

# SRO Corner:

## Introductions for our SRO Unit

December 2024

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our school campuses. We believe that fostering a safe and nurturing environment is essential for our children to learn, develop, and thrive. In alignment with this principle, we established our School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit in 2015, which has since evolved into a robust section comprising 22 SROs, 2 sergeants, a public safety specialist, and a lieutenant.

Sheriff Nanos strongly supports the SRO program, recognizing its critical role in enhancing safety while building strong community connections. School Resource Officers are assigned primarily to middle and high schools, with secondary responsibilities in elementary schools. These officers are meticulously selected and trained across various disciplines to develop their expertise on our campuses.

The mission of an SRO goes beyond traditional law enforcement. They engage with students as mentors and role models through activities such as sports, board games, and sharing meals. This interaction helps to establish trust and rapport, creating a positive environment where students feel comfortable reaching out for support. Sheriff Nanos emphasizes the importance of these relationships, reinforcing SROs as trusted adults within the school community.

In addition to mentoring, our SROs serve as valuable resources for parents and school partners. They carry out necessary law enforcement duties but also provide training and age-appropriate presentations for classrooms upon request. This multifaceted approach allows SROs to engage with the community meaningfully.

Investing in the School Resource Officer program reflects our department's commitment to the safety and well-being of our students. Sheriff Nanos believes that the positive influence SROs have in schools not only enhances campus security but also strengthens the relationship between law enforcement and the communities we serve. The benefits of this program far outweigh the investment, making our schools safer and our communities closer.

