September 15, 2023

Matt
CNLA
100 E. Vermilion St, Ste 212
Lafayette, LA 70501
VIA EMAIL: matt@newlouisiana.org

RE: Public Records Request
September 13, 2023

Dear Matt:

This letter will serve as the response to your request of September 13, 2023 requesting the following:

“SRO Quarterly Statistical Reports. SRO Quarterly Statistical Reports provided to the LPSS for the period of 2020 through present.”

After receiving your public records request, the School Board conducted a search for any records responsive to the request. After conducting such search, the School Board located records for the months of February, March, and April of 2023. For the following reasons, however, these reports are not subject to release under the Louisiana Public Records Law.

As you are aware, in accordance with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement entered into by and between the School Board and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office (“Sheriff’s Office”), the Sheriff’s Office submits reports to the School Board as to the activities performed by the SROs in connection with their duty to secure and protect the various school campuses. Because these reports contain sensitive internal security information, including by way of a single example, the number of random searches that SROs may or may not be performing at any given school, this information is not suitable for release under the Public Records law. Louisiana Revised Statute 44:3.1 provides in pertinent part that:

A. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to require disclosure of records containing security procedures, criminal intelligence information pertaining to terrorist-related activity, or threat or vulnerability assessments created, collected, or
obtained in the prevention of terrorist-related activity, including but not limited to physical security information, proprietary information, operational plans, and the analysis of such information, or internal security information.

B. Nothing in the Chapter shall be construed to require the disclosure of school crisis management and response plans.

Because these reports could reveal strategies as to how (and to what extent) SROs provide internal security at the schools, and because these reports are essentially an analysis of information derived as a result of the SRO’s responsibility to protect schools from external and internal threats, these reports are exempt under La. R.S. 44:3.1. Additionally, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement itself makes clear that the reports are to remain confidential and in the possession of the Sheriff. Thus, the reports would also be exempted under La. R.S. 44:3(A)(3), for the same reasons discussed above.

The safety and security of the students enrolled in the Lafayette Parish School System is the School Board’s highest priority. And because the primary purpose of an SRO is to help protect students and schools from threats, both internal or external, SROs are a vital part of each school’s security structure. As a result records concerning how SROs are functioning in schools, the specific duties they are performing, and the extent of those duties are not subject to the release under the Public Records Law, as such could compromise the effectiveness of the security provided by SROs.”

Sincerely,

Desireé D. Early

Desireé D. Early, MBA, ARM, CP, LCP