

APPENDIX



POLICE DEPARTMENT TOWNSHIP OF CHERRY HILL

**820 Mercer Street
P.O. Box 5002
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-0358**

**Emergency Phone
856/665-1200**

**Fax Number
856/488-7810**

**Police Information:
856/488-7828**

**William P. Monaghan
Chief of Police**

April 9, 2018

Cherry Hill Township is a diverse community made up of many faiths and backgrounds. The Township is approximately 24 square miles with a residential bedtime population of seventy five thousand (75,000) people. The day time population comprised of residents, businesses and visitors can exceed two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) people. The Cherry Hill Mall itself attracts approximately ten million visitors each year to the Township. The population density coupled with the Townships diversity in faiths fosters the need for educational options for its residents. As a result the Township currently has forty one (41) schools within its borders. Cherry Hill is home to eleven (11) preschools, twenty one (21) elementary and secondary schools and nine (9) post-secondary schools and academies. Approximately half of the schools in Cherry Hill are public. As a result sources of funding for each institution differ. School security does not start with a police response to an active shooter situation. Security should not rest solely on the backs of first responders. Efforts must be geared toward preventative measures that would aid in early intervention before an incident occurs.

There are multiple layers to security from target hardening facilities, training of staff, policy implementation, visitor access restrictions, School Resources Officers, technology upgrades and mental health support. The critical link to these measures is proper funding and support.

- There is a need for assessments and safety reviews
- Systems for anonymous reporting of security threats or suspicious activity (apps, hotlines, websites)
- Focus on long term actions (training, drills, mental health support)
- increased training for schools to increase awareness and responsiveness to signs of behavioral or mental health needs
- improve coordination with local law enforcement agencies and train students, teachers and police in identifying and preventing violence
- Police, mental health and social services must collaborate and work together to ensure the protection of civil and human rights.
- Security measures should not undermine the learning environment. A police presence in schools should be for security purposes, not disciplinary purposes and therefore, a police presence in schools should not lead to overly punitive discipline or higher arrest rates for students.
- Security measures should not overly rely on police. There must be layers of security.
- Ensure consistent training on conflict de-escalation techniques and mental health.
- Relationship building



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Grants should be explored and available on a recurring basis to be used toward infrastructure upgrades, technology upgrades, staff (mental health and SRO) and training. The focus should be on increasing preventive measures rather than training on responses to incidents that have already occurred.

Amy Jablonski
Chesterfield Township Board of Education
143 Bordentown Crosswicks Road
Chesterfield, NJ 08515
Phone: 609-915-7758
Email: AmyBJablonski@gmail.com

Good afternoon, my name is Amy Jablonski, and I am the parent of two children who attend Chesterfield Elementary School. I am also a member of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education. In my other job, I am a high school assistant principal, so being knowledgeable about school security is very much a part of my daily responsibilities.

As a representative of the lowest funded district in the state, I can tell you without hesitation that New Jersey's school security problem is a school funding problem.

In response to the most recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Manalapan-Englishtown, a district funded at 300% of what they are entitled under the SFRA, hosted a school safety and security night. They calmed parents fears by assuring them that they have state of the art HD cameras in every building and that this year they are adding additional cameras. They reminded parents that their local police have access to their closed system, in-district surveillance. They have installed sirens inside noisy places like lunchrooms and flashing strobe lights in rooms without locks like restrooms, so that students are aware of threatening situations. At Manalapan-Englishtown there is a school communication system which allows for individual teachers to call lockdowns whenever necessary, seamlessly alerting administration and local law enforcement and lessening response time. These are all related security measures that were recommended in July, 2015 by the New Jersey School Security Taskforce.

Sadly, the story in Chesterfield is vastly different than in Manalapan. For the better part of a decade, because we have been funded at approximately 10% of what we are entitled in uncapped aid under the SFRA, our children have NONE of the security systems that are afforded to the children of Manalapan. Our security systems are primitive at best and sorely in need of modernization. We have a door access system. It runs on Windows XP and is so old no one will service it but we don't have the \$9K to fix it. We have a camera system, but it's an analog system, and so blurry that individuals are unrecognizable, rendering it virtually useless, but we don't have the \$10K necessary to upgrade it.

Furthermore, our school is understaffed in addressing the mental health needs of our growing student body. Our school has 762 students and we employ one full time guidance counselor. For reference, the American School Counselor Association recommends one counselor for 250 students. Our one counselor is doing the job of three. There is no money in the budget for the types of preventative programs that are employed in districts that aren't so severely underfunded. Virtually no money exists for character education, PBSIS, student wellness, or restorative discipline initiatives. These types of programming increase student connectedness to the school community, and allow adults in the building to be more

attune to changes in student behavior. Tangentially, they are also shown to improve student achievement.

