Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Uhring and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: January 3, 2024   Meeting date: February 12, 2024

Subject: <u>School Safety Assessment (Continued from January 22, 2024)</u>

<u>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</u> 1) Receive a report on the School Safety Assessment; and 2) Provide direction to staff as appropriate.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT:</u> There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. Funding for this project is included in the Adopted Budget for FY 2023-24 in Account No. 100-7003-5100-00 (City Manager - Professional Services).

<u>WORK PLAN:</u> This item is part of the day-to-day operations identified in the Adopted FY 2023-24 Strategic Priority Project List.

<u>DISCUSSION:</u> On October 24, 2022, the City Council authorized the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Guidepost Solutions LLC for a Comprehensive School Safety Assessment. The Assessment began in December 2022, and a draft report was provided to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) in August 2023 for review.

As directed by the City Council, the assessment is inclusive of all K-12 public schools in the City and extends beyond physical security and safety procedures to include a review and analysis of behavioral health programs, policies, and procedures.

The assessment is based on a broad range of data-gathering activities, including:

- Interviews with Malibu schools stakeholders to obtain information regarding security incidents, concerns, philosophies, opinions on security, data regarding possible security program support processes, threat assessment, and school culture.

- A crime analysis of the area surrounding the school buildings to analyze the threat environment.
- A survey of the schools' properties and operations, including academic buildings, libraries, gymnasiums, arts areas, music education spaces, athletic fields and spaces, and recreational areas.
- Daytime and evening tours of the sites to assess activity, lighting, and other security-related characteristics.
- A review of existing security technology deployments, functions, use, standards adaptation, monitoring, and command and control (as applicable).
- A review and evaluation of current staffing and monitoring posts.
- An analysis of information obtained through document reviews, surveys, interviews, and research.
- An assessment of the school district's safety and security policies and procedures, including but not limited to the School Emergency and Crisis Plan, visitor management policy and procedures, access control, intrusion detection, video surveillance, fencing and gates, traffic control and exterior lighting.
- In-person and virtual interviews and online anonymous community surveys to develop an understanding of MPS schools and facilities end-user perspective and opinion on existing safety and security measures.

Based on this extensive research, the assessment includes recommendations for improved physical security through:

- Access Control
- Visitor Management
- Video Surveillance
- Communications
- Door hardware and window treatments
- Signage
- Fencing
- Traffic control

The report also includes 11 recommendations for improved policies and procedures.

In December 2023, staff met with SMMUSD representatives to finalize the report and discuss progress and next steps. Out of the total recommendations, 205 are related to school facilities, and the school district representatives informed staff that they have already created work orders to implement 140 of the recommendations. In addition, school district representatives said they planned to meet with each school community individually to discuss the recommendations and implementation progress specific to each school site.

ATTACHMENTS: School Safety Assessment Executive Summary

2023 School Safety Assessment

Executive Summary

The City of Malibu, in collaboration with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), commissioned Guidepost Solutions LLC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and thorough physical security program review of the four public school campuses in Malibu, which include Malibu Elementary School, Webster Elementary School, Malibu Middle School, and Malibu High School. It should be noted that this report specifically focuses on the Malibu public schools and not the entire Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The purpose of the assessment was to identify opportunities for Malibu public schools to improve, grow, and strengthen its physical security program to better protect and serve its communities. It provides an expert third-party review of the existing security operations and shared insights on stakeholders' perspectives regarding safety and security.

The completed School Safety Assessment includes evaluations of physical security measures, security electronic systems, security staffing, security policies and procedures, stakeholder interviews, and 209 community surveys completed by staff, faculty, students, parents, guardians, and administrators. In addition, it identifies opportunities for improvement or enhancement and highlights existing strengths. The following actions were among those suggested to increase public safety within and around Malibu's public schools:

- Ensure compliance with traffic measures around the school site (i.e., ensuring that parents are dropping off/picking up in the correct areas, vehicles are not blocking exits, etc.)
- Consistent location of emergency backpacks and supplies familiar to all staff
- Stronger "Security culture" at all school sites (i.e., staff badges, empower staff to question unfamiliar people)
- Additional walkie-talkies and communication strategy coordination
- Improved signage around campuses (i.e., restrooms for student use, classroom numbers, main entrance, wayfinding, visitor check-in area, speed limits)
- Visitor management (i.e., meeting and escorting, removing paper screening)
- Public Address system upgrades and regular tests
- Improved door routines (i.e., educating staff and students when to have doors closed or locked)
- Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) backup system
- Secure fencing and covers around equipment, electric panels, and other areas of high interest
- Update staff emergency operations handbooks
- Lock down button with notice to LASD

- Perimeter upgrades (i.e., 8 feet fences, fence toppers, glass facades)
- Continue discussions on having a school resource deputy
- Expanded use of keyless technologies (and continued tech integration)
- Implementation of Video Assessment and Surveillance System monitoring (i.e. cafeteria, library, front entry, exterior of each restroom)
- Upgrades to intrusion detection measures (i.e., glass break, motion detectors, intrusion alert panels)
- Upgrades to door hardware
- Speed controls, vehicle barriers, and coordinate parking in designated parking areas
- Upgrades to exterior lighting
- Card readers, and intercoms at all pedestrian entry points
- Automated electronic access gates
- Installation of window treatments to minimize visibility into instructional, office, and staff locations to make it difficult for an intruder to see into the room.

The Assessment prioritizes the findings and recommendations, including the recommendations identified above, into an outline that enables the school district to develop a phased approach to implementing improvements based on risk.

SMMUSD has already begun addressing the systemic, operational, and facility recommendations. The more complex recommendations will take time to implement.

To protect students and staff, this report is being kept confidential and will not be made available to the public.