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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON THE D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

A record of failure, and how other policymakers have addressed the problem.

- I. **The Problem: D.A.R.E. spends \$449,000 in local taxpayer's money, but numerous studies show it fails to deter drug use**
 - A. A six-year study of 1,800 kids from fifth grade through high school, conducted by the University of Illinois-Chicago and sponsored by the Illinois State Police, finds that not only did D.A.R.E. fail to prevent drug use – **it actually increased the incidence of drug use among children in the program.**
 - B. The U.S. General Accounting Offices reports that “six long-term evaluations of the D.A.R.E. elementary school curriculum” finds “no significant differences in illicit drug use between students who received D.A.R.E. in the 5th or 6th grade (the intervention group) and students who did not (the control group.)”
 - C. NBC News reports at least a dozen other studies find D.A.R.E. fails to prevent drug use.
 - D. A study by the University of Houston shows D.A.R.E. “actually increased negative feelings about law enforcement” while only “marginally successful” in preventing drug use. *The Houston Chronicle, Aug. 28, 1998*
 - E. A 1997 study of the program's effectiveness in Minnesota conducted by D.A.R.E.'s own Advisory Council found the program had little to no impact on preventing drug or alcohol use. *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Nov. 18, 1999*
 - F. *The Detroit News* wrote on March 28, 1998 “it may be time to ask whether the half-billion dollars in taxpayer money and private donations that D.A.R.E. absorbs every year could be better spent on something else.”

- II. **How Others Reacted: Just a few of the municipalities across the United States that are dropping the D.A.R.E. program for more effective anti-crime measures**
 - A. Chicago Ridge, Illinois dropped D.A.R.E. after 13 years because, according to Police Chief Tim Balderman, the program created “an increase in arrests, all D.A.R.E. graduates.” *The Chicago Tribune, Jan. 26, 2003*
 - B. Huntington Beach, California dropped D.A.R.E. in early 2003 after the program spent \$77,320.00 a semester without stopping drug use. *Education Reporter, March 2003*
 - C. Minneapolis public schools dropped out the D.A.R.E. program in 1999, citing the costs of the program and its failure to prevent drug use. *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Nov. 18, 1999*
 - D. After 16 years of use, the Decatur, Alabama City Board of Education dropped D.A.R.E. last June, citing a need to “find more effective programs.” *The Decatur Daily, Jun. 18, 2003*
 - E. The Boulder Police Department dropped D.A.R.E. in 1998, bluntly saying “It just wasn't meeting all of our needs.” *The Boulder News, Nov. 29, 1998.*
 - F. The Louisville Police Department dropped D.A.R.E. in 1996, with Police Chief Bruce Goodman asking, ““We started to wonder whether DARE was effective in decreasing drug use among children.” *The Boulder News, Nov. 29, 1998.*

- III. **Proposed Action: Find a better use for \$449,000 in law enforcement funding and 6.42 FTEs**
 - A. Return the \$449,000.00 to the taxpayers.
 - B. Transfer that funding and manpower to Gang Intelligence
 - C. Transfer that funding and manpower to Community Policing
 - D. Transfer that funding and manpower to another program that places police officers on the streets to combat crime and gang activity.