As you can see our safety systems are badly in need of modernization and we are woefully understaffed, however, when your district cannot find the money for small things like updating a 12 year old social studies curriculum and you pay for your PARCC technology with Box Tops, updating the camera and access systems for \$20,000 feels virtually unreachable. In preparing for this testimony, I conferenced with our school principal, and I asked him if in getting quotes for the camera and access systems he had also priced programs that scan visitor IDs at the door, or the cost of outside vendors like The Davis Group who provide school security at the main entrance. His response was that when we can't afford to update the system that literally opens the doors to the school, we certainly couldn't afford those types of programs.

The fact of the matter is that districts that are adequately funded have the luxury of being able to afford state of the art school security. Combined with a school security plan that is carefully crafted and implemented with best practice in mind, this is what consistently keeps kids safe. Why is the safety of a child in Manalapan worth 300% but a child in Chesterfield is worth 20%? At 136% of our Local Fair Share in taxes, safety should not be a luxury.

Last November, I was excited to go vote for Governor Murphy. My kids fought over who got to push the button. But now that we have our initial aid numbers I feel my optimism was foolish because an additional \$41K for Chesterfield, while districts that have already been overfunded for a decade are also getting increases, certainly isn't making New Jersey fairer or stronger. At his town hall last week, Governor Murphy told us that he's our "ally" and that "help is on the way" but there have been no specifics about what that means and like many, I am concerned that this was just lip service.

The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$66 million increase in school security aid. Supposedly, this is to allow individual districts the flexibility to support school safety initiatives that fit the needs of their populations. I request that additional funding for education, whether it is school security aid or otherwise, follow the lead of what the legislature started last summer. It ought to be allocated to districts based on their funding deficit. I am looking to you to lead the process of removing growth caps and reallocating hold harmless aid, starting with districts like Chesterfield that are severely underfunded, under adequacy, and paying over our Local Fair Share. It will take political courage, a courage I worry is lacking in our executive leadership, but you will be able to sleep soundly knowing you have done the right thing because every child deserves to be safe in their school.



**Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
Burlington ~ Willingboro Chapter**

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- Michelle Williford
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"We Are Better Together"

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Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

April 9, 2018

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable M. Teresa Ruiz
Chair, New Jersey Senate Education Committee
166 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
Email: SenRuiz@njleg.org

VIA HAND DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

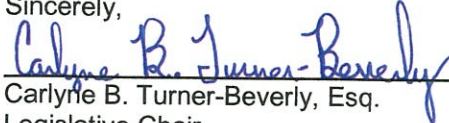
The Honorable Pamela R. Lampitt
Chair, New Jersey General Assembly Education Committee
1101 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 150
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Email: AswLampitt@njleg.org

Dear Senator Ruiz and Assemblywoman Lampitt:

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Burlington-Willingboro Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. ("Jack and Jill"). Jack and Jill is a non-profit membership organization of mothers with children ages 2 to 19, who are dedicated to nurturing and strengthening youth through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and the exercise of civic duty. Jack and Jill boasts over 230 chapters nationwide, representing over 40,000 families, primarily of African American descent and heritage. The Burlington-Willingboro Chapter is based in Burlington County, New Jersey, and strives to advocate for the protection and enrichment of youth in our service area and throughout our State.

On behalf of the Jack and Jill organization, we applaud the members of the Senate and General Assembly Education Committees for their timely action in convening a joint meeting on April 9, 2018 to address issues of school security and receive public feedback in the wake of a pandemic of gun violence in schools. Enclosed, please find a report from our Chapter's Legislative Committee dated 2/18/18, a Chapter resolution, and a statement from one of our 11-year-old youth members all bearing on the issue of school safety. In particular, we hope to draw your attention to the positive role that pending Legislative Bill A1114 (2017) could play in promoting school safety and reducing gun violence (by forging more positive relationships between youth and law enforcement officials). Bill A1114, which would require schools to train students how to behave with law enforcement officials, is pending before the Senate Education Committee. We urge the Committee to report favorably on Bill A1114, and to introduce the Bill for a Senate vote at the next available opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request and the enclosed materials.

Sincerely,



Carlyne B. Turner-Beverly, Esq.
Legislative Chair
Burlington-Willingboro Chapter
cturner@jackandjillbw.org



JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.

