



City of Marco Island

June 15, 2026

Dear Chair Lucarelli and Board Members,

On behalf of the Marco Island City Council, I want to thank you for the strong partnership that exists between the City and Collier County Public Schools. As you know, Marco Island includes Tommie Barfield Elementary as well as two Charter Schools, the Marco Island Charter Middle School and the Marco Island Academy High School. Every year we enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the District to provide School Resource Officers to these three schools. The cost for the City to maintain three School Resource Officers (one full time officer in each school) is approximately \$407,000. Applying the State funding formula and our current MOU, the City only receives back \$44,137.

The City Council recently approved the School Year 2026/27 MOU because we support both CCPS and the Marco Island Police Department, and we understand the importance of added security and safety in our schools. However, we are asking for CCPS to either contribute financially above the allocated Florida Education Finance Program or consider contracting with CCSO to provide School Resource Officers in Marco Island Schools. By requesting these adjustments now, it will give the Board plenty of time to either incorporate additional funding into next year's budget or coordinate with CCSO. The City of Marco Island City Council prioritizes public safety, but we are also faced with significant budget constraints and making up over \$360,000 each year to cover these costs is no longer feasible.

Thank you for your commitment to education and safety throughout Collier County. We look forward to working with you on a solution to this shortfall.

Best Regards,

Darrin Palumbo
City Council Chairman

CC: Dr. Ricciardelli
Dr. Dawes
Mr. Antonacci
Mr. Moshier
Mr. Rutherford
Ms. Mason
Vice Chair Carter
Marco Island City Council