

## Addendum C

October 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

The addendum represents the addition of one (1) deputy to serve under the School Resource (SRO) Unit in a float/roaming capacity. A canine (K-9) primarily utilized to search for illegal items to include firearms, and firearm ammunition will be assigned to this deputy, effectively making the K-9 deputy within the SRO Unit.

**Selection.** Selection of the one (1) K-9 deputy chosen to fill this position will be selected by HCSO K-9 and SRO supervision based on a variety of factors. These factors include: participation in a Hernando County Sheriff's Office oral interview (agency standard); participation in an obstacle course as determined and monitored by the K-9 Unit members and/or SRO supervision; and through a review of the deputies' personnel file and past work performance. Prior to the commencement of the review process, the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee will be notified of the dates/times of the interviews and the identities of the applicants. The Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee will be afforded the opportunity to participate in all phases of the review process to include: active participation in the oral interview(s), attendance during the obstacle course evaluation(s), and the ability to consult with SRO supervision on the review of the applicant's personnel file and review of past work performance. Selection of the deputy assigned to this role will also be in accordance with current HCSO policy regarding K-9 deputies. The chosen deputy must have a minimum of two years law enforcement experience, must be in good physical condition, must be capable of housing their assigned K-9 at their home residence, and must give at least a four (4) year commitment to the position. Exceptions to the above commitment will include promotion, termination, disciplinary action, or a health issue preventing the chosen individual from performing necessary tasks.

**Training.** The initial training of the K-9 deputy and the K-9 partner, will be conducted in accordance with standards set forth by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and established HCSO policy and procedures for the K-9 Unit. Prior to the deployment of official K-9 specific law enforcement functions, the K-9 and assigned handler (chosen deputy) will be trained and certified in areas such as obedience and scent detection by FDLE certified instructors. After initial training, the handler and K-9 will also obtain certification from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA). Continuous training throughout the career of the K-9 is essential to the stability and development of the acquired skills of the K-9, and their assigned handler. The assigned handler and their K-9 will train along with the K-9 Unit; in doing so, they shall attend at least one (1) dedicated training session per month in compliance with FDLE and HCSO policies and procedures. This training is essential in order for the deputy and K-9 to maintain and further develop their trained abilities. The K-9 or SRO Unit supervisors have the discretion to require additional training dates throughout the month for the handler and/or the K-9. SRO supervision will notify the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee when the deputy and their assigned K-9 will be unavailable for service due to scheduled training. The HCSO will record and maintain training and deployment records of the handler and K-9. Upon request, the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee will be provided with various statistical and training records of these specific handler and K-9, within a reasonable amount of time.

**Scheduling.** The daily schedule of this K-9 deputy will be similar to that of a “float deputy”, in that they will have the ability to respond to any Hernando County school or related facility during their shift. In order to proactively respond to various schools within the Hernando County School District, the K-9 deputy will maintain a flexible work schedule. Due to their specialized training, the K-9 deputy shall not be utilized to provide coverage in lieu of the assigned SRO at a school, unless exigent circumstances exist. If such circumstances do arise, approval from the SRO lieutenant or his/her designee shall be required prior to the arrival of this decision. Prior to utilizing K-9 deputy for this purpose, SRO supervision must first make every effort to provide SRO coverage to a school either by utilizing float deputies, or deputies from other entities within HCSO. If the decision is made to utilize the K-9 deputy to provide coverage in lieu of the assigned SRO, the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee will be notified. In the event that there is a request to utilize the K-9 deputy and assigned K-9 (whether requested by another entity within the HCSO, or from an outside law enforcement agency), the decision to allow the deputy and K-9 to respond to this request will rest with the SRO lieutenant or his/her designee. The SRO lieutenant or his/her designee will evaluate the details surrounding the request and shall only allow the deputy and K-9 to respond if exigent circumstances are present, or if it is determined that there are limited options for a successful outcome available at the time of the event. In the event such request is granted, the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee will be notified. During the summer months and during times when regular school is not in session, the assigned deputy and K-9 will be utilized for school related functions and can be called upon to perform regular patrol duties only if there are no major school related functions occurring during their tour of duty that day. Determination of the scheduling of the SRO deputy and assigned K-9 during the summer months when regular school is not in session, will be made collaboratively with SRO Unit supervision and the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee. SRO supervision shall make an effort to have the K-9 deputy and their assigned K-9 available for after school related events that tend to draw large crowds, which include but are not limited to: sporting events, graduations, and school assemblies. Prior to the event, SRO supervision and the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee may discuss whether it is necessary to utilize the K-9 deputy and their assigned K-9 for these events. In the event that SRO supervision determines that the response of the handler and K-9 is necessary prior to consultation with the Director of Safe Schools or his/her designee, they will be added to the list of already working personnel for the scheduled event.

**Costs.** The HCSO agrees to pay for capital costs (items over \$5,000 in value) which include assigned law enforcement vehicle along with the mechanisms that support the housing and transportation of the K-9 in said vehicle, as well as other capital costs that the HCSO currently funds as part of the existing contract. The Hernando County School District (HCSO) agrees to fund 73% of the costs which equates to \$91,416 (9 months). The HCSO agrees to fund the remaining balance of operating costs. The HCSO agrees to fund up to \$25,000 of the startup costs for the deputy and their assigned K-9 for year one (10/01/2024 to 6/30/2025).