

**Print**

**Measure Z Application for Funding 2025 - Submission #37849**

**Date Submitted: 1/21/2025**

**MEASURE Z APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

**Agency Name\***

Fortuna Police Department

**Mailing Address\***

PO Box 545

**City\***

Fortuna

**Zip\***

95540

**Contact Person\***

Casey J. Day

**Title\***

Chief of Police

**Phone Number\***

707-725-1431

**Email\***

cday@ci.fortuna.ca.us

**Project Title\***

School Resource Officer - Eel River Valley Campuses

**Funding Available**

The estimated amount of Measure Z funding available for FY 2025-26 is \$1.3 million.

**1. Amount of Measure Z Funding Requested For FY 25-26\***

\$202,901.00

**Agency Priority**

1 - Top Priority 

Agencies are encourage to submit one project per application. If your agency is submitting more than one application, please rank this application in terms of your agency's priority here.

**SUMMARY OF EXPENSES**

Item	\$ Amount	% of Total
<b>Salaries (wages)</b>	<b>Salaries Amount*</b>	<b>Salaries %*</b>
	\$102,115.00	50.32749961804033
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Benefits Amount*</b>	<b>Benefits %*</b>
	\$90,786.00	44.74398844756803
<b>Overhead and Occupancy</b> (Administrative, Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)	<b>Overhead/Occupancy Amount*</b>	<b>Overhead/Occupancy %*</b>
	\$0.00	0
<b>Equipment/Supplies/Services</b>	<b>Equip./Services/Supplies Amount*</b>	<b>Equipment/Services/Supplies %*</b>
	\$5,000.00	2.464255967195825
<b>Transportation/Travel</b>	<b>Transportation/Travel Amount*</b>	<b>Transportation/Travel %*</b>
	\$5,000.00	2.464255967195825
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Fixed Assets Amount*</b>	<b>Fixed Assets %*</b>
	\$0.00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Total Amount of Application*</b>	<b>TOTAL 100%</b>
	\$202,901.00	

**ENTITY TYPE\***

- Humboldt County Department
- Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- Local Government Entity
- Private Service Provider
- Non-Profit Service Provider
- Other (please describe)

**ENTITY TYPE**

City of Fortuna, Fortuna PD

If you selected other, please briefly describe the entity you represent.

**Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by Measure Z in the past? \***

Yes

If you checked "yes" please include the following:

1. a report detailing results from the most recent year the project was funded, and:
2. a completed Staffing Report detailing when the funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received funding for this project.

These documents must be uploaded in the "Required Attachments" section of this application.

**Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of Measure Z. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services?\***

The Fortuna Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a cornerstone of our commitment to maintaining and improving public safety and essential services within the Eel River Valley schools. By prioritizing safety, mentorship, and collaboration, the program goes beyond traditional law enforcement to address the root causes of challenges faced by our youth and school communities.

The SRO program provides a proactive, community-focused approach to school safety by embedding trained officers in our schools, ensuring a visible, trusted presence that deters violence and fosters a sense of security for students, educators, and families. SROs are first responders, mentors, and problem-solvers, uniquely equipped to identify and address issues before they escalate into crises. Their ability to mediate conflicts, de-escalate potentially volatile situations, and respond swiftly to emergencies exemplifies the program's role in safeguarding our schools.

Beyond physical safety, SROs contribute to the social and emotional well-being of students. Through mentorship, they build trust and meaningful relationships, empowering students to make responsible choices and stay engaged in their education. The program has been shown to reduce truancy rates and improve school attendance, fostering an environment where students feel supported and motivated to succeed.

Additionally, the SRO program enhances collaboration between law enforcement and educational institutions, ensuring a coordinated response to emerging safety concerns. By serving as liaisons between the police department and schools, SROs facilitate training and workshops for staff and students on topics such as violence prevention, digital safety, and substance abuse awareness. This holistic approach not only strengthens public safety but also contributes to a culture of accountability and resilience.

Funding through Measure Z is essential to sustaining and expanding the impact of this program. By investing in our SRO program, we are investing in the future of our community – building stronger relationships, fostering safer schools, and creating a foundation of trust and collaboration that benefits the Eel River Valley for years to come.

**Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.\***

The Fortuna Police Department seeks Measure Z funding to sustain and enhance the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, a vital partnership with Eel River Valley Schools. This program has become a cornerstone of community safety, fostering trust and security across all high schools and elementary schools in the region.

Measure Z funding will cover essential program costs, including salaries, benefits, and equipment, ensuring the continued presence of SROs within our schools. These officers provide proactive safety measures, respond to critical incidents, and serve as mentors and problem-solvers, fostering a secure and supportive environment for students, educators, and families.

This proposal reflects the City of Fortuna's unwavering commitment to safeguarding our children through collaboration and investment. With sustained Measure Z funding, we can maintain this critical resource, promoting safety, well-being, and a thriving community for generations to come.

**How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future Measure Z funds? Please provide detail of your plan for sustainability here.\***

The City of Fortuna is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program while reducing reliance on Measure Z funding. Although traditional revenue-generation models may not directly apply to this position, the city has developed a multi-faceted approach to achieve financial sustainability:

**Economic Development Initiatives:** Fortuna is actively fostering an environment conducive to business growth, which will strengthen the local tax base. By attracting new businesses and supporting existing ones, we aim to increase sales tax revenue, providing a more robust economic foundation to fund essential services like the SRO program in the future.

**Reevaluating City Fees and Operations:** The city continues to review and adjust municipal fees to better align with current needs. Additionally, staffing roles and responsibilities are being analyzed to improve efficiency and identify potential cost-saving measures without compromising service quality.

**Pursuing Grants and Collaborative Partnerships:** Leveraging external funding opportunities remains a priority. The city is actively seeking state, federal, and private grants to supplement program funding. Building partnerships with local organizations and businesses can also help secure shared investments in school safety.

**Post-Pandemic Financial Resilience:** Recognizing the unique challenges posed by the pandemic, Fortuna is adopting innovative financial strategies to adapt to the evolving economic landscape. Diversified funding streams and prudent fiscal management are central to these efforts.

By combining these strategies, the City of Fortuna is proactively working to sustain the SRO program and other critical services, demonstrating our dedication to community safety and financial stewardship.

**If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?\***

Since its inception in 2017, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program has relied on Measure Z funding to serve schools throughout the Eel River Valley. However, during the previous fiscal year, insufficient Measure Z revenue forced the suspension of the program for the first time, leaving a significant gap in safety and support for approximately 15 campuses within Fortuna's city limits and the surrounding unincorporated county areas.

Thanks to renewed Measure Z funding for the current fiscal year, the program was successfully reinstated, allowing the Fortuna Police Department to reestablish its vital presence in local schools. This funding has restored the essential partnership between law enforcement and educational institutions, ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff.

While this reinstatement has been a critical step forward, the need for continued financial stability remains. To safeguard the program's long-term success, we are actively pursuing Measure Z funding for the upcoming fiscal year while we continue to explore additional funding opportunities, including grants and collaborative partnerships, to ensure that the SRO program continues to provide its invaluable services to the community.

**If you are awarded Measure Z funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support? \***

The primary goal of this grant application is to sustain funding for a dedicated full-time police officer serving as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for schools in the Eel River Valley. Measure Z funds will cover the core operational costs of this essential role, while the City’s General Fund will be leveraged to support related administrative expenses.

By maintaining a sworn police officer as an SRO, the Fortuna Police Department is well-positioned to pursue additional funding opportunities. These include grants at the local, state, and federal levels, specifically targeting youth-focused programs, school safety initiatives, and community outreach efforts. The presence of a dedicated SRO strengthens the department’s eligibility and competitiveness for these funding streams.

This strategic use of Measure Z funds not only ensures the continuity of critical services but also enhances the department’s ability to secure complementary resources. Together, these efforts will expand opportunities to support the safety, education, and well-being of the region’s youth while fostering a thriving and secure community for future generations.

**Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like. \***

No. (N/A)

**Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? \***

No 

**If you checked yes, please detail those expenses here.**

N/A

Please note, the Citizens’ Advisory Committee in May, 2023, adopted a stance that it would not recommend funding for new, ongoing county positions.

