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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Westlake Academy to Add Police Substation on Campus

WESTLAKE, TX – February 21, 2018 – The Town of Westlake announces plans to increase security on the Westlake Academy campus. As a part of the Town's partnership with the Keller Police Department, a police substation will be created in a portion of a Westlake Academy building. The Board of Trustees, following a presentation by Town Staff and Police Chief Mike Wilson, determined that this level of security will be the most effective way to help increase police presence and enhance security on the Academy campus.

This is an innovative approach to school safety. Westlake Academy is a non-traditional campus with its building configuration, and a traditional solution would not provide the desired police presence and security level on the campus. "This idea really came about the last couple of years, but we ramped up discussion about it last fall before it was approved in early February", according to Chief Michael Wilson.

The idea of the substation was widely supported by the Board of Trustees and Westlake Academy staff members. "The substation on our campus seems to be very well suited to our needs. We will have a highly visible police presence. It will be available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officers will become intimately familiar with our campus and will get to know our students. There is no question that we will be a safer school community as a result. It would not surprise me at all if the substation model becomes one that many other schools follow", says Westlake Academy Board of Trustees President and Westlake Mayor Laura Wheat.

Work on the substation is set to begin in February with completion expected by the end of spring. The substation is the latest in an extensive list of security measures the school has taken to help keep students and staff safe. Over the last several years, school officials have retained consulting expertise, well-versed in campus security, to review our campus access points and security risks, as well as staff training needs. The school also conducts a variety of emergency preparedness drills and training throughout the year, for students and staff.

Finally, there is another innovative emergency alert system that our police department, Keller PD, and Tarrant County Dispatch Center debuted more than a year ago. This program, first in the nation, is available to citizens living or visiting in the town/cities of Westlake, Southlake, and Colleyville and is often called an "Uber for 911." Siren GPS is available through a free app and it pinpoints your exact location within 20 feet in the event of an emergency. It does not replace 9-1-1 by any means, but it does provide an enhanced option, in locating you more accurately, through your mobile phone.

Westlake Academy staff will continue working diligently to pinpoint groundbreaking practices to ensure the safety of all those on its campus.

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TOWN OF WESTLAKE: The Town of Westlake offers residents and businesses a premier place to call home amidst the hustle and bustle of booming North Texas. The Town's leadership and staff make sure residents and corporate citizens alike enjoy personal, concierge-like service and are committed to purposeful, planned development, and strategic design and implementation. In addition, the Town owns and operates Westlake Academy Charter School, a one of a kind International Baccalaureate K-12 public school. The school has a national reputation sought after by potential residents. Between the strong neighborhoods and close-knit school community, the Town of Westlake is ideal for all individuals, families, and businesses wanting a bucolic, small-town community with access to DFW Metroplex amenities. Contact: Town of Westlake, 1500 Solana Boulevard, Building 7 - Suite 7200, Westlake, TX 76262, Phone: 817-430-0941, Fax: 817-430-1812. Visit Westlake-TX.org.