



July 26, 2022

Cedar Rapids Community School District  
2500 Edgewood RD NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Dear President Tominsky and members of the School Board,

Thank you for the continued dialogue regarding the City's provision of School Resource Officers (SROs) for the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD). The City of Cedar Rapids shares CRCSD's determination to best serve the needs of students, teachers, and staff while providing a safe learning environment for all.

As a City, keeping our most vulnerable citizens, along with teachers and staff, safe, is a top priority. The SRO program provides a tremendous benefit to this end. Our uniquely trained SROs are more than first responders in an emergency — or the rule of law in challenging circumstances. Their success often relies on a foundation of relationships they form with school-aged children and CRCSD administrators. That said, SROs are just one component of protecting and caring for our students.

The School Board's desire to provide additional student supportive services, programs like Unsnapping and Kids First restorative practices among others, are equally important. Even though funding is not at the core of the desire to remove SROs from middle schools, we offer financial support that may free up District resources to provide additional services. ***The City is offering to fully fund two additional SROs dedicated to work at CRCSD middle schools.***

Next, in addition to fully funding the middle school SROs, ***the City hears and supports the District's preference to have the officers based at the CRPD to begin the school day.***

We are confident in the progress of the SRO program and the value it provides to CRCSD alongside the other existing and future supporting services that meet students where they are. Please feel free to share this letter with fellow members of the School Board.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany D. O'Donnell".

**Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell**  
City of Cedar Rapids