

RESOLUTION # 36-2020

Resolution Adopting Community Review of School Resource Officers

Whereas, promoting positive police-community relations was a goal of the Geneva Community Compact; and

Whereas, having police officers and community members, particularly youth, establish meaningful, connected, and long-term positive relationships is a healthy community practice; and

Whereas, reliable and peer-reviewed studies have indicated that the presence of uniformed officers carrying weapons in or on school property can increase the frequency and severity of student punishments, particularly students of color; and

Whereas, the presence of uniformed officers carrying weapons in or on school property is in contrast with the laudable goal of improving police-youth relations;

Now therefore be it resolved, that, The City Council of the City of Geneva affirms the goals of the Community Compact regarding improved community-police relations, particularly as it pertains to youth; and

Be it further resolved, that any and all School Resource Officers assigned to the property of the Geneva City Schools or the parochial and private schools within the city limits shall report for duty in plainclothes and without a gun or set of handcuffs; and

Be it further resolved that nothing in this resolution suggests or prohibits the Geneva City school district or the parochial and private schools within the city limits from calling on the Geneva City Police Department in its official emergency response capacity to any school properties, buildings, or grounds; and

Be it further resolved that the Community Compact shall revisit on at least an annual basis, the parameters and operations of the School Resource Officer program, designation, and assignments; and

Be it further resolved that the recommendations of the Community Compact shall be formed according to a process that includes, but is not limited to, direct student and staff feedback within said schools as well as review of reliable peer-reviewed studies on the matter of community policing and/or School Resource officer programs; and

Be it further resolved that the annual review and recommendations of the Community Compact on this matter shall come before City Council as a resolution that affirms and/or amends the practices in a manner that allows for public comment on the matter.