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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# In a Historic First in Atlantic City, Mayor Small Announces Every City School is Now Assigned a Police Officer

**Atlantic City, N.J. (September 10, 2024)** – Under the vision of Mayor Marty Small, Sr., for the first time in Atlantic City’s history, a police officer is now assigned to every public school in Atlantic City. The City of Atlantic City, Atlantic City Police Department and Atlantic City Board of Education agreed to add a police officer in every K-8 school and two officers in Atlantic City High School throughout the entire academic school year. The new assignments were made possible through a \$3.75M Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S) Hiring Grant the City was awarded earlier this year.

Today, the department’s new School Resource Officers were deployed to their new assignments. The officers, all of whom have been with the department and volunteered for this critical position, are eager to build relationships with the students, teachers, and staff at their respective school. The new unit is supervised by ACPD Sergeant Timothy Smith, who has experience as a former juvenile detective. In addition, ACPD Detective Thomas McCabe will investigate any crimes that occur on school property.

“For the first time in the Great City of Atlantic City, we have at least one officer in each of our schools, and I’m extremely proud to say this unprecedented change is happening under the Small administration,” said Mayor Small. “This is something City leaders discussed in the past, but none were able to get the job done until now. This took a lot of hard work from many different individuals, and the addition of our School Resource Officers will allow our police officers to protect our children and school staff like never before.”

“Having Officers in every school is one of the most important steps we can take to ensure the safety of our students and school staff,” said Chief James Sarkos. “With their presence, our officers not only help prevent potential threats but also act as positive role models, mentors, and valuable resources for students in need.”

“We look forward to partnering with the City of Atlantic City and the Atlantic City Police Department,” said Dr. La’Quetta Small, Superintendent of Atlantic City Public Schools. “The Atlantic City Public School District has always prioritized safety. However, through this partnership, we are able to further improve school safety and security by providing full-time police officers in each school. It is our expectation that the police officers foster positive relationships with students, staff, parents and the community.

Here are the current assignments for the School Resource Unit:

Officer Christopher Massey- Atlantic City High School

Officer David Flaherty- Atlantic City High School

SLEO III John Bazemore- Brighton Avenue School

Officer Deborah Gilmore- Chelsea Heights School

Officer Bryant Mitchell- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex

Officer Martina Martin- New York Avenue School

Officer Rudolph Sime- Pennsylvania Avenue School

Officer Richard Lasco- Richmond Avenue School

Officer Tahsin Hossain- Sovereign Avenue School

Officer Hiram Mercado- Texas Avenue School

SLEO III Robert Campbell- Uptown School Complex

Officer Rebecca Seabrook- Venice Park School

\*\*\*Media interested in getting a closer look at the new School Resource Unit should reach out to City of Atlantic City Public Information Officer Andrew Kramer\*\*\*

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