BURLINGTON ~ WILLINGBORO CHAPTER

Legislative Committee Report • February 18, 2018

The Legislative Committee held a teleconference on Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 8:00 pm. The following individuals were in attendance: Natascha Williams; Debbie Johnson; Tia Baxter; and Carlyne Turner-Beverly. Consensus was reached on the following action items:

- **The Legislative Town Hall Meeting was a successful event.**
On Saturday, January 27, 2018, nearly 100 people of all ages gathered in the Unity Hall multi-purpose room of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Burlington, NJ for an informative and empowering afternoon of learning about the legislative process, the do's and don'ts of legislative advocacy, and the implications of pending NJ Assembly Legislative Bill A1114 which could impact children all across the State of New Jersey (by requiring public schools to train students how to behave with police). We were led in this endeavor by a panel of experts from the education, legal and law enforcement fields, and also received inspiring words of wisdom from NJ State Senator Troy Singleton. Our youth were spotlighted front and center in the program, and were offered the opportunity to get public speaking experience as well as share their thoughts and opinions about how Bill A1114 might affect their lives. Our youngest children aged 2 to 8 had a lively Q&A session with local police officers from the Burlington City Police Department, and left with a better understanding of how police can function as role models and trusted resources within the community. It was a wonderful day spent **ALIGNING** and **ACTIVATING** in accordance with the Jack and Jill 5A Framework for legislative advocacy.
- **Next ... LET'S **ADVOCATE**, **ACT** & **ACKNOWLEDGE****
The Legislative Committee has presented a proposed Chapter resolution for membership review and approval. The resolution (attached) sets forth a plan for applying the knowledge and information learned at our Legislative Town Hall Meeting to **ADVOCATE**, **ACT** & **ACKNOWLEDGE** around the fate of NJ Assembly Bill A1114.
- **March is Teen Voter Registration Month!**
During the month of March, the National Jack and Jill of America (JJOA) organization is encouraging all chapters to plan a voter registration drive to register high school seniors and college students who are over 18. Our Burlington-Willingboro Teen Group has begun planning, and the Legislative Committee stands ready to support their efforts.

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Black Family Day Tribute to the 1963 Children's Crusade

The Legislative Committee is collaborating with the Program Committee to jointly plan a commemorative march honoring the brave youth who participated in a series of non-violent demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, known as the Children's Crusade. The commemorative march will take place on May 5th at Mill Creek Park in Willingboro, NJ during our Chapter's Black Family Day Celebration. Youth will first listen to a brief historical summary about the Children's Crusade. Youth of all ages will then march from the tennis courts to the large hill and back again to the beat of an inspirational music soundtrack, all while carrying homemade signs depicting images of the 1963 Children's Crusade as well as messaging about current civil rights struggles.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlyne Turner-Beverly, Esq.
Legislative Committee Chair

**BURLINGTON-WILLINGBORO CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC. ("JJOA")
RESOLUTION**

**JJOA 5A FRAMEWORK
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN
ALIGN * ACTIVATE * ADVOCATE * ACT * ACKNOWLEDGE**

WHEREAS, the Burlington-Willingboro Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. hosted a Legislative Town Hall Meeting on January 27, 2018, where the Chapter met with education experts, law enforcement experts, a State legislator, stakeholders and members of the local community for a discussion to **ALIGN** and **ACTIVATE** around the implications of NJ Assembly Bill A1114 (2017), which if it becomes law would require public schools to teach students how to interact with police officers; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter has educated its membership and the local community regarding the potential pros and cons of NJ Assembly Bill A1114, in accordance with the **ALIGN** and **ACTIVATE** prongs of the JJOA 5A Framework for legislative advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter desires to continue aligning and activating, and to further **ADVOCATE**, **ACT** and **ACKNOWLEDGE** around the fate of NJ Assembly Bill A1114, which was passed by majority vote of the NJ General Assembly in June of 2017, and is currently referred to the NJ Senate Education Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chapter hereby designates the month of April 2018 as our "**5A Legislative Advocacy Month.**" During this month, we will apply the JJOA 5A Framework for legislative advocacy to **ALIGN**, **ACTIVATE**, **ADVOCATE**, **ACT** and **ACKNOWLEDGE** with respect to NJ Assembly Bill A1114. Specifically, we will engage in the following activities:

- 1) Petition the Senate Education Committee to move for a Bill modification amending the text to reference Public Law 2016, Chapter 23 (addressing cultural diversity training programs for law enforcement officers), so as to promote transparency and public awareness that police are subject to relevant training program requirements, and so as to avoid the misperception that legislators are seeking to place the onus to maintain positive youth/police relationships solely on youth.
- 2) Petition the Senate Education Committee to move for a Bill modification amending the text to include representatives from Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and/or another organization that appropriately represents the parent perspective among the list of advisory committee representatives assigned to assist in the development of a curriculum for training students how to interact with police officers.
- 3) Petition the Senate Education Committee to report favorably on NJ Assembly Bill A1114, subject to the afore-mentioned modifications.

*Approved by Majority Vote of the Chapter Membership
February 18, 2018*

Candace Beverly
5th Grade

April 9, 2018 – Statement to Education Committee Members
of the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly

Greetings to Senator Ruiz, Chair of the Senate Education Committee; Assemblywoman Lampitt, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee; Committee Members; Staff; and guests.

