City of Milwaukee

Equity Impact Statement

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

2023 Wisconsin Act 12 creates s. 62.90(8), which mandates that 25 school resource officers (SRO) must be present at Milwaukee Public Schools during school hours and as needed during other school-related activities. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, the school board must consider statistics collected on violations of municipal disorderly conduct in order to allocate school resource officers to specific schools.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

As of the 2018-19 school year, 54% of MPS students were Black and 27% were Hispanic. Thus, the positive and negative effects of this legislation will likely have an outsized impact on minority communities.

A 2018 study titled "Policing and Middle School: An Evaluation of a Statewide School Resource Officer Policy" found no relationship between increased funding for SROs and the number of overall reported behavioral infractions, but the study's authors emphasize SROs may still offer positive contributions to schools.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Given the high number of Black and Latino students at MPS schools, it is highly likely these demographic groups will be positively and/or negatively affected by the presence of SROs in schools. For instance, preventing and detecting criminal behavior at its source through the work of SROs could help minority students and teachers feel more secure and concentrate on learning and teaching.

Likewise, over-punishment of students for infractions could be disruptive to the learning process and lead to disciplinary records for students that could be detrimental to their ability to graduate, attend college, or gain employment in the future. The 2021 study "The Thin Blue Line in Schools:

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4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

This is a new, state-mandated effort, not a City-led proposal. Therefore, there has been no organized engagement of minority communities to date.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

Total number of SRO arrests per school year.
Number of SRO arrests per school year by type of crime committed.
Number of SRO arrests per school year by race and gender.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

None identified at this time.

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Signature:

Date: **6/21/23**