

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021 by and between the FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT] ("Board"), and the CITY OF FORT THOMAS, ("the city").

### **WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, as part of HB 330 and as particularly codified in KRS 158.441, the 1998 General Assembly authorized the provision of school resource officer services by means of a contract to be entered into by local school districts with appropriate law enforcement agencies;

WHEREAS, the Board is a body politic and corporate pursuant to KRS 160.160, with legal authority to enter into contracts;

WHEREAS, the City is home rule class city designated by statute as a corporate entity with capacity to contract and be contracted with;

WHEREAS, the city possesses authority over the [FORT THOMAS POLICE DEPARTMENT], which has been created as a department and agency of city government by ordinance;

WHEREAS, it is the intent and desire of the City and Board to provide for the services of a school resource officer as set forth herein and as authorized pursuant to KRS 158.441;  
and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual agreements as set forth herein below, IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the Board and the City as follows:

## **ARTICLE I**

It is the intent and provision of this Agreement to provide for the services of a school resource officer with such services to be rendered at such Board school sites as more fully described herein below for a term commencing on the opening day in August 2021 and expiring one (1) year thereafter on June 1, 2022.

It is expressly agreed and understood that the Board and the city shall not be bound hereby beyond the foregoing one (1) year term. Provided, however, that this Agreement shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year terms upon the failure of furnishing of notice within thirty (30) calendar days of the expiration of any given one (1) year term with such notice to be furnished as provided in Article IX herein below.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Rights And Duties Of The City**

The City shall provide a school resource officer ("SRO") and SRO services as follows:

#### **(A) Training**

The SRO shall be a sworn law enforcement officer. Prior to the assignment of a person to serve as SRO, the city shall certify in writing to the Superintendent of the Board that such person has had specialized training to work with youth at a school site. Such training may consist of university course work for potential SRO candidates, law enforcement course work addressing working with youth at a school site, professional training in such areas, or training and experience *in* connection with other recognized school/youth law enforcement programs (*e.g.*, D.A.R.E.).

#### **(B) Assignment of School Resource Officer**

(1) The City shall assign one (1) regularly employed police officer to serve as SRO who shall serve the following schools: Highlands High School and Highlands Middle School, pursuant to a schedule to be determined in conjunction with the principals of such schools, the Superintendent of the Board, the City Administrative Officer, and the Chief of Police of the City, which will allow for regular rendition of services at said schools. In addition, the SRO shall perform services on an as needed basis in the School District's elementary schools and parochial schools located within Fort Thomas, and the schedule to be devised will allow for such.

(2) The SRO shall report directly to Chief of Police, who, as the SRO's supervisor, will work with the school administration of the Board in providing for the rendition of SRO services as outlined herein.

(C) Regular Duty Hours Of School Resource Officer

(1) The SRO shall perform a regular workweek of 40 hours with such hours and pay to be based on duties and pay equivalent to a regular police officer. It is agreed and understood that pursuant to clause (D) (2) (d) below, the SRO will from time to time be expected to attend meetings of parents/ faculty and school functions on request of a principal. Any required hours working with the Fort Thomas Independent School District beyond the normal workweek hours will be billed to the Fort Thomas Independent School District at the City's overtime rate.

(D) Duties of School Resource Officer

(1) Instructional responsibilities/duties of SRO.

The SRO shall work in conjunction with principals of the aforementioned schools and certified instructors to assist in the delivery of instruction in a variety of subject areas, including but not limited to, police and their role in society; laws; juvenile and adult criminal justice systems; career opportunities in law enforcement; drug education; gang resistance education and training; teens, crime and community; conflict resolution; and other classes as permitted by scheduling and as determined to be appropriate by respective principals and school staffs. It is agreed and understood that the SRO will perform services on a "guest lecturer" basis consistent with regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education and the Educational Professional Standards Board and shall do so in conjunction with and under the direction of appropriately certified teaching personnel, or shall provide such services on a co-curricular or extracurricular basis as scheduling permits.

(2) Additional Duties and Responsibilities of the SRO.

(a) The SRO shall coordinate his or her instructional activities with principals and staff members so as to allow for the orderly educational process within the respective schools served.

(b) The SRO shall develop expertise in presenting various subjects to the students. Such subjects shall include basic understanding of the laws, the role of the police officer and the police mission.