My name is Candace Beverly, and I want to thank you very much for letting me to speak to you today. I am 11 years old, and I am in the 5th Grade at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton. I am a member of the Burlington-Willingboro Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, in Burlington County. My Jack and Jill Chapter encourages me and other members to educate ourselves about important issues, to figure out what matters most to us, and to speak up about the changes we want to see in the world. I know that I speak for myself, other Jack and Jill youth, and many other children and adults when I say that we need to make schools safer and wipe out gun violence in schools.

I have lived through many lock-down drills in school. It is scary to curl up in a ball in a small space, and to try to be invisible and completely silent ... all while dealing with fears about whether the danger is real. Is it just a drill? Or is there an intruder? Is there an active shooter? And if it is just a drill this time, is real-life danger lurking right around the corner?

Many students have faced violence in schools, and it hasn't been a drill. The danger has been real and deadly. Seventeen students died at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018. I am at a point where I can't help getting news headlines stuck in my head. I know that CNN has reported that 20 school shootings have happened at high schools and colleges between January and March of 2018. New Jersey is not on the CNN list. However, I have read that there has been an increase in New Jersey of bomb threats against schools, and threats to bring guns into schools. This is terrifying! It is too much to deal with, and we can't go on like this. As they have said in Parkland, I say to you – "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

I am looking to you, Senators and Assembly Members, to protect the students of New Jersey. The kids of New Jersey are counting on you to put an end to the terror and the fear. I have read that lawmakers are thinking about requiring panic buttons in schools, and plan to stop investing tax money in companies that make guns. This is good, but I don't think it's enough. I think there are two things that will make schools safer.

First, the State of New Jersey needs to make it harder for people to get guns. I know that there are some people who feel like they need to have a gun for self-defense, but there are others who get guns because they have an evil intent to kill. We need you to pass laws that will help stop guns from falling into the wrong hands.

Second, the State of New Jersey needs to do more to focus on the mental health of students. There are students, like me, who are dealing with a lot of worries about the dangers that face our schools, and the State should offer programs and resources to help us cope with our feelings. Also, some people who have used guns in schools were students themselves, who were dealing with bullying and depression and other mental health issues. The State should make sure that there are resources to help students who have these problems, to keep them from becoming the active shooters of tomorrow. My Jack and Jill Chapter believes that there is one legislative bill that would help with this issue. Assembly Bill A1114 was passed by the Assembly in June of 2017, and is currently being considered by the Senate Education Committee. This Bill would require schools to train students how to behave with police. The Bill emphasizes that interactions with police should be based on mutual respect, and would encourage students to view police in a positive way, as trusted allies. If schools train students to show respect in the way required by Bill A1114, there will be many positive effects that will carry over into other areas. When schools do a better job of teaching students to show respect, we will see less rule-breaking, less suspensions, less bullying ... and less gun violence. I hope that the members of the Senate Education Committee will support Bill A1114, and will introduce it for a Senate vote very soon.

In conclusion, I want to thank you again for letting me speak, and I hope that you will join with me and the children of New Jersey by saying "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" Please protect our schools. Thank you!

Q

Kathleen Devlin, Marlton, NJ

Captain, New Jersey State Police retired

Former Security Chief, public school district

Member NJ School Security Task Force

Member ASIS, Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, Electronic Security Association

Certified NJ Security Officer Instructor; First Aid, CPR/AED, Bloodborne Pathogens; Self Defense; NJ
Licensed Private Investigator

Students are safer in school than in their communities. Over the past 20 years, an average of 22 students per year murdered at school (all types of violence) 1480 outside school. 67 times more likely to be murdered outside school. Three controlled studies found that schools using threat assessment had less student aggression such as bullying and fighting. (Dewey Cornell, UVA) According to the CDC #1 cause of death for school age children is accidents; #2 is cancer and #3 suicide.

If you define mass shootings as a lone attacker indiscriminately kill 4 or more, they account for a fraction of a percent of all gun homicides (Maggie Baker, fivethirtyeight)

The odds of a child dying in a school shooting on any given day in the US are approximately 1 in 472 million. (Phila Inquirer, 4-4-18)

Of course, any death of a child is tragic. But the low risk involved in deaths at schools should not warrant ineffective, emotional decision-making.

Unfortunately, after a horrific incident, people search for answers that may never be found. Tangible items such as additional cameras, metal detectors, clear backpacks and armed staff or law enforcement give a *false* sense of security. True security begins long before an actor is at the school. Let me caution that no measures are 100% foolproof, but some are better than others.

Access control hardware and creating a secure lobby or exterior pass-through window should be added to school buildings as funds allow. But the hardware will be rendered useless if access control procedures are not consistently employed. Staff must utilize the intercom to interact before opening the door; staff and students should not admit anyone; staff should address anyone not displaying a visitor badge and no one should prop doors open.