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

Be sure to include the following with your application.

**Prior Year Results**

If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

**Upload Prior Year Results Attachment**

EndofYear.pdf

**Program Budget**

Download the budget narrative, then upload using the button at right.

**Upload Program Budget Attachment\***

FY24-25Measure Z SRO Staffing Report.xlsx

**Staffing Report**

If your request was previously funded, please download and complete the staffing report, then upload it using the option provided here.

**Upload Staffing Report Attachment**

FY24-25Measure Z SRO Staffing Report.xlsx

**Letters of Support**

If you have letters of support from members of the community you can upload them here.

**Upload Letters of Support**

LettersofSupport.pdf

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct.**

**Date\***

1/21/2025

12:30 AM

**Signature\***

Casey J. Day

Type Approving Official's Name

21 January 2025

**Subject: END OF YEAR REPORT: Impact of the Loss of Measure Z Funding for the SRO Position in FY 23-24**

The loss of Measure Z funding for the School Resource Officer (SRO) position in FY 23-24 had a significant and adverse impact on the Eel River Valley community, its schools, and the Fortuna Police Department. **As a result, there is no official end-of-year report for that period.** The absence of Measure Z funding eliminated a critical resource for conflict resolution, violence prevention, and the immediate response to critical incidents on campuses, leaving students, educators, and school staff more vulnerable to safety concerns.

To address this gap, the City of Fortuna temporarily utilized Measure E (General Safety Tax) funds to support the SRO position during FY 23-24. However, this funding was limited to schools within the incorporated jurisdiction of the City of Fortuna. While the SRO maintained a presence within these schools, the scope of services was significantly reduced, and schools in the unincorporated areas of the Eel River Valley were left without the dedicated support of a School Resource Officer.

Despite these limitations, the Fortuna Police Department prioritized maintaining strong relationships with educational stakeholders throughout FY 23-24. This collaborative effort aimed to mitigate some of the challenges posed by the absence of a valley-wide SRO. Nevertheless, schools located in unincorporated areas, as well as those dispersed across the broader Eel River Valley, experienced heightened difficulties in sustaining a secure and supportive learning environment.

The loss of Measure Z funding highlighted the critical role that a dedicated SRO plays in fostering safe schools, preventing violence, and building trust between law enforcement and the community. Reinstating funding for this position remains essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff across the Eel River Valley.



Casey J. Day, Chief of Police  
Fortuna Police Department

**CITY OF FORTUNA POLICE: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON *MEASURE Z* EXPENDITURES  
Attachment 1 – Proposal Narrative

The Fortuna Police Department is proud of the collaborative relationships it has cultivated with various county agencies. We work closely with partners such as the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, Humboldt County District Attorney's Office, Mental Health Services, County Probation, and others to enhance public safety and community well-being.

Since the inception of Measure Z, the City Finance Department has projected an annual revenue of approximately \$1,000,000 within Fortuna city limits. As the fastest-growing incorporated city in Humboldt County, Fortuna serves as the central hub of the Eel River Valley, functioning as the Eel River Valley's primary shopping and business center.

Since 2017, the Fortuna Police Department has used Measure Z funds to support a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) position. This position serves approximately 15 campuses across both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the Eel River Valley, encompassing a vast area of approximately 100 square miles. These communities include Fortuna, Rio Dell, Scotia, Loleta, Hydesville, Carlotta, and Ferndale, collectively impacting about 4,200 students.

The Fortuna Police Department's SRO program gained national recognition in 2021 when Officer Lindsey Frank received the National Regional Exceptional Service Award for Region 9 from the National Association for School Resource Officers. Following Officer Frank, Officer Dylan Burley served as the SRO until August 2024, when he joined the Rio Dell Police Department. During his tenure, Officer Burley revitalized critical initiatives such as the Every 15 Minutes program, a campaign addressing the dangers of impaired driving. He also maintained a strong presence in the community by coaching football at Fortuna High School and launching a high school-aged Explorer Program focused on leadership and community service.

Since Officer Burley's departure, Officer Ryan Richardson, a seasoned 20-year veteran and former major crimes detective, has taken on the SRO role. Officer Richardson has excelled in the position, strengthening relationships with educational stakeholders and prioritizing safety and proactive engagement in Eel River Valley schools. Under his leadership, the department plans to introduce an opioid education program and launch a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl.

The cost to sustain the Eel River Valley School Resource Officer position—including salary, benefits, and outfitting—is approximately \$202,901 per year. The Fortuna Police Department is fully committed to maintaining this critical role to ensure the safety and well-being of our schools, youth, and communities. Our mission is to make Humboldt County and the Eel River Valley schools safer and more conducive to learning and growth.



Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Measure Z Committee

January 13, 2025

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the Fortuna Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) program. I have been working in education for 10 years, prior to that I worked alongside law enforcement in my roles as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, employed at Child Welfare Services and at the Arcata Police Department. In 31 years of professional work, I have seen law enforcement partner well with agencies and organizations whose focus is on the prevention of and intervention for child abuse and youth involvement in the juvenile justice system. The most effective partnerships are those that include cross-training and multi-disciplinary decision making. School Resource Officer positions can be great examples of effective, collaborative work.

The Fortuna Police Department has consistently and successfully served the Eel River Valley schools and communities with a School Resource Officer. This position builds positive relationships and prioritizes preventative measures over reactive responses. Over the years, the SRO has been challenged to shape itself into a more trauma-informed, coordinated resource in concert with many school practices. Fortuna's SRO position is a critical member of teams such as School Attendance Review Boards and utilizes evidence-based practices such as home visits and parent conferences. In addition, this position is responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive safety protocols, serving as a bridge between school community and law enforcement, and mentoring at risk youth.

I support the continuation of support for the School Resource Officer position through Measure Z funds. The service exemplifies the tremendous commitment Fortuna Police Department has to schools, students, and families in the Eel River Valley.

Sincerely,



Gillian Townsend, LCSW  
Program Manager, School Attendance and Absenteeism & SARB  
Humboldt Office of Education



# Fortuna Elementary School District

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Amy Betts, M.A., District Superintendent  
534 12th Street • Fortuna, California 95540 • 707/725-2293 FAX 707/725-2228

January 15, 2025

Dear Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and Members of the Measure Z Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the continued funding of the School Resource Officer (SRO) position, which serves the Eel River Valley's students, families, and schools. The SRO's role is vital to the safety, well-being, and success of our community's youth, and I urge you to prioritize funding for this critical position.

The SROs we have had the privilege of working with have proven to be indispensable assets to the schools in our region. They are highly responsive and consistently go above and beyond to support the needs of students, families, and educators. Whether addressing safety concerns, providing mentorship, or participating in educational programs, the SRO's presence fosters a sense of security and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

The positive impact of having a dedicated School Resource Officer in the Eel River Valley cannot be overstated. The SRO's ability to engage with students meaningfully and compassionately helps address challenges before they escalate, contributes to a safe learning environment, and promotes a culture of respect and accountability. Their efforts not only enhance the day-to-day operations of our schools but also create long-lasting benefits for the entire community.

As you review Measure Z funding priorities, I respectfully request that you recognize the importance of continuing to support this essential position. The safety and well-being of our students should remain a top priority, and maintaining the SRO position is a direct investment in the future of our community's youth.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the people of Humboldt County and, more specifically, to the Eel River Valley. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional feedback or information would be helpful as you consider this matter.

Sincerely,

Amy Betts  
FESD Superintendent

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**Ambrosini Elementary**  
Angela Schuetzle, Principal  
3850 Rohuerville Road  
707/725-4688 Fax 707/725-4941

**Walker Elementary**  
Helen Nelson, M.A., Principal  
2089 Newburg Road  
707/725-2519 Fax 707/725-2085

**Fortuna Middle School**  
Saul Lewis, Principal  
843 L Street  
707/725-3415 Fax 707/725-6240

**Toddy Thomas Middle School**  
Kent Chapman, Principal  
2800 Thomas Street  
707/725-5197 Fax 707/725-8637



# Rio Dell Elementary School District

**EAGLE PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
707/764-5694 FAX 707/764-2656

**MONUMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
707/764-3783

95 Center Street • Rio Dell, California 95562 • riodelschools.net

**ANGELA JOHNSON**, SUPERINTENDENT

**LAUREN BRYIE**, PRINCIPAL

January 15, 2025

To The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Measure Z Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the School Resource Officer (SRO) position through Measure Z funding. The SRO has been an invaluable asset to the schools in the Eel River Valley, providing vital support and building relationships that foster a safer and more supportive environment for our students and families.

At Rio Dell, we had the pleasure of hosting the School Resource Officer during Career Day. His presentation to our 5th through 8th graders was engaging, informative, and inspiring. His ability to connect with students and share the importance of his role in the community made a lasting impression on our young learners. These types of interactions not only educate but also help to break down barriers between students and law enforcement, creating a sense of trust and mutual respect.

Beyond special events, the School Resource Officer plays a crucial role in our schools by making meaningful connections with both students and families. These relationships have a direct impact on improving student attendance and overall engagement in education.

While the demands of serving multiple schools across the Eel River Valley can undoubtedly be challenging, the dedication and commitment of the SRO have not gone unnoticed. The relationships he is building and the trust he is fostering are invaluable to our schools and our community. His work enhances not only the safety of our schools but also the overall well-being of the families he supports.

I urge you to continue funding this essential position through Measure Z. The investment in the School Resource Officer is an investment in the safety, education, and future of our children and our community. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Angela Johnson  
Superintendent  
Rio Dell School District



**FORTUNA UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

735 13th Street  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
Phone: 707.725.4462  
Fax: 707.725.6085  
www.fuhsdistrict.org

Clint Duey  
Superintendent  
Fortuna Union High School District  
735 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fortuna, CA, 95540  
cduey@fuhsdistrict.net  
707-672-5455  
1/16/25

Dear Members of the Measure Z Committee,

On behalf of the Fortuna Union High School District, I am writing to express our strong support for the continued funding of a Student Resource Officer (SRO) for the Eel River Valley through Measure Z. This position is vital to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community as we navigate the increasing challenges of the post-COVID environment. The Student Resource Officer serves as an indispensable member of our school community, addressing issues that go beyond traditional educational responsibilities. Since the pandemic, schools across the nation have seen a significant increase in discipline challenges and truancy rates. These issues are no different in the Eel River Valley, where our schools require additional support to meet the complex needs of students and families. The SRO plays a crucial role in fostering a safe and supportive environment by:

- **Promoting School Safety:** The presence of the SRO ensures immediate response to any incidents that may jeopardize the safety of students and staff. Their proactive approach to de-escalating situations and maintaining order is invaluable.
- **Addressing Truancy:** The officer works closely with school administrators and families to address attendance issues, identify root causes, and implement solutions to reengage students in their education.
- **Supporting Discipline Efforts:** The SRO collaborates daily with school personnel to manage disciplinary matters, provide guidance, and reinforce positive behavior among students.
- **Building Trusting Relationships:** By establishing a consistent presence on campus, the SRO fosters trust and open communication with students, helping them feel secure and supported in their educational journey.

In addition to these daily responsibilities, the SRO serves as a vital bridge between the school district and local law enforcement, ensuring effective collaboration and resource sharing in times of need. Their presence not only addresses immediate concerns but also contributes to long-term improvements in school culture and community relations.

Given the challenges of the post-COVID educational landscape, the role of the Student Resource Officer has never been more essential. The support provided by Measure Z funding enables us to sustain this critical resource for the Eel River Valley, ensuring our schools remain places where students can learn, grow, and thrive in a safe and structured environment. We respectfully urge the Measure Z Committee to prioritize funding for the Student Resource Officer position. Your continued investment in this role will make a significant difference in the lives of our students, families, and broader community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to supporting the safety and success of our schools.

Sincerely,



Superintendent  
Fortuna Union High School District

**Academy of the Redwoods**  
7351 Tompkins Hill Road  
Eureka, CA 95501  
academyoftheredwoods.org  
707.476.4203



**Fortuna High School**  
379 12th Street  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
fortunahigh.org  
707.725.4461



**East High School**  
392 16th Street  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
easthighfortuna.org  
707.725.4463





January 15, 2025

Chief Casey Day  
Fortuna Police Department  
2600 Newburg Road  
Fortuna, CA 95540

Dear Chief Day,

I am writing in support of the continued use of Measure D funds to provide a shared School Resource Officer for the Eel River Valley schools. While the majority of school discipline matters must be addressed by school officials, there are occasions when the support of law enforcement is needed. Especially in an age of ever-increasing school safety concerns, positive partnerships with law enforcement are a vital part of a school community's well being and sense of safety. SROs also help school staff in emergency preparedness and planning and can help divert youth misconduct before it turns into criminal activity.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if I can provide any additional support in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Row", is written over the typed name.

Linda Row  
Superintendent/Principal  
Loleta Union Elementary School District



# Hydesville Elementary School District

3050 Johnson Rd. • Hydesville, CA • 95547-0551

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1/17/2025

Dear Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and Measure Z Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the School Resource Officer (SRO) position through Measure Z. This program has proven to be an invaluable asset to our community, providing both safety and a positive presence in our schools.

The presence of an SRO on campuses fosters a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and families. In today's world, the role of an SRO extends far beyond traditional law enforcement. They serve as mentors, educators, and trusted allies to the youth in our community. By building meaningful relationships with students, SROs help deter negative behaviors and promote a culture of respect and accountability.

Moreover, the SRO's ability to provide immediate responses to emergencies is crucial. Their presence ensures a rapid and informed response to potential threats, mitigating risks and maintaining a secure environment conducive to learning. The proactive measures and training SROs offer, such as safety drills and educational programs, further contribute to the overall well-being of our schools.

The funding provided through Measure Z is essential to maintaining this position. Investing in the safety and development of our youth is one of the most impactful ways we can support the future of our community. The SRO program not only addresses immediate safety concerns but also cultivates long-term relationships that enhance trust between law enforcement and the broader community.

I urge you to prioritize the funding of the SRO position to ensure the continuation of this vital program. Our students deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to thrive, and the SRO program is instrumental in achieving that goal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Trone".

Kevin Trone  
Superintendent/Principal  
Hydesville Elementary School District



**Office of the District Attorney**  
825 Fifth Street, Fourth Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501  
TEL 707.445.7411  
FAX 707.445.7416  
districtattorney@co.humboldt.ca.us

**Stacey Eads**  
District Attorney

January 16, 2024

Subject: Support for Measure Z Funding to Support a School Resource Officer

Dear Honorable Members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for allocating Measure Z funds to support the placement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) within the Eel River Valley. As an experienced law enforcement professional and advocate for public safety and youth welfare, I firmly believe that funding an SRO position is a prudent investment in the safety, security, and well-being of our students, school staff, and the community at large.

An SRO serves as more than just a law enforcement presence on campus. These officers build critical relationships with students, foster trust between youth and law enforcement, and contribute significantly to a safe learning environment.

Fostering positive engagement between youth and law enforcement is vital for building trust and mutual respect within our community. SROs play a critical role in bridging this gap by serving as approachable, supportive figures who interact with students in a non-enforcement capacity. These daily interactions help dismantle stereotypes, reduce misunderstandings, and promote a cooperative relationship between law enforcement and the community's youngest members. Such positive engagement ensures that students view law enforcement not as adversaries but as allies invested in their safety and success.

Healthy youth are the cornerstone of a thriving community. Investing in their safety and development yields benefits that extend far beyond the school environment. A secure and supportive school setting empowers young people to focus on their education, build resilience, and make positive life choices. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that students have access to the resources and guidance they need to grow into healthy, responsible adults.

Schools are at the heart of our communities, and ensuring their safety is a responsibility we all share. Funding an SRO through Measure Z will not only enhance the security of our educational institutions but also help create an environment where students feel safe, supported, and empowered to succeed. Moreover, this initiative aligns perfectly with Measure Z's objective of improving public safety and essential services across Humboldt County.

Thank you for considering this request and for your ongoing commitment to the residents of Humboldt County.

Respectfully,

Kyla Baxley  
Chief Investigator  
Humboldt County District Attorney's Office