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**News Release**

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**BOARD RECOGNIZES SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

LOS ANGELES - The Board of Education today recognized the importance of school police officers in supporting student achievement by acknowledging the Los Angeles School Police Department during National Police Week.

The Los Angeles School Police Department is the nation's-largest independent force, with more than 400 officers. They are dedicated to serving L.A. Unified and respond to nearly 135,000 service calls a year.

Board Member Scott M. Schmerelson, the resolution's sponsor said, "Today's resolution recognizes and commends the vigilance of all of our school police officers who work tirelessly to keep our students and campuses safe and successful. I am grateful for the opportunity to join my colleagues in honoring our school police for their contributions to our schools and communities."

The school police are important partners to assist students, teachers, administrators and other staff in providing a safe and secure environment in which the educational process takes place. From patrolling campuses to working with numerous local law enforcement organizations, school police demonstrate heroic efforts every day by doing everything possible to ensure student safety.

Board Vice President Dr. George J. McKenna III, a co-sponsor said, "I salute the members of the school police, and the critical role they play, as first responders and partners in supporting teaching and learning in our schools."

During National Police Week, Superintendent Michelle King will encourage students, staff, administrators, teachers and community members to display and wear blue ribbons to express gratitude and appreciation for the service and sacrifice of the school police.

"We have safe schools in Los Angeles because of the amazing work of the men and women in the Los Angeles School Police Department," said Board Member Mónica García. "We celebrate your courage and commitment as partners for student success in Los Angeles!"

The school police department began modestly. A security section was created within the District in 1948, after two night watchmen lost their lives. In 1983, a fully-certified police department evolved from the security section because local law enforcement agencies did not have the resources to handle the vast needs of the District for student, staff and school community safety.

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Another co-sponsor Board Member Mónica Ratliff said, "Throughout my tenure on the Board, parents and school staff in Board District 6 have repeatedly expressed to me how much they value our school police. I greatly appreciate that National Police Week allows all of us in L.A. Unified and throughout the Los Angeles area to publicly recognize the dedication and hard work of our Los Angeles School Police Department, and thank them for their service."

Today, the school police is the signature agency that provides training and assistance to school police departments and school resource officers and agencies worldwide. It has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a leader in school policing reform.

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