

**BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE
RESOLUTION 18229**

**REQUESTING THE PASCACK VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ASSUME GREATER FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN MAINTAINING A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT
PASCACK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, it is widely known throughout the law enforcement and educational communities that the presence of a full-time School Resource Officer (“SRO”) in schools enhances the well-being and safety of students by extending and embedding the community policing efforts into high schools; and

WHEREAS, the manifestation of violence, substance abuse, mental illness, and teen-age social problems in our nation’s schools has increased over the past decade and heightened the importance of having an SRO in Pascack Valley High School as a community policing mechanism; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers insure the first priority of all government, namely the public safety of our residents, and therefore represent the most significant portion of our municipal budget; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale and its police department have placed a full-time SRO in the Pascack Valley High School for the past several years, but have not been able to do so consistently due to staffing constraints; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Mayor & Council and the Hillsdale Police Department believe it is important to continue to have an SRO at Pascack Valley High School; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Mayor & Council also wish to place the financing of that decision on a sound and equitable basis so that the residents of Hillsdale do not have to bear the entire cost of maintaining an SRO at a regional high school, attended in roughly equal numbers by students from both Hillsdale and River Vale; and

WHEREAS, the budget for the Pascack Valley Regional School District is four times the size of the municipal budget of the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the regional school district has only agreed to compensate the Borough of Hillsdale for having an SRO at the local high school with an annual payment of \$40,000, despite efforts by the Mayor to demonstrate how that amount is deficient by approximately \$62,000 in covering expenses during the 10 months of the academic year; and

WHEREAS, that deficiency is projected to grow steadily and significantly each year given the rising cost of delivering law enforcement services to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council urgently request that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education accept its responsibility to fund the SRO position in a manner consistent with similar expenses incurred in the normal course of educating and protecting the well-being of its students, AND promptly enter into serious negotiations with the Borough of Hillsdale to

manner consistent with similar expenses incurred in the normal course of educating and protecting the well-being of its students, AND promptly enter into serious negotiations with the Borough of Hillsdale to compensate Hillsdale taxpayers for the prorated expense of maintaining an SRO at Pascack Valley H.S.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the Pascack Valley Regional District Board of Education and the Pascack Valley Regional District Superintendent of Schools, and request a formal acknowledgement and response by both. Copies should also be sent to the governing bodies of River Vale, Montvale, and Woodcliff Lake.

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Recuse
DeRosa, Anthony			X				
Horvath, Zoltan			X				
Karcich, Scott			X				
Lundy, Abby					X		
Pizzella, Frank		X	X				
Segalas, Steven	X		X				
Ruocco, John							

Adopted: September 11, 2018

Attest: Denise Kohan
 Denise Kohan
 Municipal Clerk

John Ruocco
 John Ruocco
 Mayor