The FBI, Secret Service, Homeland Security and many others have been preaching to schools for the last 20 years to incorporate threat assessment into their safety and security measures. Threat assessment focuses on behavior and mental state. Administrators should use assessment to determine not that someone made a threat, but that they pose a threat. The team then create an action plan to mitigate behavior. Active shooters are planners. That gives us a time frame to intervene.

While school shooters often fall into the teenage bracket, don't disregard actions and words as just adolescent angst. Suicide and violence are strongly correlated. And do not focus just on students; school staff, parents/guardians, or outsiders may also pose a threat.

The Threat Management Process requires partnerships and communication. It does take a village. HIPPA, Labor Laws, Juvenile Justice and DOE regulations need to allow the "villagers" to share necessary information; police, schools, mental health professionals, prior employers, neighbors.

The Parkland Florida perpetrator is a glaring example. Cruz had numerous contacts with law enforcement, school, mental health crisis workers and neighbors. There was no coordinated plan to address the underlying issues. He was expelled from the school but returned to carry out his murderous plan.

Armed staff, whether teachers, security or law enforcement is not a panacea: Once a shooter is on the premises, someone is going to be hurt. Columbine, Platte Canyon and Parkland, to name a few, had SRO's. Virginia Tech had an entire dedicated police department. Again, active shooters are planners. The armed staff, their schedules and locations are considered in their planning.

It is also tactically difficult to safely engage a shooter in a crowded, chaotic area. It is an unreasonable onus to expect an armed guard or officer to prevent such a tragedy. The better practice for law enforcement is for all officers to include a stop in the local school sometime during every shift. Police will better know the layout of the school and the people in it. The school community will recognize all the officers, not just one. And the lack of scheduled appearances will thwart planning. It is also a better deployment of law enforcement resources. Law enforcement will be a part of the threat assessment process.

Armed staff is expensive, and there is no data to suggest armed employees prevent or mitigate active shooter situations. There have been instances where the armed security is the first target. Money may be better spent on a forensic school psychologist.

In conclusion, I recommend schools utilize effective access control and procedures, provide in-person training for all staff in emergency procedures and recognizing warning signs, and create a policy that establishes required reporting and a Threat Assessment and Management process to reduce school violence, increase overall security, and improve the culture and climate of the school.



New Jersey Network of
Catholic School Families

New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families

Frances Koukotas
Director, Network of Catholic School Families
Diocese of Trenton
609-403-7148

Statement on Fiscal Year 2019 State Budget – School Security Senate and Assembly Education Committees April 9, 2018

Good afternoon to members of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees. My name is Frances Koukotas, I am the director for the Network of Catholic School Families, Diocese of Trenton. I thank you for this time to talk to you about security funding for non-public schools. I would like to say that we in the Catholic school community are grateful for the security funding we are currently receiving. However, it is clear to everyone we live in uncertain times. It is hard for all of us to believe that students in their schools are at risk. We want the parents of our students to be assured their children are safe in school. Funding for non-public's has been frozen where funding for public schools has been increased by \$65 million. I have attached to my testimony copies of the items we are currently permitted to spend the security funding on and I have also attached a list of what some of our schools have spent it on in this fiscal year and their hopes for next year. Many schools would like to have a guard in their schools, but it is cost prohibitive. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Allowable Expenditures

The guidance below provides a list of allowable expenditures for security services, equipment, and technology to help ensure a safe and secure school environment for nonpublic school students.

This list is intended to provide guidance to both nonpublic school administrators and district superintendents in evaluating proposals for the purchase of school security services, equipment, and technology. It is NOT inclusive of all security enhancements, but rather offers examples of allowable safety and security measures for New Jersey's nonpublic schools under this program. Please note that all security enhancements must comply with applicable codes (for example, building, fire, electrical, etc.).

