



Jamie Aldama  
Councilmember

Office of the City Council

Ocotillo District

**STATEMENT FROM COUNCILMEMBER JAMIE ALDAMA REGARDING  
THE CITY OF GLENDALE'S RECENT ACTION TO INSTALL SCHOOL RESOURCE  
OFFICERS IN GLENDALE HIGH SCHOOLS**

During a formal press conference conducted last Friday, city officials announced that a full-time Glendale Police Officer would be permanently installed at all nine high school campuses in Glendale effective the following Monday morning.

Let me be clear at the onset. I am in support of providing safe schools for all children, and I support the concept and deployment of School Resource Officers in achieving this vitally important objective. What I do not support however, is the utter lack of transparency our city government exhibited in its headlong rush to action in making this decision.

Prior to the announcement of such an impactful edict, each and every school district superintendent representing a school within Glendale city limits, as well as our principals and teachers, should have been consulted and brought into the public discussion. But, they WERE NOT afforded this opportunity. All our local school board officials at every level, including public charter school officials, should have been provided the opportunity to weigh in. They WERE NOT. Other critical stakeholders, including the Police and Fire Associations, were TOLD of the adverse impact on their memberships, but not consulted with. City employees were also NOT ADVISED nor made aware of their personal contribution and impact to their future paychecks. The entire plan development process took less than four weeks. And, where is the money coming from?

Clearly this was an insensitive headline-grabbing political response to a larger problem than just having an officer in each high school, or on any or all school campuses in Glendale. To suggest this action taken by the city of Glendale is a solution to preventing future school shooting incidents is misleading.

As a concerned Glendale Councilmember, I am not clear on what these officer's duties will be. Are they merely for security purposes? Are they there for enforcement? Has each officer received the proper training on exactly what their function is? Are they to be on campus whenever students are present, or staff present? How many hours a week are budgeted for? Is overtime pay authorized to cover special events? And if so, where will that money come from? We need answers to these questions and our solutions should require informed consent. Several other questions needing answers



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are, what are we doing with our elementary schools, places where several recent school shooting incidents across the nation have occurred? What about charter schools? Why were they ignored? It is irresponsible for the city of Glendale to exempt elementary schools, and charter schools from the discussion.

As your City Councilmember let me reiterate, I support the concept of School Resource Officers. However, there must be proper planning and viable consensual long-term plans. Our local education experts, as well as local mental health and behavior experts, must also be brought to the table during the decision-making process.

A press conference does not substitute for open public dialogue and communication. I do not support the swift actions our city has taken. I offer our children and parents of those schools that were excluded my sincere apologies for the lack of inclusion by our city officials. I pledge to work hard to seek solutions that are right for our community, and our city overall.

Councilmember Jamie Aldama

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