



CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL OFFICE ON FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (COFA)

September 1, 2020

The Honorable Alderman Sophia King
435 E. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

Alderman King:

This is in response to the inquiry COFA received from Rebecca Williams on your behalf regarding the funding for the Chicago Public Schools' School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

1. The City of Chicago does not provide any funding for the program. CPS has contracted with the City to provide Police Officers at CPS's expense. Under the agreement, providing Police Officers is the only service provided by the City, although the agreement was just amended to change the conditions of the service. The City Council has no say over what happens to funds saved by reducing the scope of the program.
2. COFA has received this message from Lauro Roman, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Chicago Public Schools:

Our Budget Office [has] informed me that the program is funded with general funds and there are no restrictions to the funding.

Therefore, any money saved by reducing the scope of the program could be redirected to any purpose which is legal for the Chicago Public Schools. The decision on how those funds would be used would be made by the Chicago Board of Education.

The SRO reductions announced on August 19 were included in the 2021 budget which the Board of Education approved on August 26, and the savings went into the General Fund from which most CPS operations are funded. If it chooses, the Board of Education could pass a budget amendment at a future meeting, and apply the savings to a specific purpose, or return them to the General Fund.

I hope that this provides the information you need. Please feel free to call on us again for follow up questions about this or other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Silverstein".

Jonathan Silverstein
Fiscal Analyst
City Council Office of Financial Analysis.

Cc: Kenneth Williams, Rebecca Williams.