

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement for 2023-2024 Academic Year

DATE: April 27, 2023

BUDGET INFORMATION:

REVENUES:	\$325,000	Clarke County School District Contract
	\$100,000	ACCGov Contribution
	\$425,000	Total Available for Program

EXPENSES:		
ANNUAL:	\$425,000	Total Program Cost
CAPITAL:		
OTHER:		

FUNDING SOURCE: Clarke County School District Contract
FY24 ACCGov Police Department Budget

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: June 6, 2023

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a) Approve the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) School Resource Officer (SRO) program contract (**Attachment #1**) with the Clarke County School District for the 2023-2024 academic year; and
- b) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the contract and all related documents.

HISTORY:

1. Since 1996, the Clarke County School District has contracted with the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) for Police Department Officers to serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) in the School District's middle and high schools.
2. On March 1, 2022, the Mayor & Commission approved the current School Resource Officer (SRO) Program contract for the 2022-2023 academic year.
3. On April 13, 2023, the Clarke County School District approved the proposed School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement for the 2023-2024 Academic Year (**Attachment #2**).

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The role of law enforcement in the Clarke County School District is to create and maintain a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff, faculty, parents and visitors in our schools. Police in schools serve as informal mentors, counsellors and educators on matters of law enforcement. Officers also serve as a resource for students, teachers, and parents on matters pertaining to law enforcement, crime prevention, and awareness.
2. The ACCPD SRO Program benefits both the Clarke County School District and ACCGov. SROs are first and foremost law enforcement officers and are familiar with the problem areas of their respective campuses and surrounding geographies. SROs work in coordination with the Clarke County School District Police Department officers and security personnel to maintain safety within their assigned schools. At all times, SROs remain sworn officers of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department.
3. During the current 2022-2023 school year, six officers are authorized. This contract assigns one officer to each of the two traditional high schools, and one to each of the four middle schools.
4. Since program inception, the contract has been adjusted to bill for activities inclusive of rate of pay changes, overtime calculations, and a percentage (20%) of supervision cost.
5. During school summer vacation months, Police Department SROs continue community outreach. Department SROs are assigned to the Community Outreach Division where they interact with stakeholders in a variety of programs including the youth summer camps. SROs may also assist with patrol operations should operational needs arise.
6. SROs are ACCPD veterans. Each selected officer will attend School Resource Officer Training offered by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center prior to assignment or as soon as practical thereafter. This training also satisfies state-mandated requirements for annual police officer training during each calendar year. ACCGov will pay salaries and travel costs for the selected officers during this training - at least 40 hours of instructional time for each officer.
7. Consistent with previous years, terms of the contract obligate the Clarke County School District for all expenses (salaries, fringe benefits, uniforms, and related police equipment) for six SROs during the 176-day school year (August 2023 to May 2024). SROs will not be assigned to the School District during "planning" dates. The ACCPD budget covers the expenses for the period the SROs are not in the schools.
8. The Clarke County School District will continue paying 20% of a police sergeant's midpoint salary for the responsibilities associated with the oversight of the six SROs during the 176 days of school.

9. These recommendations support the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:

- Good Neighbors Goal, Strategy C: *Decrease crime and keep residents safe through “community-centric” services.*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a) Approve the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) School Resource Officer (SRO) program contract (**Attachment #1**) with the Clarke County School District for the 2023-2024 academic year; and
 - b) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the contract and all related documents.
2. Mayor and Commission deny approval of the School Resource Officer program contract.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Option #1: a and b

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Joshua Watkins



Jerry G. Saulters

5/4/2023

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a and b



Manager

May 10, 2023

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Contract 2023-2024
- Attachment 2: Clarke County School District Approval of Contract 2023-2024



Clarke County
School District

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA
AND CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 13th day of April, 2023, by and between the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, hereinafter referred to as "ACCGov" and the Clarke County School District, hereinafter referred to as "School District."

