

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 12, 2021**

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SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY OF CROSSING GUARDS AT MIDDLE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**Purpose and Summary**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide information on the feasibility of assigning school crossing guards to middle and charter schools.

Staffing Middle and Charter Schools

According to the Local Government Code Chapter 343, section 343.014. PROVISION OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS (a), it is a duty of “the governing body of the municipality” to “...determine the number of school crossing guards needed by the municipality and shall provide for the use of school crossing guards to facilitate the safe crossing of streets in the municipality by children going to or leaving a public, parochial, or private elementary or secondary school.”

There are currently 44 middle schools in the City of Fort Worth from 8 different ISDs. Based on the elementary school data, a rough estimate necessitates another 88 or so crossing guards would be needed to staff the middle schools; hence, this would increase the price paid to ACMS to over \$700,000.

Staff has identified 27 charter schools in the Fort Worth city limits. Of that number, 22 schools house elementary and/or middle school students. Two of those schools are staffed by ACMS (the City’s crossing guard service). Therefore, if the City of Fort Worth decides to staff charter schools, there are 20 schools from which to choose to either staff some or all. The full sum would add an estimated 40 additional crossing guards or approximately \$341, 000.

There are no large cities in Texas that staffs middle schools with crossing guards. Staff communicated with Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Arlington, Corpus Christi, and Lubbock. Austin is the only city that offers any type of service at the middle school level and that consists of providing training to citizen volunteers who want so to serve as crossing guards at middle schools.

Conclusion

Since the goal of providing crossing guards is to ensure pedestrian safety, the most appropriate manner to determine if additional schools should be added to the current contract is to review each school individually. Staff recommends that the Transportation & Public Works Department contract with a private firm to review the actual situations at middle and charter schools throughout the city to determine the appropriateness of adding crossing guards. A request to utilize CCPD funds for the studies will be made to the CCPD board at its November meeting so that studies can begin in January. Any schools identified as needing crossing guards could be added to the program for the FY2023 budget. Additionally, as part of the FY2023 budget development process, staff will review the opportunity to move the management of the crossing guard program to a different department in the City organization so that it is no longer in the Police Department.



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Staff recommends moving forward with the current contract, as negotiated, with ACMS for the FY2022 year.

If you have any questions please contact Assistant Chief Joseph Sparrow at 817-392-4231 or Joseph.Sparrow@fortworthtexas.gov.

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City Manager