



Wauwatosa Police Department

Interdepartmental Correspondence

DATE: October 15, 2024

TO: Community Affairs Committee and Common Council **Leg. File # 24-1396**

FROM: Chief James H. MacGillis

SUBJECT: Request Approval of 3-year Memorandum of Understanding Between Wauwatosa Police Department and the Wauwatosa School Board

Background/History

The Wauwatosa Police Department (WUPD) and the Wauwatosa School District (WSD) have had a working relationship for well over 20 years, to ensure a safe learning environment in all Wauwatosa schools. The WUPD had been providing School Resource Officers (SRO) during that time period; however, the relationship, costs, and service expectations had not been codified in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In 2018, WUPD began working with the WSD to author and approve an MOU; however, due to changes in the School Board, coupled with perceptions of police/community relations, the MOU process stalled and became a perpetual endeavor. In 2021, WUPD spent considerable time and effort working in partnership with WSD leadership; specifically, Superintendent Demond Means, the School Board, Chief of Pupil and Family Supports Luke Pinion, and School Security Director Laura Geisler to author an MOU for a 1-year term. In March, 2023, the MOU was voted and approved by the WSD School Board, and signed by Dr. Means and the WUPD (attached).

Earlier this year (2024), WSD leadership discussed bringing the existing MOU to a 3-year approval process. There were however some dissenting opinions by members of the School Board, and the MOU was brought again before the School Board to discuss some specific language contained within the MOU, along with keeping it at a 1-year term. On September 9th, 2024, the School Board voted and approved the attached MOU, with the inclusion of a 3-year term.

Action item

I am respectfully requesting the review and approval of the MOU for a 3-year term by the Community Affairs Committee (October 15, 2024), and final review and approval by the Common Council (October 22nd, 2024).

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This is pursuant to Wauwatosa City Ordinance 3.20.040 A.7.c, which states in part, *“Department directors are authorized to execute contracts on behalf of the common council provided: (1) the contract is one year or less in duration; and (2) the City's total liability under the contract is twenty-five thousand dollars (or such other amount as specified in subsection (A)(1) or (C) of this section) or less; and (3) the amount of the contract does not exceed the amount approved in the annual budget by the common council for the purchase.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. MacGillis', written in a cursive style.

James H. MacGillis
Chief of Police