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BRENHAM ISD, THE CITY OF BRENHAM, AND WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMIT TO STUDENT AND STAFF SAFETY

Brenham, TX - October 5, 2023

Brenham Independent School District (Brenham ISD), the City of Brenham City Council, and the Washington County Commissioners Court came together with law enforcement officials on October 2nd for a joint meeting to discuss school district safety and security. The meeting saw the signing of a Joint Resolution by all parties involved requesting that the State fully fund the mandates of House Bill 3.

House Bill 3 requires at least one armed security officer present during regular school hours at each campus. However, the legislation only provides partial funding for the implementation. The joint resolution highlights the shared community commitment to the safety of all students and staff.

Currently, Brenham ISD partners with the City of Brenham Police Department with five full time School Resource Officers (SROs). Two serve at Brenham High School, one at Brenham Junior High, and one at Brenham Middle School. The Sergeant of the SRO program serves at all campuses.

The elementary campuses and PRIDE Academy are currently covered by off-duty law enforcement officers who choose to sign up for overtime shifts. These shifts may be covered by Brenham Police Department, Washington County Sheriff Department, Blinn Police Department, Constables, Texas DPS and Game Wardens.

While all entities expressed that the best option would be a full time law enforcement official at each campus, they also acknowledged that law enforcement entities across the state are experiencing personnel shortages. HB3 has further increased demand for law enforcement officials, leaving many school districts turning to alternatives to be in compliance with the law.

Following the discussions and approval of the joint resolution, the Brenham ISD School Board unanimously approved a motion to pursue a School Marshal Program in cooperation with the existing School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. This measure will ensure that there is armed security on every campus and would be in compliance with safety goals of the district and HB3.

Clay Gillentine, Acting Superintendent of Brenham ISD, emphasized the district's commitment to fidelity in implementing a Marshal program, stating, "Our top priority is providing a safe environment for our Brenham ISD community. We will work diligently to uphold the highest standards of safety and security and ensure compliance with HB3."