



Springfield Park District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT MAINTAINS AN IN-HOUSE POLICE FORCE TO PROTECT ITS DIVERSE SET OF PARKS AND FACILITIES

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District recently partnered with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) to perform an external management study of its Police Department. The study evaluated the demand for safety and security within the District’s diverse set of parks and facilities. The study also included and evaluation of alternative service delivery models as well.

Both the Sangamon County Sheriff’s Office and the Springfield Police Department were asked to submit a proposal to assume security responsibilities that are currently being provided by the Park District Police Department. A comparison of the proposals including staffing plans and associated costs are included.

Through a careful and exhaustive evaluation and based on the recommendation of the ILACP’s study, the Springfield Park District has decided to continue to maintain an in-house police force to uphold and enforce all state, county, and Park District laws and ordinances. Executive Director, Derek Harms “Maintaining an in-house police department will allow the Park District to most effectively deliver law enforcement services while saving taxpayers over \$175,000 annually.”

See attached Police Analysis and Summary.

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About the Springfield Park District Police Department

Staffing

The Springfield Park District Police Department consists of professionally trained police officers operating in a distinct role. Springfield Park District Police Officers are State Certified Professionals who receive the finest training available and are expected to generally devote their time and attention to the enforcement of ordinances, rules and regulations of the Park District and the laws of the State of Illinois.

Partnerships

The Springfield Park District Police Department has an intergovernmental agreement with local law enforcement agencies for law enforcement assistance. This strong partnership greatly reduces response time on calls for service in parks and facilities and throughout the community.

The Springfield Park District Police Department utilizes local neighborhood associations aimed at reducing vandalism and criminal activity in parks.

Scope of Services

The Springfield Park District Police Department is responsible to develop good public relations and to direct and assist the public in the proper use and enjoyment of Park District resources including:

- 37 community and neighborhood parks
- 2,600 acres of land
- 2 nature preserves (700+ acres)
- 4 golf courses
- 3 aquatic facilities
- 5 multiuse trail systems (23 miles)
- 2 baseball stadiums
- Henson Robinson Zoo
- Riverside Campgrounds
- Over 20 recreation and multiuse facilities
- Thousands of programs, services, and special events

Operational Analysis

STAFFING MODEL (SERVICE DELIVERY)

	Springfield Police Department:	Sangamon County Sheriff's Office:	Springfield Park District Police Department:
On-Duty Hours of Operation:	(7:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.) Springfield Police would assume the same role as they have previously, by covering calls for service in the parks between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.	24 hours a day	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. (minimum hours of coverage)
Total # of Officers:	8 full-time officers	6 full-time officers 1 detective	4 full-time officers (1 Chief, 1 Sergeant, 2 Patrol Officers) 9 part-time officers
Officers Per Shift:	Minimum of 2 (1 north and 1 south)	Minimum of 2 (1 north and 1 south)	Minimum of 2 (1 north and 1 south)
Seasonal Flexibility:	Same coverage year-round	Same coverage year-round	With 9 part-time officers, patrol hours may be increased during busy months and decreased during months of low activity. Shifts may also be adjusted to provide more hours of coverage during the busy months.
Park Ranger:	Will not provide service	Will not provide service	\$6,000.00 to continue as is
Park District Police Matters Liaison:	Will not provide service: Park District will have to create new position.	Will not provide service: Park District will have to create new position.	Park District Chief acts as Liaison for Police matters.

COST MODEL (FINANCIAL IMPACT)

****Note: This comparison represents what the costs would be for the 1st 52 weeks of service from each individual department (based solely on the information provided in each department's proposal)****

	Springfield Police Department:	Sangamon County Sheriff's Office:	Springfield Park District Police Department:
Training Academy:	\$26,880.00	\$22,458.00	\$0.00
Uniform/Equipment:	\$28,000.00	\$57,714.00	\$20,640.00
Salary and Benefits Minus Pension:	\$763,104.00 (1 year for all 8 officers)	\$413,478.00 (1 year for all 7 officers)	\$360,000.00 (if all part-time officers work their full 1,000 hours)
Squad Cars:	\$90,000.00 (2 fully- equipped cars)	\$0.00	\$35,000.00 (1 fully- equipped car)
Fuel costs:	\$12,000.00 (1 year)	\$7,024.00 (28 weeks) \$13,044.57 (1 year)	\$7,752.00 (1 year)
Pension/Retirement:	Not included in report	\$34,214.00 (28 weeks) \$63,540.29 (1 st year)	\$30,479.00 (for the 3 full-time officers and chief) Part-time officers receive no pension/retirement benefits
Backfill OT:	City will absorb costs	\$15,250.00 (28 weeks) \$28,321.43 (1 st year)	Overtime included in wage count
FTO (Field Training):	Not included in report	\$33,044.00 (for training period)	Contract states that Field Training Officers receive 1 hour of Compensation time per shift while training (\$0.00 paid out).
Totals for start-up numbers:	\$919,984.00 (1st year)	\$631,600.00	\$453,871.00 (1st year)

Summary

Springfield Police Department: SPD's proposal states that the first year including training of new officers will cost the Park District \$919,984.00. The proposal states that after the first year, the Park District will pay \$781,104.00 which covers the 8 full-time officers' salaries (\$763,104.00) and an annual fee for new patrol cars (\$18,000.00). The proposal states that the length of a contract is negotiable.

Sangamon County Sheriff's Office: SCSO's proposal states that the first 28 weeks including training of new officers will cost the Park District \$392,346.00. The proposal states that after the first 28 weeks, the Park District will pay \$600,000.00 - \$666,433.00 per year, graduated over 5 years (2.66% inflation compounded). The proposal states that opposed to paying a graduated fee, the Park District may pay a flat rate of \$632,780 per year for five years. The above total (\$631,600.00) represents what the Park District would pay the SCSO for the first year of service, if a 1 year budget were set from the beginning of take-over, based on the numbers provided by the SCSO.

Springfield Park District Police Department: The Springfield Park District Police Department is proposing to keep the department at 3 full-time officers. However, it is believed that for the department to be able to function fully, the staffing of the department should be increased to nine part-time officers along with the three full-time officers and a Chief. It is recommended that if the Springfield Park District Board agrees to fully staff the department, that a Sergeant may be appointed for supervision of said officers. To fully staff the department would cost the Park District \$453,871.00 per year (2.66% inflation will be compounded annually).

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