1. Costs associated with the following security services: Alarm services, security assessments, video security surveillance systems, and security guards.
2. Purchases for ID cards and related systems for students, faculty, staff, and/or visitors.
3. Construction/equipment to separate bus drop-off/pick-up areas from other vehicular drop-off/pick-up areas.
4. Construction/equipment to separate pedestrian routes from vehicular routes.
5. Stop signs and other traffic calming devices to keep vehicles at a reasonable speed.
6. Installation of, or improvements to, exterior doors, frames, and/or hardware.
7. Installation of, or improvements to, exterior windows and/or hardware.
8. Installation of, or improvements to, mechanisms which are designed to prevent entry into the classroom.
9. Construction of, and/or improvements to, security vestibules.
10. Installation of bullet resistant glazing in the interior vestibule doors and windows.
11. Ballistic or shatter resistant film for glass entrance door sidelights and other vulnerable first floor areas.
12. Access control systems which, for example, allow for remote locking and unlocking of all building access doors.
13. Fire-rated blinds, shades or similar devices for doors and windows that, for example, can be used during lockdowns.
14. Bollards for placement along the roadway or curb line in front of the school to prevent vehicles from gaining access to exterior walls, windows and doors, or in areas on the property where vehicles are prohibited.
15. Access control systems such as those utilizing remote unlocking features, an intercom, and fixed cameras for the school's main entrance and for other entrances.
16. Parking decals or tag system for all staff and students who park on campus in order to easily identify unauthorized vehicles on the property.
17. Secure enclosures for utilities.
18. Adequate lighting inside and/or outside the building and parking lots.
19. Dedicated servers and/or generators for security systems, such as access control, surveillance cameras, and telephones and emergency operations, to both secure information and to ensure efficient operation in an emergency.
20. Security and safety equipment unique to an elevated risk due to a school's location within a specific threat environment (e.g., proximity to a chemical plant, rail line, nuclear facility, etc.).
21. Repeaters or other equipment to ensure RF (radio frequency) communication is possible throughout the school.
22. Portable gates to ensure that internal access points between the school and joint-use facilities are limited and secure.
23. Emergency communications equipment (including portable radios) to ensure 2-way communications capability between classrooms and school administration. Included is equipment that enables communication/notification to classes held outdoors, special populations (e.g., alternative emergency school alert systems such as strobe lighting, audible horns, etc.), and emergency notification to parents.
24. Shut-off switch of the school's ventilation system and fire alarm system, and the routing of additional shut-off switches to the principal's office or pre-determined safe room.

1. We have fortified a side door area replacing windows with metal sheets and we are installing a second alarm panel for safety on the second floor. **Sr. Jude, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**

2. We are in the process of purchasing security cameras for the roof of our building so we have a view of our campus, including the parking lots and the field where the children have recess.

We have installed speakers in 2 hallways so announcements can be heard (for example, if someone is not in a classroom but in the hallway, they can now hear that we are conducting a lockdown).

We are checking to see if we have enough funds to cover new lighting at our building entrances.

We added a new doorbell/camera to one door, and new cameras to 2 other doors

For next year:

If we cannot afford the lighting this year, then updating the lighting at our building entrances and parking lot 2. Having our internal doors inspected to see if those need to be updated. **Mrs. Tuohy, Our Lady of Sorrows**

3. Security spotlights on building behind school facing playground and athletic fields; 2. Security blinds for inside of classroom door windows (lockdown); 3. PA overhead speakers allowing 2-way communication between office and Pre-K classrooms; and, 4. Replaced all doorknobs on classrooms and interior doors while rekeying entire building inside and out. Eliminated 30 entry points from outside the building.

2018-2019 School Year (possibilities)

Add more security cameras to the inside of the building. Currently have them on all entry points; 2. Install outside warning systems to communicate an emergency to those not in the building (i.e. strobe lights); 3. Put 3M security film on all classroom emergency doors leading to parking lots. Currently have this on all main entry/exit doors; and, 4. Install fob/card entry points for all staff. This would allow office to know who's in or out of the building at any given time. **Craig Palmer, St. Mary's School**

4. We are in process of spending the security funding this year on new doors for the front of the school. **Elizabeth O'Connor, Saint Aloysius School**

5. We used the security funding to completed new outside doors for the school and to put in an updated security camera system.

Next year we will work on outside lighting and fencing for the property – **Sr. Dorothy Payne, Trenton Catholic Academy**

6. The bulk of the money this year is being spent on exterior security cameras to go around the perimeter of the school.

Next year we may need to use the money to help pay for the police presence that the town is putting at our school. **Tracey Kobrin, St. Peter School**

7. I'm sure this is too late for you now, i truly shut down for the vacation. however for future reference, Saint Joseph Grade School received and submitted bids to purchase

- new surveillance cameras on the outside of our three buildings.
- inside cameras for all hallways.
- mini blinds for all classroom doors
- 3mm protective shatter proof film on all outside windows of all buildings.
- automatic one way arm gate for exit near our kindergarten crosswalk area as it is the stream of church traffic.
- updated computer system to man the cameras.
- new numbered door tags for classroom doors.

Our future proposal is to hire a floating security guard to travel the complex of grade school and high school and are looking into pricing machinery to ID guests and create picture visitor passes. Also, looking into creating a security check in space in our vestibule.

Madeline Kinloch, St. Joseph's Elementary School

8. We have used funds to add to our exterior cameras, upgrades locks on classroom doors, and upgrade our school wide PA system.

