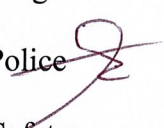


CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2018

TO: Roger M. Carlton, City Manager

FROM: Sonia Quiñones, Chief of Police 

SUBJECT: Enhancements for School Safety

Due to the recent school shooting in Parkland, there is an unprecedented need to combat gun violence in schools and keep our children safe. Staff created the VALOR Program to address the timely response of first responders who can eliminate the threat and limit the loss of life. VALOR stands for Violent Assault Law Officer Response. The VALOR Program is a progressive initiative addressing the immediate engagement of an active shooter in our schools and it is also a deterrent for an active shooter who seeks a “soft target” to carry out their mass casualty intentions.

The primary mission of the Hallandale Beach Police Department is public safety and especially, keeping our children safe. The Hallandale Beach Police Department has School Resource Officers assigned to the three (3) public schools in our City: Hallandale High, Gulfstream Academy and Lanier James Alternative School. Budget and staffing constraints hinder the permanent assignment of additional School Resource Officers. The presence of a single School Resource Officer can act as a deterrent, and/or the first line to combat a threat, until back-up officers arrive to the school. In the case of Parkland, it took approximately eight (8) minutes for responding officers to arrive.

The VALOR Program can greatly eliminate those eight (8) minutes. Under this program, the police department will permanently assign detectives or officers from specialized units to a dedicated and secure location within the school, which will be the officers’ office. The detectives or officers will perform their normal daily duties and the school office will have every aspect of their current workstation (i.e. desks, computers, printers, telephone, copier, etc.). The computers will remain secure via the City’s network.

A request was submitted to Superintendent Runcie on behalf of the Broward Chiefs of Police Association requesting permission to install safes in the School Resource Officer’s office at the schools. Detectives and officers assigned to the schools under the VALOR Program will be able to securely store rifles, body armor and tactical gear for an immediate response to an active shooter threat at the school. Under the VALOR Program, response time to engage a deadly threat could be reduced significantly.

The VALOR Program does not place a financial burden on the police department, it does not affect staffing, and it adds an immediate increased presence of law enforcement in the schools. Additional officers in schools adds a subconscious idea to a potential attacker that if a school participates in the VALOR Program, the school is not a “soft target” or a target which the attacker is only concerned

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RE: Enhancements for School Safety
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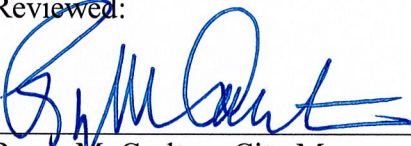
about encountering one (1) School Resource Officer. The schools will have the presence of three (3) or more law enforcement officers who are highly trained, equipped, prepared and dedicated to neutralizing an armed threat. There is no cost to the schools. The benefits of the VALOR Program are very significant. There are no guarantees however, the VALOR program is a step forward in increasing security in the Hallandale Beach public schools.

Staff will generate a letter to the three (3) principals of the schools in our city to request their participation in the VALOR Program. Staff is also in the process of meeting with the principals and the Broward County Public Schools Special Investigative Unit to conduct a threat assessment of the schools and identify opportunities to further enhance school safety. This process is underway and will be ongoing.

Additionally, all sworn members of the Police Department will participate in Active Shooter Response training in April 2018. This training will be facilitated by the Police Department Training Unit. The Police Department will also conduct joint training with the Fire Department.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Reviewed:



Roger M. Carlton, City Manager

3/14/18
Date

SQ