

RESOLUTION NO. 11, 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE VALPARAISO COMMON COUNCIL TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER COVERAGE AND SCHOOL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, ensuring public safety is the number one priority of government; and

WHEREAS, the safety and security of students, teachers, and staff in all schools located within the municipal limits of the City of Valparaiso, including Valparaiso Community Schools as well as private and parochial schools such as Immanuel Lutheran School and St. Paul Catholic School, is of paramount importance to the City and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the recent school shooting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as other incidents of violence at schools across the United States, underscore the need for proactive measures to safeguard our schools; and

WHEREAS, the presence of trained School Resource Officers (“SROs”) provides not only a visible security presence but also mentorship, early intervention, and positive relationship-building between law enforcement and students; and

WHEREAS, the Valparaiso Police Department has demonstrated professionalism and a strong commitment to community policing, and stands ready to collaborate with Valparaiso Community Schools and local private and parochial schools to expand its SRO program; and

WHEREAS, the Porter County Sheriff’s Department and the Valparaiso Police Department have recommended additional SROs to ensure appropriate coverage in Valparaiso schools; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2023, the Valparaiso Police Department, the Valparaiso Board of Public Works and Safety, and Valparaiso Community Schools entered into a *Memorandum of Understanding* addressing the safety needs of Valparaiso Community Schools and committing to explore additional security measures and placement of additional SROs; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2024, the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana (the “Council”) unanimously passed Resolution 6-2024, a Resolution on Community Safety, Firearm Education, and the Safe Storage of Firearms which in part committed the Council to exploring all avenues of gun violence prevention and preparedness through a coordinated effort with local law enforcement and Valparaiso Community Schools.

WHEREAS, the placement of an SRO in every school, public, private, and parochial, within Valparaiso’s city limits, together with investments in upgraded security technology, comprehensive facility safeguards, and emergency-response planning, will significantly enhance the protection of students, staff, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a shared commitment and partnership between the City of Valparaiso, Valparaiso Community Schools, local private and parochial schools, the Valparaiso Police Department, and the Porter County Sheriff's Department is necessary to ensure adequate funding, staffing, and prioritization of these safety measures;

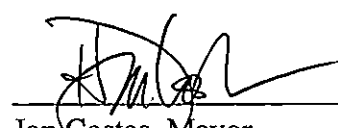
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, that:

1. The Valparaiso City Council calls upon the City of Valparaiso, Valparaiso Community Schools, local private and parochial schools, and the Porter County Sheriff's Department to work in partnership to ensure that a School Resource Officer is assigned to every school in the City of Valparaiso, as recommended by the Valparaiso Police Department and the Porter County Sheriff.
 2. The Council further urges that school security upgrades, including but not limited to, secured access points, surveillance improvements, communication systems, and staff training, be prioritized in budgeting and planning.
 3. The Council expresses its support for collaboration between the Valparaiso Police Department, the Porter County Sheriff's Department, Valparaiso Community Schools, local private and parochial schools, and the greater Valparaiso community to secure necessary resources and swiftly establish a timeline for achieving recommended SRO coverage and enhanced security measures.
 4. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Superintendent of Valparaiso Community Schools, the Chief of the Valparaiso Police Department, the Porter County Sheriff, and the administrators of Immanuel Lutheran School and St. Paul Catholic School.
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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, this 22nd day of September, 2025.

ATTEST:


Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer


Jon Costas, Mayor