Future plans include adding and replacing window blinds, additional door and lock upgrades, new walkie talkies, and cameras. **Ryan Killeen, St. Paul's Elementary**

9. The Wave Plus is a system which activates a lock down by:playing a pre-recorded custom message over all of the police radios in the town within seconds identifying that assistance is needed at the school. Play a pre-recorded custom message over the existing PA system within seconds with direction for all students and faculty Send a custom email alert to necessary employees that there is situation occurring at the school Log all alerts on the touch screen on The WAVE unit with time and date

2. Security Gate for entrance into the school grounds
3. Cameras
4. Walkie-Talkies

Plans for 2018-19

Blue strobe light system throughout the school—inside and outside-- that would also be triggered by the WAVE when a button is depressed.

Gates for window wells

We will also try and get state to pay for Carbon Black anti-virus software

Looking to update or replace current sign in electronic system **JoAnn Giordano St. James Elementary School**

10. Saint Charles School is spending our Security money on interior Fire Doors. **Cathy Chesnut**

11. We have approximately \$22,000 in nonpublic monies funding that we are spending on reconfiguring our main entrance vestibule and other entrances. The main office vestibule will get an intercom system (currently outside) and electronic locks on the second set of doors. We will be adding a video intercom to remote doors so students/staff can communicate to the main office during recess or other times they need access. We are adding electronic key cards for staff, which would be shut off during a lock down so no one would be able to enter the building except first responders. **Amy Rash, St. Mary of the Lakes**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Edward Zebedies, and I am the President of the Weymouth Twp Board of Education in Atlantic County.

Recently, schools have been victimized by a rash of school shootings, many of which that could have been prevented. While many focus on the firearm being the culprit, the firearm was merely a tool ... these attacks could have been easily accomplished using other readily available media as tools of destruction.

I propose that the Legislature focus on the following 5 recommendations to enhance school safety:

- a. **Airlock Vestibules:** Mandate, and subsidize, entry vestibules at all schools in the state, where persons seeking entry can be properly and securely vetted prior to entry.
- b. **School construction standards:** Look at amending the construction standards for school construction ... require school walls (and windows) be able to deny penetration of a shotgun slug, shot, and typical rifle/pistol projectiles ... cinderblock and bricks are not adequate. An active shooter does not have to be IN the school to be a threat to the occupants in the school.
- c. **Bullet proof "storm shelters":** Mandate, or at least make funds available from the state, to install bulletproof shelters, such as those marketed by Shelter-In-Place (www.shelterinplace.com). [My school is in rural western Atlantic County, and we are serviced by the Buena barracks of the NJSP, approximately 16 miles away. Our mission is to secure our children until the State Police arrive ... potentially over a period of 10-15 minutes from when the State Police can be alerted, IF a trooper is not in the vicinity!]
- d. **Discipline records:** Enact legislation requiring student discipline records be forwarded to the respective County Adjustor for inclusion of relevant disciplinary data for inclusion to the NIC system.
- e. **Psychotropic Medications Register:** Enact legislation creating a psychotropic medication register and make the use of psychotropic medications a disqualification from ownership eligibility, and mandate that anyone actively prescribed psychotropic medications be included in this register.

Recently, the US Secret Service released a study of the 2017 **active shooter** shootings (www.BearingArms.com, March 30, 2018). In these 28 mass attacks, 147 people lost their lives and nearly 700 were wounded. The gravity of this study is punctuated by the school shooting at MSDHS in Parkland, Fla. Whether the incident was labeled an act of: workplace violence, domestic violence, school-based violence, or terrorism ... there were similar themes in evidence. These themes include:

- a. Almost 50% were motivated by personal grievance
- b. Over half had histories of criminal charges (71%) , mental health symptoms (c. 66%), or a history of illegal substance use or abuse (54%).
- c. All had at least one significant stressor in the past 5 years.
- d. Over half had indications of financial instability within the same 5 year time frame.

- e. Over 75% either made communications or had concerns from others before carrying out their attacks.

Looking at the facts of this study, there are actions that can be taken to lessen the probability of future attacks. Anyone (in NJ) seeking to legally acquire a firearm must obtain a NJ Firearms ID Card and/or a Permit to Purchase a Pistol. Technically, in NJ, when a student transfers between schools, their discipline records must follow them ... while not all students are bad, many youthful applicants have not had significant time (as adults) to fall on the radar of law enforcement to be flagged as disqualified from eligibility to legally purchase a firearm in NJ. In order to assist in identifying youthful applicants that should be deemed ineligible for the required permits, I suggest that the legislature pass legislation requiring student discipline records be submitted to the County Adjustor for inclusion of disqualifiers that would follow them until their 21st birthday, thereby giving law enforcement an insight to behavior of youthful applicants.

