

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2018

Contact: Mayor Hornik

732 536-0200 x1200

MAYOR HORNIK COMMENDS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR JOINT SCHOOL SECURITY INITIATIVE

Marlboro Police Officers Assigned to K-8 Schools

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (March 28, 2018) – Mayor Jon Hornik, with the cooperation of Superintendent Dr. Eric Hibbs and the Marlboro K-8 Board of Education, has directed Police Chief Bruce Hall to assign an armed Marlboro Police Officer to each of the eight district schools during school hours. The Township and the Board have agreed to a cost-sharing arrangement to fund the program effective immediately, in the final three months of the 2017/18 school year.

Mayor Jon Hornik stated, “I am pleased that the Board of Education (BOE) has supported our initiative to station Marlboro police officers in each of our schools. While it is not a solution to the gun debate, it will keep our children and educators safe. As Mayor, I have no more fundamental responsibility than keeping our children and educators safe.”

He continued, “Recently in Maryland, a School Resource Officer (SRO), a trained and armed Police Officer, engaged and pursued the shooter and, by all accounts, prevented this incident from being a far greater tragedy. While it would be nice to pretend that that we did not live in a society that requires armed police officers in our schools it is not the reality.”

Mayor Hornik stated, “The schools have on-going safety measures in place and those will continue. Surveillance cameras are utilized and each school received a security upgrade to the building. Additional measures are in place but not discussed publicly so as not to compromise security.” He continued, “We have had SRO’s in the schools for many years, but Officers were not in each school full-time. Placing Officers in each school full-time, along with continuing security measures, will give parents added confidence that their children are safe.”

Under the plan, existing Marlboro Police Officers will be assigned to each of the K-8 schools for the remainder of the 2017/18 school year. For the school year beginning in September, the Township has already begun the process of hiring new “Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers”. Class III Officers are recently retired police officers (out of service for fewer than three years) who function under the command of the municipal police force and may carry a firearm. The jurisdiction of these officers is limited to school property.

Mayor Hornik stated, “The Board of Education and Township have worked closely over the years on school safety initiatives. The School Board has hired security guards, and invested in surveillance cameras and other physical safety upgrades at each facility. For many years, Marlboro Schools have had police officers in our schools who rotated through each of the eight schools throughout the week. In recent months, Marlboro Division of Police has stepped up its program of school safety checks, increased presence

during arrival and departures and random visits throughout the school day. As public officials, we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Marlboro's school kids. The time has now come to dedicate qualified and trained armed officers to each school for the entire school day."

Last month, following the Parkland, Florida school shooting, Mayor Hornik launched a Citizen Reporting Initiative directing the Marlboro Division of Public Safety to educate citizens on how to be an integral part of school security utilizing a 'See Something. Say Something. ® We will Do Something' campaign. The Citizen Reporting flyer providing residents with numbers and websites was placed on the Township websites and social media pages. The flyer will be sent to the schools for distribution, and additional announcements promoting this program will be released in the coming weeks.

###