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the School District desires to promote a safe school environment in all of the schools within the school district; and

WHEREAS, the School District has requested a joint program, known as the School Resource Officer Program, with ACCGov assigning police officers of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department in middle schools and high schools.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises hereinafter contained and other valuable considerations, ACCGov and School District agree as follows:

**1.
TERM**

The terms of this agreement shall commence on the first student reporting day of the 2023-2024 school year and shall terminate at midnight on the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year. Prior to January 1, 2024, ACCGov and School District will confer to evaluate this agreement and determine if it is to be renewed for the 2023-2024 school year, and if any modifications, additions, or omissions shall be made. A new contract proposal shall be forwarded to the Commission no later than January 15, 2024. If this agreement is not renewed in writing by mutual agreement, said agreement shall expire at midnight of the last student reporting day of the 2023-2024 school year.

**2.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCGOV**

ACCGov will assign six (6) veteran police officers of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department to the School District to perform duties of a School Resource Officer (SRO) at two high schools and four middle schools. The ACCPD Chief of Police, or his designee, in collaboration with designated School District personnel, and the administration of the affected schools, will select the officers for assignment. These police officers will provide the needed law enforcement services to the assigned schools and serve as role models to create an atmosphere of trust and credibility with the students,

staff, faculty and parents of the School District. ACCGov will pay the salaries and fringe benefits of selected police officers as well as the cost of uniforms and related police equipment.

3.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT

The School District shall reimburse ACCGov for all expenses (salaries, fringe benefits, uniforms, and related police equipment) of the assigned police officers for all work performed during the one hundred seventy six (176) day school year as designated by the School District. This also includes compensation at the officers' hourly and overtime rates for approved extended work days at the officers' assigned schools. Additionally, it is agreed that the School District shall reimburse ACCGov for twenty (20) percent of a police sergeant's salary for daily supervision of assigned SROs during the one hundred seventy six (176) day school year. It is agreed between ACCGov and the School District that the maximum expenditure required under this contract will not exceed three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$325,000.00). Costs exceeding \$325,000.00 will not be paid unless and until this agreement is amended by the respective parties.

4.

**OPERATING REQUIREMENTS OF THE
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

The School District and the Athens-Clarke County Police Department have jointly developed written operating requirements. The SROs assigned to each school shall be governed by a written operating policy in existence that has been developed by the School District Secondary Principals, the Clarke County School District Police Department, and the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, and such officers shall follow the procedures with respect to the day-to-day activities of the program. Each SRO shall be required to execute the School Resource Officer Duties Agreement as a condition of their participation in the SRO Program.

5.

PAYMENT

The School District shall reimburse ACCGov for the assigned officers within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of an itemized invoice from ACCGov.

6.

INSURANCE

The School District shall provide and maintain during the entire performance of this agreement, general comprehensive liability coverage with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and a \$2,000,000 aggregate and workers' compensation coverage per the Georgia statutory limits and employers liability of at least \$1,000,000 per accident and

disease. The School District shall provide to Athens-Clarke Police Department a Certificate of Insurance evidencing the required insurance and limits of coverage.

7.
MODIFICATION

This agreement may be modified only by the mutual written consent of ACCGov and the School District.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.


**UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

**CLARKE COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:

By:

Kelly Girtz,
Mayor


LaKeisha Gantt, Ph.D.
President, CCSD Board of Education

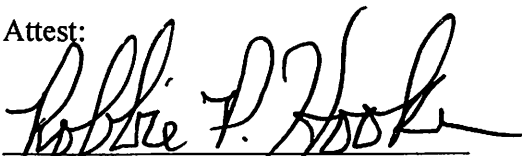
Date

4/13/2023
Date

Attest:

Attest:

Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission


Robbie Hooker, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Secretary, CCSD Board of Education

Date

4/13/23
Date



**Clarke County
School District**
Better Together

Office of the Superintendent
Robbie P. Hooker, Ph.D
Superintendent

April 18, 2023

Mayor Kelly Girtz
Athens-Clarke County Unified Government
562 Pulaski Street
Athens, GA 30601

Dear Mayor Girtz,

On April 13, 2023 the Clarke County Board of Education approved the renewal of the SRO Memorandum of Agreement between the Clarke County School District and the Unified Government Athens-Clarke County for the 2023-2024 school year. The renewal of the contract was reviewed and discussed and passed unanimously. We are requesting that the Athens-Clarke County Board of Commissioners approve this agreement and continue this partnership for the 2023-2024 school year. In an effort of continuous improvement, we will utilize the next year to evaluate our student needs and related safety and security program structure. We look forward to working with ACC Unified Government on these next steps.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robbie P. Hooker
Superintendent
Clarke County School District