

## Quotes From the Survey About the Mountain View Police Department SRO Program

### **Distributed to Students, Parents and Staff of the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District and Mountain View Whisman School District**

#### High School Student Quotes

“[School Resource Officers] offer support in multiple ways that the school administration can't offer.”

“SROs aren't like all the police officers that are seen on TV doing all those horrible actions. They are a different type of police officer and are trained to be and deal with children.”

“School Resource Officers are definitely a positive addition to any school, especially if they are able to build a positive interaction with the students.”

“[School Resource Officers] escalate the situations more and just sit around talking to security. [SROs are at schools] to make the police department look better because they are ‘community building’ even though they aren't. They shouldn't have guns or polos with badges on them if they are trying to build relationships with students. They are hiding behind a badge and representing a system that has hurt so many innocent people. Guns shouldn't be on campus.”

“[Services are not best provided by SROs] because even though they are good for all of those things, they do more harm than good by racially profiling people of color thinking they are drug dealers, gang members or have weapons on them.”

#### High school Parent Quotes

Unfortunately, school shootings and bomb threats are a real and present danger. Having SROs on campus is a comfort to me as a parent, not a guarantee, but a comfort. I think the k-8 system fails kids who are low SED and kids who are unsupported at home. The area we live in is very PC but the undercurrent of bias against non-whites is so active. I love that these officers see kids for who they are, they care deeply for them - irrespective if they live in a \$3M house, their car, a shelter. Kids who participate in summer programs come back to mentor and go on to careers in social services, police and fire because of the leadership role these SROs play.”

“What better way to build connection and trusting relationships between our police and students? We have to combat stereotypes portrayed in the media.”

“Police should be used only for investigations of crimes; not for any law enforcement presence on campus. SROs intimidate students and disproportionately affect students

of color; I would rather see additional mentors, or counselors who can be a presence on campus (not just inside an office but around campus with high visibility and connections to students).”

### **MVLA Staff Quotes**

“If a student is committing a crime or is suspected of committing a crime, a law enforcement officer is going to be called regardless. The school resource officer who has already built a relationship at the school site with students, teachers and admin will be easier to communicate with rather than a regular road officer or higher ranking officer.”

“... I particularly value the mentoring and educational components with the students and the support that they provide for administrators in crisis situations such as 5150 assessments.”

“In the past, students have told me how they have been racially profiled by the local police. This behavior does not help in fostering a good climate on campus”.

“I think SRO's could serve as mentors, but how about working with our district's mentoring program instead (Mentor/Tutor Connection)? And as for educating the public about gangs and drugs perhaps someone not affiliated with the police (like a probation officer) can deliver this information.”

### **Middle School Student Quotes**

“[The SRO program] adds protection for all students and prevents many illegal/violent activities from happening.”

“Police officers should not be monitoring students as it is frightening and unnecessary, and school is a learning environment, not a place for a police officer to impose their power.”

### **Middle School Parent Quotes**

“Partnerships are key to the community. One way to build trust between my Latino community and in general from those who do not trust the police, is to actually interact with the police in educational settings where mentorship and opportunity to build trust can happen. . . . Besides, for the last twenty years alone, them working with our community has brought gang related violence at Rengstorff park to an all time low. Our kids are safer at the park, as well as for the adults and our kids are not afraid of the police because of the relationships they've build with the SRO.”

“The research is overwhelmingly clear that school referrals to the juvenile justice system are increased when school resource officers (SROs) are present, including for non-serious matters. SROs have been involved in egregious campus incidents, including the

recent shooting of an unarmed pregnant teen. Even very young children have been subjected to excessive force at the hands of SROs. The data is abundantly clear that students of color and disadvantaged economic background are disproportionately represented in instances of SRO engagement/discipline. Finally, the research does not support the conclusion that schools and students are statistically safer with the presence of SROs than not.”

### **MVWSD Staff Quotes**

“I feel it is important for youth to develop relationships with people within the community and understand the world they are living in. Having the perspective from different authority figures allows for students to understand and make good decisions for themselves.”

“[School Resource Officers] bring a certain level of formality to situations and are better able to assist in serious situations when they are already aware and sensitive to students who need repeated support.”

“Some students may have prior negative experiences with law enforcement that causes them to feel unsafe in their presence. Our schools need more administrators, teachers, and counselors to support students in making healthy decisions without the presence of law enforcement.”

“Police systems are a source of trauma for many students of color. Their presence on campus regardless of their intention creates a sense of unease for many.”