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April 19, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Funding for School Resource Officers

Dear Governor Scott,

On behalf of the City of Largo, I am writing to respectfully urge you to undertake three legislative actions.

First, we urge that funding for school safety, specifically for school resource officers, be revisited if there is a legislative call to order via a special session, or if the Joint Legislative Budget Commission chooses to convene.

Second, now that school districts across the state have had sufficient time to review Senate Bill 7026 closely and to discuss the Guardian Program in their respective communities, we urge that a majority of the funds earmarked for the Guardian Program be transferred to the Safe Schools allocation so that school districts may use the funds to hire or contract for additional school resource officers.

Third, we urge that once sufficient funding for school resource officers is made available to school districts who have decided to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 7026 through the provision of certified school resource officers in schools, any remaining funds be utilized to enhance other safe school initiatives, such as school hardening.

In a quote attributed to the former Governor of the State of Connecticut, M. Jodi Rell, "At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security." Thank you in advance for your consideration of these three important requests.

Respectfully,

Louis L. "Woody" Brown
Mayor
CITY OF LARGO
wobrown@largo.com / 727.587.6702

Cc: Representative Jose Oliva, Alternating Chair, Florida Joint Legislative Budget Commission
Senator Rob Bradley, Alternating Chair, Florida Joint Legislative Budget Commission
Pinellas County Delegation of the Florida Legislature
Bob Gualtieri, Sheriff, Pinellas County
Dr. Michael A. Grego, Superintendent, Pinellas County Schools

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