(c) The SRO shall encourage individual and small group discussions with students based upon material presented in class to further establish rapport with students.

(d) When requested by the principal, the SRO shall attend parent/faculty meetings to solicit support and understanding of the program.

(e) The SRO shall make himself/herself available for conferences with students, parents, and faculty members in order to assist them with problems of law enforcement or of a crime prevention nature.

(f) The SRO shall become familiar with all community agencies, which offer assistance to youths and their families such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc. The SRO shall make referrals to such agencies when necessary thereby acting as a resource person to the students, faculty, and staff of the school. The SRO shall notify the principal of the referrals.

(g) The SRO shall assist the principal in developing plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations that may result from student unrest.

(h) Should it become necessary to conduct formal police interviews with students, the SRO shall adhere to Board Policy, Fort Thomas Police Department Policy, Kentucky Revised statutes, and other legal requirements with regard to such interviews.

(i) The SRO may, by way of the exercise of his/her discretion as a sworn police officer, take law enforcement action as required. As soon as practical, the SRO shall, in writing, make the principal of the school aware of such action. At the principal's request, the SRO shall take appropriate law enforcement action against intruders and unwanted guests who may appear at the school and related school functions, to the extent that the SRO may do so under the authority of law. Whenever practical, the SRO shall advise the principal before requesting additional police assistance on campus.

(j) The SRO shall give assistance to the law enforcement officers in matters regarding his/her school assignment, whenever necessary.

(k) The SRO shall, whenever possible, participate in and/or attend school functions. (1) The SRO may be assigned investigations relating to thefts, or any crime, relating to the students attending schools that the SRO serves.

(n) The SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian, as disciplining students is a school responsibility. It is agreed and understood that the principal and appropriate school staff shall be responsible for investigating and determining, in their discretion, whether a student has violated school and/or board disciplinary codes or standards and the appropriate administrative action to take. However, this shall not be construed to prevent the SRO from sharing information with school administration/staff, which may aid in the determination of whether a disciplinary offense occurred. Upon assignment, the SRO will be provided with copies of Board disciplinary policies and codes and the discipline codes of each school. The SRO shall become familiar with district/school disciplinary codes and disciplinary codes and standards, and will meet at least annually with the Superintendent and each principal for the purpose of reviewing applicable disciplinary standards.

(o) The principal, school administration, or staff shall advise the SRO of incidents or activities possibly giving rise to criminal or juvenile violations and the SRO shall then determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate. with respect to those activities occurring on school property or at school sponsored functions, which a principal is directed to report to the "appropriate law enforcement agency" under KRS 158.154 ("assault resulting in serious physical injury, a sexual offense, kidnapping, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law, or damage to the property"), and those activities which an administrator, teacher, or other school employee is directed to report to the "local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State police," under KRS 158.155 (such activities consisting of conduct occurring on school premises or school sponsored events which is believed to constitute a misdemeanor or violation or offense relating to deadly weapons, use, possession, or sale of controlled substances, or a felony offense), it is agreed and understood that the SRO, as an employee of the Fort Thomas Police Department, is authorized to receive and appropriately act on any of such foregoing reports and the aforementioned school personnel may satisfy such reporting requirements by advising the SRO of activities believed to fall within the foregoing statutory directives.

(p) The SRO is not to be used for regularly assigned lunchroom duties, as hall monitors, or other monitoring duties. If there is a problem in such areas, the SRO may assist the school until the problem is resolved.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Rights and Duties of the Board**

The Board shall provide the full-time SRO the following materials and facilities deemed necessary to the performance of the SRO's duties with Highlands High School to be considered the SRO's base school and the office facilities as outlined below to be provided at such school:

- (A) Access to an air-conditioned and properly lighted office which shall contain a telephone which may be used for general business purposes and access to a private meeting space.
- (B) A location for files and records which can be properly locked and secured.
- (C) A desk with drawers, a chair, work table, filing cabinet, and office supplies.
- (D) Access to a computer and printer.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

##### **Financials of the School Resource Officer program**

For the 2021-2022 school year, the financing of the SRO will be provided by the City. Such financing shall include SRO's salary, benefits, vehicle, and equipment.

Funding responsibilities for subsequent years shall remain the same subject to the right of either to provide notice of termination of this Agreement as set forth in Article I above.

