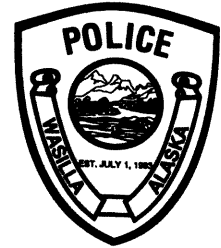




WASILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 N. KNIK STREET
WASILLA, AK 99654-7014
(907) 373 - 9077
(907) 373 - 9051 FAX



Information Memo 96-13

5-1-96

To: Wasilla City Council
From: Irl Stambaugh, Chief of Police
Thru: John Stein, Mayor
Re: School Liaison Position

During 1996 the City of Wasilla entered into an agreement with the Mat-Su school district and primarily the Wasilla schools to place a full time police officer into the area schools to act as a school liaison officer. This program was fully funded for FY-96 by the City of Wasilla in an attempt to have additional community policing projects that place an officer in direct and daily contact with the youth of our community and the youth of the Mat-Su valley that attend school in the city.

Through the teaching of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and acting as a guest instructor on a variety of topics to include health, auto shop, law, physical education and government classes Officer Vercelline has become a very visible and effective staff member of the Wasilla High School, Wasilla Middle School and Iditirod Elementary. During his time at the schools he has counseled and assisted numerous students with personal problems that have included abusive parents, runaway parents, drug and alcohol problems, vehicle repair, truancy, behavior problems, baseball and numerous other areas when he is contacted and asked to help.

As can be seen from the above, the emphasis of this program is counseling and assisting students in need or to act as a referral service to other agencies when we are unable to personally resolve the problem.

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Even with the emphasis on counseling Off. Vercelline has also handled numerous criminal problems in the schools to include drug arrests, runaways, minor consuming, assaults and thefts. Because of this work Off. Vercelline has become very familiar with the juvenile justice system and those youth that are frequently referred to that system, he has become a valuable resource for the school district, police officers and state troopers on who to contact on any particular problem for the best results. This has greatly reduced the time spent and confusion we often face in dealing with the numerous agencies that handle juvenile offenders.

As a result of our program we have received inquiries from other schools outside the city that have requested information about our program and how to start one in their area.

I am of the opinion that this program has been beneficial during the school year and will continue to be of value during the summer months when the assigned officer will continue to deal with the same youth(s) in our community. I would request that the council continue the funding for this project.

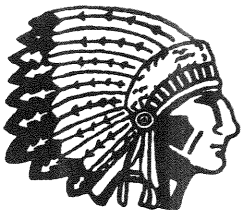
Additional statistical information and letters of support from Wasilla High and Wasilla Middle schools are attached for your review.

I am available at your convenience to answer any questions or provide further information, feel free to contact me at anytime.

School Liaison
Statistical Information

FY 96

	<u>High School</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>Grade School</u>
Student Counselling	43	40	
DARE Lessons	21	31	
Health Classes	7	3	9
School Dances	7		
Teacher Meetings	19	20	4
Community Meetings	2	6	
Arrests	8	4	
Hours at School (or school related)	324	274	18



WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
701 E. BOGARD ROAD WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7129



Main office-(907) 376-5341
Attendance office 373-1572
Fax (907) 376-5348

Dwight Probasco- Principal
Bobbie Taylor- Assistant Principal
Leonard Lusk- Assistant Principal

April 23, 1996

Dear Wasilla Council:

I would like to take this time and thank you for funding the position of School Liaison Officer. There isn't any way I can begin to delineate all the ways that Roger Vercelline, the Liaison Officer, has been of service to Wasilla High School. The response time when we need an officer has been cut from hours, when we use to wait on the State Patrol, to minutes. Besides the law enforcement issues, Roger has contributed in many other ways. Wasilla High School is the only school that currently has dances open to all students of the valley, I contribute this to the presence of the Liaison Officer at our dances. Roger has taught many classes on safety issues, law enforcement, and drug awareness. He is used as a sounding board on how to handle many issues that arise at Wasilla High School.

In conclusion, I ask for your continued support of the Police Liaison position for the schools of Wasilla. Roger Vercelline has been a tremendous addition in helping create a positive school environment and in helping insure the safety of the Students of Wasilla.

Sincerely,

Leonard Lusk
Assistant Principal

**WASILLA MIDDLE SCHOOL
650 BOGARD ROAD
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654**

Eric Henderson, Principal

(907) 376-5308

Scott Williams, Asst. Principal

FAX (907) 376-9625

April 19, 1996

Wasilla City Council
290 E. Herning Ave.
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Dear Council Members:

For this past year we have had Officer Roger Vercelline of the Wasilla Police Department as our Police Liaison/DARE Officer. This program has been an outstanding program for our students.

We hear quite a bit these days about crime and youth. Most of our efforts in dealing with the problems have been reactive. An officer in the school allows for someone who is not a parent or teacher to have a positive effect on the impressionable middle school student in developing good community values and citizenship. If we are able to reach students at an early age and instill in them a respect for their community, I feel we will have a lot less problems later on. A police liaison officer also offers the opportunity for a police officer to interact with kids in a non-confrontational way, unlike on the streets. It allows for students to get to know the local police force through mutual understanding and cooperation.

I would like to thank you, as city council members, for your support of the Police Liaison program and hope that you will continue to fund the program, as It has been very successful. I look forward to working with the Wasilla Police Department this next school year.

Sincerely,



Eric Henderson
Principal