheriff's Association surveyed Florida counties, indicated St. Lucie County is funding at one of the highest levels in Florida



# SRO Funding FY 18

- Prior to the February tragedy, the total cost of the program run by the Sheriff's Office was approximately \$3.5 million, the School Board paid \$400,000 the BOCC funded the rest. This funded 31 Deputies.
- Additionally, the City of Port St. Lucie budgeted \$568,207 for 4 SROs and 1 Secure Our Schools Coordinator (non-sworn position).
- Following the shooting, the Sheriff's Office reassigned deputies to provide additional coverage at the schools.



# SRO Funding FY 19

- In order to provide coverage at the Schools in accordance with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act, the Sheriff's Office needed 28 additional deputies (in addition to 31 deputies prior to the shooting), equipment, uniforms, guns, and training. The Sheriff's office reassigned 13 existing deputies and hired 15 new deputies.
- The County has increased funding to the program from \$3.1 million to \$3.4 million.
- The School Board has agreed to pay the Sheriff's office \$1,643,520 (Safe Schools Allocation from the State) and is looking at providing an additional \$400,000.
- The City of Port St. Lucie is continuing to fund the officers that they have in the schools.
- According to the Sheriff, the total budget needed for FY 20 is \$7.8 million.



# Keeping Our Schools Safe Next Steps

- Asking St. Lucie's Cities To Provide Coverage To At Least Some of the Schools in Their Jurisdiction For This Shared Responsibility
- Support the School Board as They Explore Options to Increase Funding for School Safety
- Working with Our Legislative Delegation, the School Board, Cities, And The Sheriff's Office – Address Additional Funding For School Safety in Next Legislative Session