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Media Release

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LaGrange School Resource Officers Prepare for School Year, Hope Academy Adds First SRO

LaGrange, Ga. August 10, 2018 – LaGrange Police School Resource Officers are ready to start the school year. This year, LPD will add an SRO to Hope Academy.

The school resource officer and L.E.A.D. programs are a collaborative effort between the LaGrange Police Department and the Troup County School System to offer educational programs in the schools, reduce crime, drug abuse and violence – all of which contribute to a safe school environment.



Pictured from left to right: Officer Lane Hamer, Officer Brandon Sparks, Officer Colleen Hewett, Officer Marcus Horne, & Officer Unricky Parks

LPD currently has four school resource officers including Officer Lane Hamer at LaGrange High School, Officer Brandon Sparks at Hope Academy, Officer Marcus Horne at Gardner Newman Middle School, & Officer Unricky Parks at Troup High School.

Officer Colleen Hewett is the L.E.A.D. Officer. Hewett provides a 15-week educational program to 5th graders that address both drugs and violence.

SRO's are immediate first responders for any and all critical incidents on campus, whether it's an intruder, a student fight or a health emergency. Having a police officer on the campus can eliminate several minutes of response time when seconds count.

Lt. Eric Lohr oversees the SRO and L.E.A.D. Officers and believes their role is important because they not only provide a safe learning environment for the students but help to bridge the gap between the police and the youth in our community.

"The selection of officers to serve in these roles is not taken lightly. No other police officer position has the potential to positively impact and influence so many kids, which is ultimately one of the most important goals of a school officer," said Lohr.

"These officers understand that and work daily to develop those positive relationships necessary to facilitate that goal."

SROs are also considered informal counselors who work to build positive relationships with adolescents.

Officer Brandon Sparks understands the responsibility of the SRO.

"A lot of kids are scared of the police based on their surroundings. Many kids just don't have leadership at home and they find that leadership in the streets," Sparks said.

"This job takes a high level of dedication and you have to love this environment. I don't take this job lightly. We are teaching our future."

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