#### **ARTICLE V**

##### **Employment status of the School Resource Officer**

The SRO shall remain an employee of the Fort Thomas Police Department, and shall not be an employee of the Board. The Board and the City acknowledge that the SRO shall remain responsive to the chain of command of the Fort Thomas Police Department. In addition, the Fort Thomas Police Department and Fort Thomas Independent Schools will collaboratively complete a performance review annually and provide feedback to the selected officer.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

##### **Appointment of School Resource Officer**

(A) The appropriate city appointing authority shall assign an officer who is qualified to be an SRO. By agreement of the Parties, the SRO shall be Officer Zac Rohlfer. The Superintendent and the City Administrative Officer shall develop an interview process when subsequent officers are selected in the future.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Dismissal Of School Resource Officer: Replacement**

(A) In the event a principal of a school to which the SRO is assigned feels that the SRO is not effectively performing his or her duties and responsibilities, the principal shall recommend to the Superintendent or designee that the SRO assignment be reviewed in the program at the school and shall state the reasons therefore in writing. Within five (5) working days of receiving the recommendation from the principal, the superintendent or his/her designee shall advise the Mayor or his/her designee of the principal's request. In the event the superintendent feels the SRO is not performing his or her duties effectively, the superintendent shall so advise the City Administrative Officer and the Chief of Police who will then meet as soon as practical to resolve the issues. Replace the SRO, or terminate the program.

(B) The Chief Administrative Officer or Chief of Police may dismiss or reassign an SRO based upon Police Department Rules, Regulations, or General Orders and when it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City.

(C) In the event of the resignation, dismissal, or reassignment of an SRO, the Chief of Police shall provide a temporary replacement for the SRO within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving written notice of such absence, dismissal, resignation, or reassignment. As soon as practicable, the Interview Committee following the process set out in Article VI shall recommend a permanent replacement for the SRO position. Provided however, that any temporary replacement shall attain the required training and qualifications as outlined in Article II(A) and Article VI(B), above.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Termination of Agreement**

This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice without cause by either party.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Notices**

Any and all notices or any other communication herein required or permitted shall be deemed to have been given when deposited in the United States postal service as regular mail, postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

Superintendent  
Fort Thomas Independent School District  
28 North Fort Thomas Ave  
Fort Thomas, KY 41075

City Administrative Officer  
City of Fort Thomas  
130 North Fort Thomas Ave  
Fort Thomas, KY 4075

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Good Faith**

The School Board, the Mayor, their agents and employees agree to cooperate in good faith in fulfilling the terms of this Agreement. Unforeseen difficulties or questions will be resolved by negotiation between the Superintendent and the Mayor, or their designees.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Modification**

This document constitutes the full understanding of the parties and no terms, conditions, understandings or agreement purporting to modify or vary the terms of this document shall be binding unless hereafter made in writing and signed by the parties.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Non-Assignment**

This Agreement, and each and every covenant herein, shall not be capable of assignment, unless the express written consent of the School Board and Mayor is obtained.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Merger**

This Agreement constitutes a final written expression of all the terms of this Agreement and is a complete and exclusive statement of those terms.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Insurance/Hold Harmless Clause**

It is understood and agreed that during the term of this Agreement and any renewal hereof, the city shall purchase and maintain errors and omissions and general liability insurance at a minimum of \$2,000,000 per policy naming the Board, and its officers and employees, as additional insureds and providing insurance coverage for all acts, omissions, and services performed by the SRO as described in this Agreement including insurance coverage for claims, suits, damages, fees or expenses (including cost of defense) arising out of any such acts, omissions and services. Further, the City shall provide written proof of said coverage prior to execution of this Agreement and any time thereafter on request of the Board. The insurance provided by the City shall be deemed primary coverage relating to the acts of the SRO and not excess. Irrespective of said agreement and covenant, the city shall indemnify, to the extent permitted by law and hold the Board and any and all of its members, agents, officers, and employees in their respective individual and official capacities harmless from any and all acts, omissions, claims, damages, fees, expenses, and legal actions of any form or description arising from the performance of duties by the SRO under this contract.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Severability**

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused duplicate originals of this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized officers.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FORT THOMAS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Meyer  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY, BOARD OF EDUCATION

CITY OF FORT THOMAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Haas  
Mayor

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY )

) Sct.

COUNTY OF CAMPBELL )

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Eric Haas, Mayor, City of Fort Thomas, this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_