



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

C-14

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6711 • FAX (562) 570-6583

GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER

June 20, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee's report on Crossing Guard Deployment for the 2006-2007 School Year and concur with their recommendations.

DISCUSSION

Over the last several years, the School Crossing Guard Program has undergone extensive review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. These reviews occurred as part of a Citywide effort to optimize many City programs as directed by the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan.

The first review was conducted by the City Manager and City Auditor and was presented to the Mayor and City Council on May 3, 2004. The review provided a background of the program and the cost and status of current crossing guard staffing. In addition, the review provided an analysis of the procedures used by the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), the City and the State for assigning locations to be staffed by crossing guards.

On December 9, 2004, the Mayor and City Council received a second report on City staff optimization efforts. The report addressed issues such as assigning locations, staffing, changes in schedules and hours, injuries, and "meet and confer" requirements. The report also discussed the collaborative efforts between City Manager staff, the Police Department, the Department of Public Works and Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) on several key issues. These issues included the projected need for busing and demand for elementary schools, the potential use of volunteer guards at sites that do not meet Municipal Code requirements, and specific staffing hours needed for each location. These discussions also led City staff to work with LBUSD to contact every elementary school and adjust crossing guard hours for each location based on each school's actual schedule and need for the school year. This effort resulted in a review of staffing hours for 100 percent of the crossing guard locations and a projected savings of \$60,500 for Fiscal Year 2005-2006.

A third review effort, led by an employee optimization team of crossing guards, resulted in recommendations presented to the Mayor and City Council on May 10, 2005. These recommendations were supported by Police management and focused on improvements in communication between the crossing guards and Police Department supervisors, coordination of bus and location schedules, coordination of locations when construction occurs or traffic signals become inoperable, training and improving employee morale.

Also presented on May 10, 2005 was a fourth effort that involved the development of a Bi-Annual Crossing Guard Deployment Plan to review existing crossing guard locations to affirm continued need. The plan recommended a re-evaluation of 25 percent of approved crossing locations every two years to ensure appropriate allocation of resources. This re-evaluation enables the redeployment or elimination of crossing locations that no longer meet the Municipal Code criteria. City staff recommended that an annual evaluation of up to 15 percent of the locations occur and that recommendations to add, eliminate or re-assign locations be brought annually to the City Council for consideration.

On July 12, 2005, after considering the recommendations from the Public Safety Committee, the City Council supported eliminating nine of the twelve school crossing locations recommended by the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. This action helped achieve some savings in the School Crossing Guard Program but it also ensured the program was operating in the most efficient and effective manner. The three crossing locations not eliminated are still under review by the City Traffic Engineer and will be presented to PSAC for evaluation and recommendations.

The attached recommendations from PSAC are part of staff's commitment to continue their annual evaluation of crossing locations. Also included are reviews and recommendations of requests for new crossing locations.

In summary, PSAC reviewed eleven existing locations. Of these locations, they reaffirmed the need, based on meeting the minimum requirements of the Municipal Code Ordinance 10.68.010, to continue staffing eight locations with school crossing guards. They also recommended the removal of school guards from two locations and a relocation of one crossing guard closer to the school the guard was serving.

PSAC also received six new requests from the public for the assignment of crossing guards. Of these six, five locations were denied by PSAC because the locations did not meet the minimum requirements of the Municipal Code. One location was approved by PSAC in that both the student crossings and the vehicular volume at the intersection met the ordinance thresholds.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on June 6, 2006.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

June 20, 2006

Page 3

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council concurrence is requested to ensure that parent notifications can occur before the start of the new school year.

FISCAL IMPACT

Although there is a net reduction of one location, there will be minimal savings since personnel will be reassigned to other crossing locations.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER

DCG:CFS:

Attachment:

Attachment A: Crossing Guard Deployment Plan for School Year 2006-2007