



## Communications Office

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## School Resource Officers

HC-2024-12

Hendersonville, NC – May 22, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners has announced their commitment to continuing the reimbursement to the City of Hendersonville for the use of City Police Officers as School Resource Officers (SRO) in the four County schools within the City limits for the 2024-2025 school year.

“After polling the other four Commissioners, discussing this matter with our partners, and in acknowledgment of the strain this would put on the City of Hendersonville’s budget at this point in time if they decided to continue to provide the SROs for these four schools,” said Board Chair Rebecca McCall, “the decision was made by the Board of Commissioners to continue partial funding of City Police Officer SROs for this fiscal year.”

This decision underscores the County’s dedication to maintaining a safe educational environment by ensuring a consistent presence of law enforcement in the County schools.

In 2018, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners began their commitment to provide School Resource Officers (SRO) in ALL Henderson County Public Schools.

In 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved these reimbursements to the City of Hendersonville for the Police Officers who serve these County schools, (Hendersonville High School, Hendersonville Middle School, Hendersonville Elementary School, and Bruce Drysdale Elementary School) for 82% of their costs. This past school year, that amount was \$250,000.

During the Board of Commissioners’ County budget retreat on May 15<sup>th</sup>, some discussion was held about the SROs that work in the four schools within the City limits of Hendersonville, however, no decisions were made at that time on whether to continue with this funding or move the responsibility of those 4 schools to the Henderson County Sheriff who provides SRO service for the other 19 schools in Henderson County. This is a budget item the Board of Commissioners addresses every year. As with all programs funded by Henderson County, this line item will be revisited during the 2025/2026 budget process.

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