



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



March 13, 2019

Sandra Himmel
Superintendent of Schools
Citrus County School District
1007 West Main Street
Inverness, FL 34450-4625

Re: Guardians to Supplement SRD Program

Dear Superintendent Himmel,

Based upon Governor DeSantis's EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-45, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Commission report and a recent letter from the Chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission to all Superintendents and Sheriffs, I request to know if the Citrus County School District desires utilizing Guardians to augment our existing School Resource Deputy program. Additional augmentation at our larger schools would enhance our current efforts to provide safety for students, teachers and staff that is unparalleled.

If so, I ask that you provide the timeframe it will take to identify these individuals, when they could start their formal training and what schools they would be responsible for covering in addition to our current personnel.

If it is your desire to have Guardians, please provide the above information as soon as possible so we can start the process of building the training curriculum necessary to perform this task.

Yours in Service,

Mike Prendergast, Sheriff
Citrus County

RECEIVED MAR 18 2019



SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*"Where Learning is the Expectation
And Caring is a Commitment"*

THOMAS KENNEDY
DISTRICT 1

VIRGINIA BRYANT
DISTRICT 2

DOUGLAS A. DODD
DISTRICT 3

SANDRA COUNTS
DISTRICT 4

LINDA B. POWERS
DISTRICT 5

March 20, 2019

Dear Sheriff Prendergast:

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 13, 2019. The School Board of Citrus County sent you a registered letter dated October 3, 2018, requesting that you reconsider your position on the Guardian program. I am encouraged to hear that you have reconsidered your position on the Guardian Program after receiving a recent letter from Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission. It remains our desire to use every layer of security we can, including the Guardian program in Citrus County Schools to enhance school safety.

In your letter, you requested a timeframe to identify individuals who could serve as guardians, and to start a process for building the training curriculum. I would suggest we start building that curriculum with the possibility of using guardians at each of our schools. It is necessary for me to consult with the School Board for direction regarding specifics in implementing a Guardian program. Fortunately, my staff has already begun these conversations by developing a job description recently approved by our School Board. With Board approval and funding, my goal would be to have Guardians in place at each high school by the start of the 2019-2020 school year. If additional funding were to be made available through the State Legislature, my desire would be to expand the program to all public schools. To expedite this request, I have asked for an additional Board Workshop at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. I am inviting you and your staff to this workshop. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

We certainly hope you take advantage of the new April 1st application extension by Governor DeSantis to help fund the Guardian Program.

Sincerely,

Sandra "Sam" Himmel
Superintendent

Cc: School Board Members