

# School Resource Officers to Learn About Diversity, Best Practices During State Conference

## *Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers to Meet in State College Next Month*

**June 24, 2020 – South Fayette Township, Penn.** – Educational seminars on building positive relationships with diverse students and best practices in avoiding unnecessary arrests will highlight a Pennsylvania school policing conference next month. The Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers (PASRO) will conduct its second annual state conference July 27-29 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College.

Don Bridges, an SRO with the Baltimore County Police Department in Maryland will discuss building positive relationships with diverse students. He will share his experiences as an SRO in an urban area and provide valuable advice that can help officers better understand the unique challenges that racialized students often face.

Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), will lead a seminar on school policing best practices, including ways to avoid unnecessary justice system referrals. Canady will also recommend terms school systems and police agencies could include in written agreements and training for educators on appropriate use of school resource officers.

Diversity, implicit bias, de-escalation and avoiding arrests are all topics that NASRO covers in its 40-hour Basic SRO Course, which Pennsylvania law requires school police to complete. Bridges' and Canady's seminars, however, will provide deeper coverage of the topics than is possible in the NASRO course.

"One of our goals is for all students, regardless of background, to feel safe and protected in school," said PASRO president Jeffrey Sgro. "School resource officers serve as law enforcement officers, teachers, and mentors to help students succeed. Following best practices, including the careful selection and specialized training of officers, can play a major role."

Other speakers at the conference will include:

- Eric Garner, a media arts teacher at **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** in Parkland Florida, site of a 2018 school shooting.
- Officials from the **U.S. Secret Service**, who will speak on threat assessments that can help prevent school violence.
- Mr. Aaron Skrbin, Director of Safety and Security, **Allegheny Intermediate Unit**, who will discuss the COVID-19 situation and how it relates to school safety personnel.

More information, including a complete agenda is available [on the PASRO website](#).

### **About PASRO**

The Pennsylvania Association of School Resource Officers is a non-profit organization that represents school-based law enforcement personnel. Visit the organization's website at [www.pasro.org](http://www.pasro.org).

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