

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-038
VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION SUBMISSION
FOR A COPS HIRING GRANT FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) POSITION AND
EXPLORE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPTIONS**

The Village Board for the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, WI do resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students;; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of a School Resource Officer (SRO) has been identified as a key component in enhancing school safety and fostering positive relationships between students and law enforcement;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program (CHP) offers funding to law enforcement agencies to hire additional officers, with priority consideration for School Resource Officer positions;

WHEREAS, the CHP program provides up to 75% of the approved entry-level salary and fringe benefits for each newly hired officer, with a maximum federal share of \$125,000 per officer position over a three-year period;

WHEREAS, the CHP program requires a minimum 25% local cash match, unless a waiver is approved;

WHEREAS, the Village of Caledonia seeks to enhance school safety through the potential hiring of a full-time SRO and is committed to discussing and studying with RUSD the local match requirement through use of district funds and/or community partnerships for years 1-3;

WHEREAS, the Village of Caledonia is also committed to discussing and studying with RUSD the cost of an SRO through use of district funds and/or community partnerships following the grants funding after the three-year period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, that the requested authorization for submittal of an application for a COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant for a School Resource Officer (SRO) position and explore additional funding options with Racine Unified School District and other local stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs staff to explore additional funding sources, private foundations, and community partnerships, to support the ongoing costs associated with the SRO position beyond the grant period;

Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, this 13 day of May 2025.

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

By: Thomas Weatherston
Thomas Weatherston
Village President

Attest: Jennifer Bass
Jennifer Bass
Village Clerk

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 22, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Chris Botsch, Police Chief
Todd Willis, Village Administrator



Re: **Request to apply for a COPS Hiring Grant for a School Resource Officer (SRO) position and explore additional funding options**

1. Presently, Caledonia's only middle school is Gifford, which is a K-8 school. Beginning in September of 2025, Olympia Brown will also be a K-8 school. With (2) middle schools in Caledonia, there is a tremendous benefit to having a designated School Resource Officer (SRO). If the Caledonia Police Department (CPD) had a SRO, they would split time between both schools. Police Chief Botsch has spoken to Racine Unified School District Deputy (RUSD) Superintendent Jody Bloyer along with the district's school safety team. Both are in favor of having an assigned SRO to service Gifford and Olympia Brown if the CPD can create the position and staff it.
2. The Office of Community Orientated Policing Services (COPS) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice that is responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. One purpose of COPS is to award grants to allow the hiring of community policing professionals. The hiring program grant which will be open for application submission later this month is:

"...designed to reduce crime and advance public safety through community policing by providing direct support to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. CHP funding supports the hiring of career law enforcement officers to increase an agency's community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts." "CHP awards provide up to 75 percent of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of full-time officers for 36 months, with a minimum 25 percent local cash match requirement and a maximum federal share of \$125,000 per officer position."

3. The 2035 Comprehensive Plan's Intergovernmental Cooperation Objectives includes
"Encouraging communities to coordinate with school districts as they prepare facility plans or....."

RUSD's Long Range Facility Master Plan calls for the district to "Continue to address safety and security at our schools. Based on the support from RUSD, the Village's Comprehensive Plan's Intergovernmental Cooperation Objective, and the availability of a grant hiring program, the Police Department would like to apply.

4. If approved, Village staff would need to work with RUSD on a cost-sharing agreement regarding the "local cash match" for the grant and on post-grant funding for the new position.