



**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES
November 26, 2019
6:30 PM**

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ross opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present were Commissioner's Pulcini, Meltzer, Green, Curran and Mayor Ross.

3. Public Comments (each member of the public is allowed to speak for four (4) minutes)

None.

4. Discussion on the requirement for a School Resource Deputy at Renaissance Charter School

Mayor Ross advised he invited the Sheriff's Office and he spoke to Robert Runcie.

Shari McCarthy from Renaissance Charter advised the school entered into a contract with BSO that expires on November 30, 2019 and BSO advised they will not directly contract with the Charter school. Due to the conditional use requirement and having a SRO they are in the position of not being able to comply. They are here to sort out the issue.

Colonel Oscar Llerena and Major Anthony Demarco were present from BSO.

Mayor Ross asked if what Ms. McCarthy said about BSO not contracting with them is correct and is that for all Charter schools.

Colonel Llerena said the SRO officer is a certain type of officer with a certain training. The officers sent to the schools are school safety officers. The

Stoneman Douglas Act allows school guardians. He advised BSO does not contract with Charter schools. BSO would need an agreement that is sustainable and revenue neutral. They believe a contract that is sustainable with City being a part of the agreement.

Mayor Ross asked why is BSO not willing or able to contract with Charter schools.

Colonel Llerena said the models proposed are not sustainable. If the City can enter into a tri party agreement it can be sustainable.

Mayor Ross said the MSD statue refers to the schools and the Sheriff's Office. What makes it unsustainable?

Colonel Llerena said relief of the Deputy.

Commissioner Pulcini asked if there are collection issues with fees is that a reason.

Colonel Llerena answered no.

Commissioner Curran said if the Charter School is paying time and a half and only the time they need where is the unsustainable part.

Colonel Llerena said if the deputy is not available, the position needs to be back filled.

Commissioner Curran asked how many times the school has gone without an SRO.

Chief Cates answered none.

Commissioner Curran said he is not understanding what is unsustainable.

Colonel Llerena answered is not a sustainable model to staff a school on overtime.

Commissioner Curran said the problem he has is time and a half brings all people to the table.

Commissioner Meltzer asked what makes a model with the City as a party any more sustainable.

Colonel Llerena said if the deputy has to leave a district deputy has to come in and cover a school. In the overtime model it's based on whatever Deputy signs up.

Mayor Ross asked if BSO never complies with a private entity.

Colonel Llerena said they do for special details but it is not a requirement.

Mayor Ross said if the City contracts with BSO and the officer is not available to cover the school an officer is taken from the roadway.

Colonel Llerena said yes.

Mayor Ross said that was an issue in the past and he does not want to get involved were he is not required to get involved. He does not believe we should take liability for a private entity. He wants consistency and we have SRO's in all our public schools. He wants the school in compliance with the City and have a SRO. Mayor Ross said he wants the highest quality for our students.

Colonel Llerena said if its revenue neutral and sustainable they can make an agreement.

Ms. McCarthy said her school is a public school governed by the school board.

Mayor Ross said he spoke to the Superintendent and he wanted to speak to the Sheriff. He also indicated that he is aware of the termination date. The alternative is pulling the Charter. Mayor Ross asked again if BSO is willing to be flexible and get the deputy there.

Colonel Llerena said he will work with the City if it is sustainable.

Mayor Ross said nowhere in the statue does it say the City have to contract with BSO. The City should not be involved.

Colonel Llerena said they are willing to work with all parties.

Mayor Ross asked how he is willing to help Renaissance comply with MSD and the City's conditions.

Colonel Llerena said that is Cooper City issue.

Mayor Ross said we have a higher standard and wants BSO to help us.

Commissioner Green asked City Attorney Horowitz if the new state law supersedes our Conditional use.

Attorney Horowitz said they are not in conflict with each other. They can co-exist and the school is required to meet the requirements.

Commissioner Green asked if the City would not allow a guardian and the school files a lawsuit how will the City stand. He wants all children to be safe but he is not naïve to know that BSO potentially does not have enough

officers to place. He asked if there are enough SRO's to cover all schools in Broward.

Colonel Llerena said SRO's no, SSO's yes. Right now, every school that wants an armed deputy has one. The public schools are sustainable that if a deputy calls out sick there is a mechanism to cover.

Commissioner Green said if BSO can contract with Renaissance to have a SRO and a SSO as a backup would that be something BSO can do.

Colonel Llerena said they could not provide Renaissance with a SRO because it would be a different Deputy every day. Issues occur when one deputy calls out.

Commissioner Curran said Chief Cates has the ability to contact someone off that day who will receive time and a half currently. He also said that he is in full support of the highest quality of police in all schools. He wants the best quality of safety for all the children that are here in the City. He would vote to shut the school down before he will lower the level of service because its unsustainable on their end. He also said security would work under the Principal and go where they are directed at the school. He does not believe the City should be involved and BSO should work the school who is willing to pay for the SRO.

Commissioner Meltzer said he is not willing to deviate from the standard. The problem is the deadline is approaching and as much as he does not want to it may be needed that the City contracts with BSO and the school. Renaissance is willing to pay for the SRO. He asked the City Attorney if the City would carry liability.

Attorney Horowitz said he would need to look at the agreement and we would do everything in their power to protect the City.

Commissioner Meltzer said he thinks it's reprehensible that we can make an agreement with BSO.

Commissioner Pulcini asked if we can provide a SRO if we contract through the City.

Colonel Llerena said if it is a full time equivalent yes.

Commissioner Pulcini asked if the deputy were called out, we would pull from road patrol and who would account for reimbursement to the city.

Colonel Llerena said yes ad that would be in the contract terms.

Major Anthony Demarco said if the deputy is sick it would probably be covered like vacancy credits are handled in the contract.