

CITY OF WARRENSBURG
POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 22, 2021

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

SUBJECT: Volunteer Program Agreement with RISE Community Services

BACKGROUND:

Recently, I attended a training workshop dealing with police interactions with persons with disabilities. At the conclusion of the seminar, the facilitator challenged us by telling us to put our money where our mouth is and hire someone with a disability. As you all know, I am a very strong advocate for people with disabilities in our community, so I met with Misty Miller at RISE to discuss their employment program. She told me they need more volunteer opportunities, and she believed the Police Department could be a great place for their clients. Each client is supervised by a job coach from RISE and shifts are typically 2 to 3 hours, a few days a week. With this information, I went back to my staff to determine the best areas for placement.

ISSUE:

We identified two potential areas for placement. The first opportunity is for someone to greet visitors to our lobby. This provides an opportunity for our visitors to be put at ease as they enter the station and provides a socialization opportunity for the RISE client. In between visitors, the client will help keep the lobby clean and disinfected. The second area is the Records Division. We are in the process of converting paper records to digital records. Once the agreement is completed, we will meet with the job coaches and determine the best placement. We also have the option of bringing a client on as an employee should the volunteer program prove productive.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This meets Focus II, Objective 4, Identify and promote projects that enhance quality of life in Warrensburg.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact will be minimal. We plan to provide a shirt identifying the client as a WPD Volunteer.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS/IMPACT:

The economic benefit/impact is minimal.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council authorization for the agreement.

Sincerely,

Rich Lockhart
Chief of Police

cc: Interim City Manager

Attachments: 1. Agreement