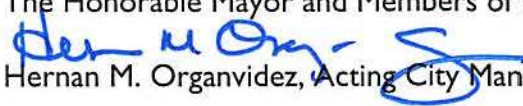




CITY OF DORAL Office of the City Manager Letter to Council

LTC No. 018-2022

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: 
Hernan M. Organvidez, Acting City Manager
Date: May 27, 2022
Subject: **Doral Police Department School Safety and Readiness**

This Letter to Council is to inform the Mayor and City Council of the Doral Police Department's (DPD) School Resource Unit's preparedness and readiness. In the wake of the recent tragic events in Uvalde, Texas, several concerns have surfaced from parents and the community.

The DPD's School Resource Unit is responsible for the safety and security of twelve (12) schools within the City of Doral, which include ten (10) charter schools and two (2) private schools. Following the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act, all public schools within Miami-Dade County, including City of Doral, were staffed by Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. The DPD had assigned School Resource Officers (SRO's) to Doral area schools even before the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act. The DPD's School Resource Unit has been the model program in all Miami-Dade County due to our commitment and dedication for the safety and wellbeing of our youth.

Each DPD SRO is permanently assigned to their school and is not alternated, in order to establish strong relationships with students. This ensures that students and staff feel comfortable with sharing information that is prudent to a safe school environment. Additionally, this allows that each SRO is thoroughly familiar with the layout of their assigned campus in the event of an emergency.

At the start of each academic year, all DPD SROs conduct School Security Surveys, which are aimed to highlight and identify any vulnerable locations within the campus. Annually, all DPD SRO's are tactically trained in Active Shooter Response and each SRO possesses a school radio and a school key which grants them access to any location within the school. In addition, the DPD is the only agency within Miami-Dade County to have all SROs certified to take part in the Threat Assessment Team. Threat Assessment Teams have been established at all schools and their duties include the coordination of resources, assessment and intervention of individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students.

DPD SROs were trained by Sandy Hook Promise on the process and have been provided resources to conduct threat assessments. These resources include referrals to mental health services.

Our officers conduct daily perimeter checks to identify any vulnerable locations that need to be addressed. If any concerns are identified, they are immediately resolved. In addition, SRO's teach numerous programs such as D.A.R.E, Anti-bullying, KAPOW, mentoring programs, juvenile cyber safety and conduct juvenile follow-ups.

The DPD's Juvenile Follow-up Program was initiated in 2015, to follow up on police incidents involving a juvenile. DPD SRO's visit parents and homes of juveniles who have had documented contacts with police officers. This is done to ensure that parents are aware that their child had contact with police and to evaluate each incident to determine if that family or child is in need of services or present a credible risk for potential unlawful behavior. The assigned SRO documents the follow up and monitors that child's progress and/or needs.

The DPD will continue to respond immediately to any safety concerns affecting all schools within the City of Doral, regardless of whether there is a DPD SRO or a Miami-Dade Schools Police officer assigned to a school. The Police Department provides this to assure the City Council of our commitment to providing a safe environment for all students and residents within the City of Doral.

HMO/RMU/YM

cc: Raul M. Ubieta, Acting Chief of Police