

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Lisa Solomon, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: School Busing
DATE: August 17, 2010

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider providing Youth Scholarship Funds to assist with transportation of children involved in before and afterschool programs.

FACTS:

1. Due to continuing budget challenges, the Paso Robles Unified School District (PRUSD) has been forced to make budget cuts that eliminate busing to students within 3 miles (elementary schools) and 5 miles (middle / high school) of their designated school sites.
2. Elimination of school bus routes within city limits will impact transportation for approximately 1,100 students in the coming school year.
3. The Police Department has been working closely with PRUSD officials and other stakeholders on plans to mitigate anticipated increases in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around school zones:
 - Back-to-school media campaign to raise awareness
 - High profile police presence & enforcement in school zones
 - Publicity for public transit options for student transportation
 - Coordination of volunteers to shepherd kids on identified “safe routes”
4. In addition, there are five (5) afterschool programs that serve elementary and middle school students that rely on school bus transportation:

Boys & Girls Club of North San Luis Obispo County
YMCA (Centennial Park / Flamson / Daniel Lewis)
People Self Help YEEP Program (Canyon Creek)
Positive Exposures
PRYDE
5. These programs provide childcare and enrichment programs before and/or after school to approximately 600 elementary and middle school students. Of those, approximately 200 require transportation to the sites.
6. Cancellation of busing will likely negatively impact attendance at the afterschool programs, leaving kids without positive alternatives for their time when school is released.
7. The five (5) programs are cooperating to investigate options for busing students involved with their programs, and found PRUSD will lease a school bus at a price of \$31,000 for the school year.

8. The afterschool programs can only afford to pay \$15,000 by pooling their available funds together; they request assistance from the City's Youth Scholarship Fund to help cover the remaining balance.
9. The City's Youth Scholarship Fund is established to aid children who cannot afford to participate in City programs. It has a current balance of \$38,300.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

The City of Paso Robles has been actively working to develop measures to mitigate traffic congestion and safety concerns that are anticipated with the cancelation of school bus routes in the upcoming school year. The City has been in collaboration with PRUSD and local afterschool programs to find alternative transportation and engage parents in the use of public transit and carpooling to limit impacts. There are plans for preparing mailers to parents detailing public transit options that service areas near school sites, and the City has asked the schools to attempt to coordinate "safe routes" where volunteers would act as monitors to shepherd kids walking or bicycling to and from school sites.

The afterschool programs in Paso Robles are home to 600 kids in the afternoon hours, and some operate before school (especially serving K-3). Of this number, 200 kids require transportation to / from school to the program sites. PRUSD has agreed to lease a school bus for this purpose in the amount of \$31,000 for the school year. This cost covers personnel (driver), equipment service / maintenance, insurance, etc. The afterschool programs each have limited funds to contribute toward this solution; however, they can each provide enough funding to pay for half of the cost (\$15,000). This cooperative group has requested the City consider funding the remaining balance through the City's Youth Scholarship Fund. This is intended to provide assistance this school year, while other alternatives can be developed for the future.

POLICY

REFERENCE: 2006 Economic Strategy ("promote and support a full continuum of educational opportunities").

FISCAL

IMPACT: No General Fund impact; one time expenditure of \$16,000 from the City's Youth Scholarship Fund.

OPTIONS:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 10-xx approving use of \$16,000 from the City's Youth Scholarship Fund to be used for transportation costs associated with busing students to / from before and afterschool programs during the 2010/11 school year.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AUTHORIZING USE OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION
OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN BEFORE AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Paso Robles Unified School District has been forced to eliminate busing to students within 3 miles (elementary schools) and 5 miles (middle / high school) of their designated school sites; and

WHEREAS, elimination of school bus routes within City limits will impact transportation for approximately 1,100 students in the coming school year; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has been working closely with PRUSD officials and other stakeholders on plans to mitigate anticipated increases in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around school zones; and

WHEREAS, there are five (5) afterschool programs serving elementary and middle school students that rely on school bus transportation, and approximately 200 students will not be able to access these programs unless alternative transportation is provided; and

WHEREAS, PRUSD has advised it will lease a school bus at a price of \$31,000 for the school year, and each program will contribute funds toward this effort totaling \$15,000; and,

WHEREAS, program providers have requested the City contribute \$16,000 from the Youth Scholarship to cover the balance of the bus lease cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does approve use of \$16,000 from the City's Youth Scholarship Fund (#230-000-4802-000) for transportation costs associated with busing students to / from before and afterschool programs during the 2010/11 school year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 17th day of August 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk