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DATE: March 24, 2022

FROM: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair of the Alexandria City School Board 

TO: The Honorable Justin M. Wilson, Mayor of the City of Alexandria and Members of the Alexandria City Council

TOPIC: FY 2023 Funding Request for School Resource Officers

As we have discussed in the last few weeks and in conjunction with the Alexandria Police Department (APD), ACPS is working to finalize their recommendations for the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Advisory Group, which will be made up of City and ACPS staff, students, parents, and other community stakeholders. This advisory group will help to decide the best long-term approach as it relates to the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, which is currently funded by the City through June 30, 2022. Recommendations from the advisory group will take time to develop and implement and will go beyond June 2022 when funding for the SRO program will have ended.

The Alexandria City School Board respectfully requests that the City extend the funding of the SRO program through the 2022-2023 School Year. This will give the SLEP advisory group enough time to form, meet and make recommendations on the school-law enforcement partnership, to receive community and stakeholder input on the program, as well as allow our two elected bodies to make sound decisions on the future of the SRO program. Additionally, the importance of having a security presence in our schools in order to provide safe and secure environments for students, staff, families and community should be maintained while the most appropriate structure for safety within our facilities is determined. The continuation and funding of this program through the City is vital to this effort.

ACPS is focused on providing an equitable, high-quality education to all students and safety in our schools is an important aspect of achieving this goal. We hope that you will support us in this effort to thoughtfully reimagine our partnership with the Alexandria Police Department.