



Yerington Police Department

227 South Main Street, Yerington, NV 89447
(775) 463-2332 (775) 463-2333 www.yerington.net



Chris Miller
Chief of Police

To: Lyon County School District Board of Trustees

From: Sergeant Brandon Coombs, Yerington Police Department (Acting Chief)

Dear Lyon County School District Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you today as Sergeant Brandon Coombs, Acting Chief of the Yerington Police Department, to discuss the importance of maintaining our longstanding partnership in providing law enforcement services to the Yerington schools.

Since 1907, the Yerington Police Department has proudly served as the primary law enforcement agency for the City of Yerington. We have maintained an active MOU with the Lyon County School District and have had a dedicated, full-time SRO in the Yerington schools since 2020. I have included the statistics for the Yerington SRO to show the scope of their work. However, these numbers don't fully convey the SRO's responsibilities and duties. The relationships and trust that our SRO builds with students extend far beyond school hours.

From my own experience as an SRO and as an officer responding to calls at the Yerington schools, I know first-hand the value of these connections. The relationships that students form with the SRO extend to the other officers at the Yerington Police Department, fostering a community of trust and support that is ongoing throughout the families in our Yerington community.

Having a full-time officer in the Yerington schools is critical for continuing to build and maintain trust between YPD officers, students, staff, parents, and the community. Because the Yerington Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency in the City of Yerington, we are uniquely positioned to serve the Yerington schools. When a tragedy or mental health crisis involving a student occurs outside of school hours, our officers can communicate directly with the YPD SRO to ensure that the student receives the appropriate support during the school day. While communication between law enforcement agencies is possible, nuances can be lost in translation. Our priority is to serve the Yerington schools and the citizens of Yerington in the most effective way possible.



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The Yerington Police Department has always provided a rapid response to calls from the Yerington schools. An SRO dedicated to the three Yerington schools can arrive at any school within minutes, and if the SRO is unavailable, the Yerington Police Department's small geographical area allows us to have two to three additional officers or supervisors available to respond to the school during school hours if needed. In contrast, if the Lyon County Sheriff's Office (LYSO) were to assign an SRO to cover both the Yerington and Smith Valley schools, response times could increase to 30 minutes, depending on the SRO's location and the current staffing within the Mason Valley area.

Our commitment to the Yerington schools is not driven by financial gain. In the 2024/25 school year, the YPD received a \$70,000 contribution from the LCSD for SRO services, and prior to that, we received \$30,000 annually. If the decision were solely mine, the YPD would provide an SRO to the Yerington schools even without financial support from the LCSD.

I would like the board to consider the significant funding increase that the LYSO received from LCSD for the SRO positions after Sheriff Pope's election. Prior to Sheriff Pope being elected, the LCSD contributed \$100,000 to LYSO for three (3) SRO positions. After Sheriff Pope was elected he negotiated for a 360% increase to \$360,000 for the same three (3) SRO positions as discussed at Board Meetings. This current school year, LYSO agreed to add an additional SRO to the Fernley area, but needed an additional \$25,000 to facilitate that. Yerington Police Department has not requested an increase in funding, which is currently \$70,000, for our Yerington SRO positions and has no plans to do so. We value the benefits of our relationships with students, staff and parents of the Yerington area that providing the SRO has given the Yerington community.

The Yerington Police Department is dedicated to serving the LCSD and the City of Yerington, and we believe that maintaining a positive officer presence in the Yerington schools is the best way to achieve this goal, while still following all LCSD policies and Nevada Revised Statutes when applicable. We are eager to continue serving the Yerington schools for many years to come.

Brandon Coombs

Sergeant

Yerington Police Department