



**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Agenda Item # 9**

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** September 22, 2020

**Subject:** Resolution 2020-35: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Forming a Task Force to Review and Make Recommendations Regarding the School Resource Officer Program at the High Schools and the Method for Receiving Police Officer Complaints

**Prepared by:** Mayor Jan Pepper, Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor

**Attachment(s):**

1. Resolution 2020-35, with Attachment A

**Initiated by:**

City Council

**Previous Council Consideration:**

July 28, 2020 – Police Town Hall  
August 25, 2020 (discussion postponed)  
September 8, 2020

**Fiscal Impact:**

2. \$25,000-50,000 (estimate) plus staff time
3. This cost is not currently budgeted and may require a supplemental appropriation to the General Fund Non-Departmental account

**Environmental Review:**

N/A

**Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:**

- Does the City Council wish to form a task force as outlined in the Resolution to address issues that have been raised by some in the community regarding the School Resource Officer program and the process for people to file complaints against a member of the Los Altos Police Department?

**Summary:**

- The City Council held a Town Hall on Policing on July 28, 2020
- The Council received numerous emails and approximately 43 individuals spoke at the Town Hall.
- The City Council discussed the comments they received and options to pursue at the September 8, 2020 City Council meeting

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**Reviewed By:**

City Manager

*CJ*

City Attorney

*JH*

Finance Director

*SE*

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- Mayor Pepper and Vice Mayor Fligor have worked with the City Manager to prepare the attached resolution forming a task force that would focus on the School Resource Officer program at high schools and the process for receiving complaints about the conduct of police officers.
- Two options for the schedule for the Task force are provided at Attachment A to the Resolution

**Recommended Motion:**

If the Council believes the Resolution is in accordance with the Council’s direction, the Council should adopt Resolution 2020-35.

**Purpose**

The Council is asked to consider a Resolution that would create a Task Force to review and make recommendations on the role of School Resource Offices in the high schools and the process for receiving officer complaints.

**Background**

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd by the police in Minneapolis in May and the ensuing nation-wide protests and discussions about social justice and equality, the City Council held a Town Hall to hear from the Los Altos community. Many topics were discussed at the Town Hall and at the Los Altos City Council meeting on September 8. From that conversation, the Council determined that two issues should be reviewed at this time:

- 1) The role of the School Resource Officer program at the high schools
- 2) The process for the City receiving complaints about police officer conduct

The Council requested Mayor Fligor and Vice Mayor to meet with the City Manager to outline a plan for forming a task force to review and make recommendations regarding these two issues.



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### **Analysis**

Mayor Pepper, Vice Mayor Fligor and the City Manager met and discussed the scope and schedule for such a task force. The recommended resolution includes the following:

- 1) A task force of 7-13 individuals to be recruited, interviewed and selected by October 13
- 2) A facilitator would be hired by the City Manager (estimated cost: \$25-50,000)
- 3) City staff would be provided to work with the task force, organizing meetings and providing expertise (estimated at 200-300 hours of staff time)
- 4) Review the current Los Altos SRO program and those of other cities and make recommendations regarding the SRO program, but limited to the role of the SRO in the high schools
- 5) Review the current method the City uses to receive complaints about the conduct of police officers, analyze alternative options, and make recommendations
- 6) Provides two options for a task force schedule

### **Options**

- 1) Approve Resolution 2020-35

Advantage: Responds to concerns raised about the two topics described in the resolution

Disadvantage: the cost is not budgeted and may take funding away from other programs; staff time will need to be refocused away from other projects and put on this project. Staff would review the concerns that have been raised and would make necessary changes or make recommendations to the Council.

- 2) Do not approve the resolution

Advantage: Saves the money and staff that would otherwise be used working with the task force

Disadvantage: The City Council does not receive the views of a Task Force charged with reviewing these issues and making recommendations



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**Recommendation**

The Mayor and Vice Mayor recommend approval of the Resolution. The Council should determine the schedule.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-35****A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS FORMING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM AND THE METHOD FOR RECEIVING POLICE OFFICER COMPLAINTS**

**WHEREAS**, the events of recent months, particularly the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of a police officer, has resulted in appropriate outrage by American citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this killing is only the latest in a long series of police officers using excessive force nationwide, especially against minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, minorities are stopped by police, arrested, and incarcerated far more frequently than white people; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Los Altos community, the Los Altos City Council, and the Los Altos Police Department to explore positive local solutions to this nationwide problem; and

**WHEREAS**, based on concerns raised by residents, City Council wishes to have two specific matters reviewed by a citizen task force: (1) the School Resource Officer Program and (2) the process by which citizen complaints may be filed against the actions of police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Altos Police Department welcomes a review by the City Council and the Los Altos community of these two important matters;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby:

- 1) Creates a task force to be comprised of 7-13 individuals by the City Council. The task force will reflect a cross-section of the community, by age, location within the city, and racial diversity. The task force will include at least one individual who works, but does not live, in Los Altos.
- 2) Sets the scope of work, schedule and application process for this task force, which are described in Attachment A to this Resolution
- 3) Authorizes the City Manager to recruit and contract with a consultant to assist with facilitating the Task Force meetings
- 4) Directs the City Manager to assign appropriate staff to work with the Task Force to provide local expertise and administrative support

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Janis C. Pepper, MAYOR

Attest:

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Andrea Chelemengos, MMC, CITY CLERK

**Attachment A to Resolution 2020-35****Scope of Work for Citizens Task Force:****1) School Resource Officer Program**

Focus will be on the role of the SRO with the MVLA High Schools (Los Altos and Mountain View High Schools) by reviewing the issues raised by current and former students and, through discussions with current and former students, school administrators, parents, teachers and the police, as well as reviewing/benchmarking other available models, make a recommendation concerning the appropriate role of a school resource officer at the high school.

**2) Police Officer Complaint process**

- a) Identify the issues raised by residents related to the citizen complaint process
- b) Benchmark and propose different solutions that will address those issues
- c) Review any proposed solutions with the City Manager and Police Chief prior to bringing the proposed solutions to City Council
- d) At a minimum, any proposed solution should include the cost of implementing the process and how each solution will address the issues raised.

**Task Force Schedule**

**Option 1 - Six Weeks:** This schedule would start on the date that the task force is created by the City Council and end on November 24, 2020. This option would require focused staff support from 2-4 staff members, and the task force would need to meet at least once per week. Unless further action is taken by the City Council, the Task Force would sunset on December 31, 2020.

**OR**

**Option 2 - Six Months:** This schedule would start on the date that the task force is created by the City Council and end on April 13, 2021. This option would require less meetings per month and less focused staff support. The initial findings could be presented to the City Council on November 24<sup>th</sup> and if any additional follow up is required, the new City Council would be tasked with considering any future recommendations by the task force. Unless further action is taken by the City Council, the Task Force would sunset on April 30, 2021.

*For either option, as part of its final recommendation to the City Council, the task force may identify where additional work by city staff, city council and/or a task force may be necessary.*

**Task Force Application Process**

Applications to serve on the citizen task force will be available by Friday, September 25, 2020 and interviews and appointments to task force will take place the week of October 5.