



"A City for All Ages"

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

Office of the City Manager

MEMORANDUM

RUSS BLACKBURN
City Manager

TO: COUNCILWOMAN STEPHANIE MORGAN

VIA: RUSS BLACKBURN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: DAVID GRAHAM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) HISTORICAL INFORMATION FULFILLMENT

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2021

On October 8, 2021, Councilwoman Morgan, through Executive Assistant Brandon Dolan, *"requested that she be provided historical accounting information regarding PSL Police Department & Somerset Schools agreement. Specifically, what has Somerset paid the City in the past and how does that compare to what other schools pay for similar services. She would like to ensure that the City's Police Department is being compensated appropriately."*

The Somerset payment history follows:

SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC. PAYMENT HISTORY

| <u>School</u> | <u>FY2018-19</u> | <u>FY2019-20</u> | <u>FY2020-21</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Somerset Academy St. Lucie | \$24,904 | \$33,305 | \$34,752 |
| Somerset College Preparatory Academy | \$45,176 | \$55,802 | \$56,128 |

Somerset Academy, Inc., has two schools participating in the City's SRO program: Somerset Academy St. Lucie and Somerset College Preparatory Academy. As the Somerset Academy, Inc. schools are "charter" schools there is some differentiation between the Somerset group and the three other St. Lucie Public Schools District (SLPS) high schools located within the City of Port St. Lucie (PSL).

All public-school districts in Florida receive annual allocation for SRO services from Florida's Marjory Stonemen Douglas Act (MSDA). In addition, for St. Lucie County (SLC), the 2019 St. Lucie Public Schools-sponsored referendum for teacher salaries, school safety, and educational programs provides additional funding assistance with SRO costs. Student enrollment (population) determines the amount of funds allocated from these funding sources.

To provide SRO services in the County's public schools, the SLPS District contracts exclusively with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. The three SLPS high schools located within the PSL city limits have both a St. Lucie County Deputy Sheriff SRO and a PSL SRO presence whereas the Somerset Academy, Inc. schools have a PSL SRO only. A separate contract between the SLC Sheriff's Office and the PSL Police Department splits the cost for the City-placed SROs in the three public high schools with the SLC

Sheriff’s Office allocating one-half of the cost for the PSL SROs and the City providing the balance. No funding from the contract between the Sheriff’s Office and the PSL Police Department is allocated to the Somerset charter school campuses.

To understand the funding for the School Resource Officer Program in its present form, the Police Department has provided the following information regarding funding for the current (FY2021-22) school year. The amount allocated for each school reflects the actual costs (salary/benefits) for the individual SRO officer assigned to the listed school.

FY2021-22 SOMERSET SCHOOLS SRO SERVICES

| School | SRO Cost* | School Share / % | City Share / % |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Somerset Academy, St. Lucie | \$151,829 | \$70,000 / 46.1% | \$81,829 / 53.9% |
| Somerset College Prep. Academy | <u>\$115,748</u> | <u>\$72,237</u> / 62.4% | <u>\$43,511</u> / 37.6% |
| Total | \$267,577 | \$142,237 / 53.2% | \$125,340 / 46.8% |

FY2021-22 SLC PUBLIC SCHOOLS SRO SERVICES

| | | SLC Sheriff Share / % | City Share / % |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PSL High School | \$146,301 | \$73,150.50 / 50% | \$73,150.50 / 50% |
| Treasure Coast High School | \$141,013 | \$70,506.50 / 50% | \$70,506.50 / 50% |
| SLW Centennial High School | <u>\$118,909</u> | <u>\$59,454.50</u> / 50% | <u>\$59,454.50</u> / 50% |
| Total | \$406,223 | \$203,111.50 / 50% | \$203,111.50 / 50% |

***Amount based on SRO salary, benefits (no overtime or Incentive costs included).**

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please advise. The contracts for renewal of the Somerset Academy, Inc. schools are scheduled for the November 8, 2021 City Council Agenda.

- CC: Mayor Shannon Martin
- Vice Mayor Caraballo
- Councilman David Pickett
- James D. Stokes, PSL City Attorney
- Lee Baggett, PSL Deputy City Attorney
- Chief John Bolduc, PSL Police Dept.
- Abraham Alvarez, Financial Mgmt. Administrator, PSL Police Dept.
- Stephen Okiye, PSL Finance Division Director
- Brandon Dolan, Executive Assistant
- Christina Flores, Executive Assistant