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Madison County Announces funding for School Patrol Officers

Wampsville, NY – When the Madison County Board of Supervisors adopted a \$122 million budget on December 4, 2018 it included funding for School Patrol Officers (SPO).

The County has agreed to pay \$18,000 a year toward having a SPO in every school building within the County. The total cost of an SPO per year is \$37,000, the school district will be responsible for the additional \$19,000.

An armed officer has been offered countywide to be placed in buildings for grades K-12. As of right now the schools that have expressed interest in taking part in the program are Chittenango, DeRuyter, Madison, Brookfield, Morrisville-Eaton, and Oneida City School Districts.

“We live in a time where we must consider the safety of our youth as a top priority,” said Madison County Chairman John M. Becker. “Being able to aid our school districts with providing this safety is a no brainer. I am proud that the Board of Supervisors made this funding a priority in this year’s budget.”

Madison County is already accepting applications for the School Patrol Officer positions. Those interested and qualified can find the position at www.madisoncounty.ny.gov. SPOs will be responsible for upholding the law, maintaining order, and providing security in the Madison County School Districts. These officers will be under the supervision of the Madison County Sheriff’s Office.

“The objective is to ensure a safe environment for the children of Madison County,” said Sheriff Todd Hood. “Our officers will be there to uphold the law, build relationships with the students, and provide a safe place. The program is in the beginning stages, but we are hoping that every school will take part in this program.”

“The safety and security of our students and staff is the greatest responsibility of the Chittenango Central School District and the application of highly effective targeted resources is critical to maximizing our security, preparedness and proactive planning,” said Chittenango School District Superintendent Michael Eiffe. “A School Patrol Officer acts not only as a deterrent to those who would threaten our safety, moreover these

officers are an agent of school-community relationship building and positive/proactive engagement with local first responders. The deployment of this resource is representative of the resolve the CCSD has regarding student and staff safety. Furthermore, our collaboration with local partners is symbolic of the amazing community we call Madison County, Chittenango Schools and Bear Country.”

“The safety of our community’s children is one of all educators’ fundamental responsibilities,” said Morrisville-Eaton School District Superintendent Gregory Molloy. “A school safety officer in our buildings will reduce response times and add an additional layer of protection for the children we serve in the event we are ever faced with a tragic situation like those that have occurred in other schools. We believe in this program and are excited about the possibility of partnering with the Madison County Sheriffs’ Department, the Town of Eaton, the Village of Morrisville, and the Town of Smithfield to keep our children safe.”

“We are so appreciative of the collaboration between Madison County and DeRuyter Central Schools. We know how important student safety is to the education of our children,” said DeRuyter Central School District Superintendent David Brown. “This is an important aspect to the overall safety to our learning community. Special thank you to Mr. Daniel Degear, DeRuyter Town Supervisor for all of his work on this endeavor.”

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