With respect to identifying applicants that may have mental health issues, I suggest that the Legislature enact legislation creating a register of persons prescribed psychotropic medications, and make the current use of psychotropic medications a disqualification for a firearms purchase permit. Currently, applicants must undergo a mental health records search that focuses on commitments ... not everybody that has the need is always the beneficiary of commitment. I would recommend that a person remain on the register for a period of 3-5 years after the last prescription is issued.

The legislature needs to address the people that are the threats, not the devices. An AR is like any other semi-automatic firearm, it just looks scary. There are many other devices in our society that have inflicted more harm and death than firearms, yet we do not call for a ban of these items. Banning a firearm solely upon its appearance versus its performance is comparable to jailing all men because they are equipped to be rapists and all women because they are equipped to be prostitutes.

School security can be enhanced by not only enhancing the information made available to Law Enforcement when they investigate applicants for firearms permits by implementing certain standards. Not all schools can afford private armed security, and not all schools want armed security within their walls! Help schools secure the children that we are charged with educating!

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Zebedies

Weymouth Twp BOE President

Monday, April 9, 2018

I speak to you in both my capacity as the Chief of Police - Gloucester Township Police and to my involvement with numerous organizations that aim to improve police interactions with youth.

With that being said I may make some suggestions or report observations that may not be specific to the Gloucester Township community but are relevant to the overall juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

With respect to Gloucester Township, I am confident that we have developed a comprehensive plan to address school security as a police department in cooperation with our schools. There are nearly 9,000 students in all of our schools every day. We deploy a total of nine full time police officers throughout these schools who work to protect the students and everyone at the school.

A major theme of our school based policing program is that of prevention. In 2011 we implemented a policing model which focused on sharing information between schools and police, identifying children exposed to adverse childhood experiences, and creating community wide action plans for each child and family. This was done through our weekly Juvenile Unit Huddle meeting in which every child that we learn of who committed a delinquent act, ran away from home, was exposed to a parent/guardian being arrested, witnessed a traumatic event such as a parent or household member overdosing, has been truant from school, had a mental health or crisis event, and more.

A few of the action plan outcomes include:

1. Connecting youth with a broad spectrum of social and developmental services.
2. Participation in our juvenile justice diversion programs.
3. Informing the school principal, school social worker, or counselor of the child's needs.
4. Participation in our Peer Support Group, The Gathering Space, or in the Police-Community Children's Garden.

Of course it is too soon to speculate on what specifically took place at Parkland, but I can say that here in Gloucester Township a single incident involving a juvenile results in a review at our weekly meeting. Multiple incidents would trigger broader detailed discussions and actions.

Our program is focused on both preventing violence not only in the school but anywhere. Exposure to the adverse childhood experiences I mentioned has shown to increase the likelihood of substance abuse later in life and we know substance abuse increases the risk of violence.

We have literally helped hundreds of children and their families as a result of this process.

I hope that background information on our program was helpful in understanding that it takes more than an officer with a gun to protect a school.

**DISPATCH: 856-228-4500 • WEB: www.gtppolice.com • EMAIL: police@gtppolice.com
1261 Chews Landing Road, Laurel Springs, New Jersey 08021**

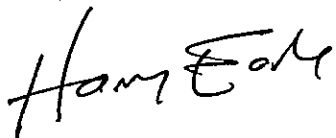
One of my most significant concerns right now is the rush to place police officers in schools without an appropriate understanding of the role that they must play beyond stopping the shooter. By this I mean, I believe that if they do not have a comprehensive system as we do in Gloucester Township to identify those in need, then they are missing the opportunity to help students and families long before they act out in school or anywhere, for that matter. We may be placing the officers in the schools and maybe....stopping the next active shooter in the school; however, those with intent to harm students or even fellow classmates will find a way - school bus, school bus stops, events without officers and more. We must do more work as a community to identify and help those that are troubled.

Another concern that I have is that some school or community leaders are placing an officer in the school due to pressure from parents and basically stopping there. Keeping a school safe cannot only be done by an officer in the school. It takes much more than that - building changes, training for staff, procedural and policy changes, and so much more. All of what I just mentioned is very expensive. For example - I believe that every school building should have a complete lockdown alarm system similar to a fire alarm but with a different audible sound of course. However, it is much less expensive to say we added an officer to the school than it is to install a lockdown alarm system.

Right now the focus is putting officers in schools, but an equal amount of desire needs to be placed on placing more counselors in schools and ensuring that the school staff has time to connect with students. Those kinds of relationships, I believe, are so important in preventing violence.

Our focus should be preventing an active shooter event and do whatever we can to avoid a gun battle in a school.

The utilization of officers for school discipline is a concern as well. We are increasing the number of officers in the schools across the state, and it is imperative that they understand their role - that they are not school disciplinarians.



Chief W. Harry Earle

Gloucester Township Police Dept.

P.O. Box 8

Blackwood, NJ 08012

Office: 856-374-3539

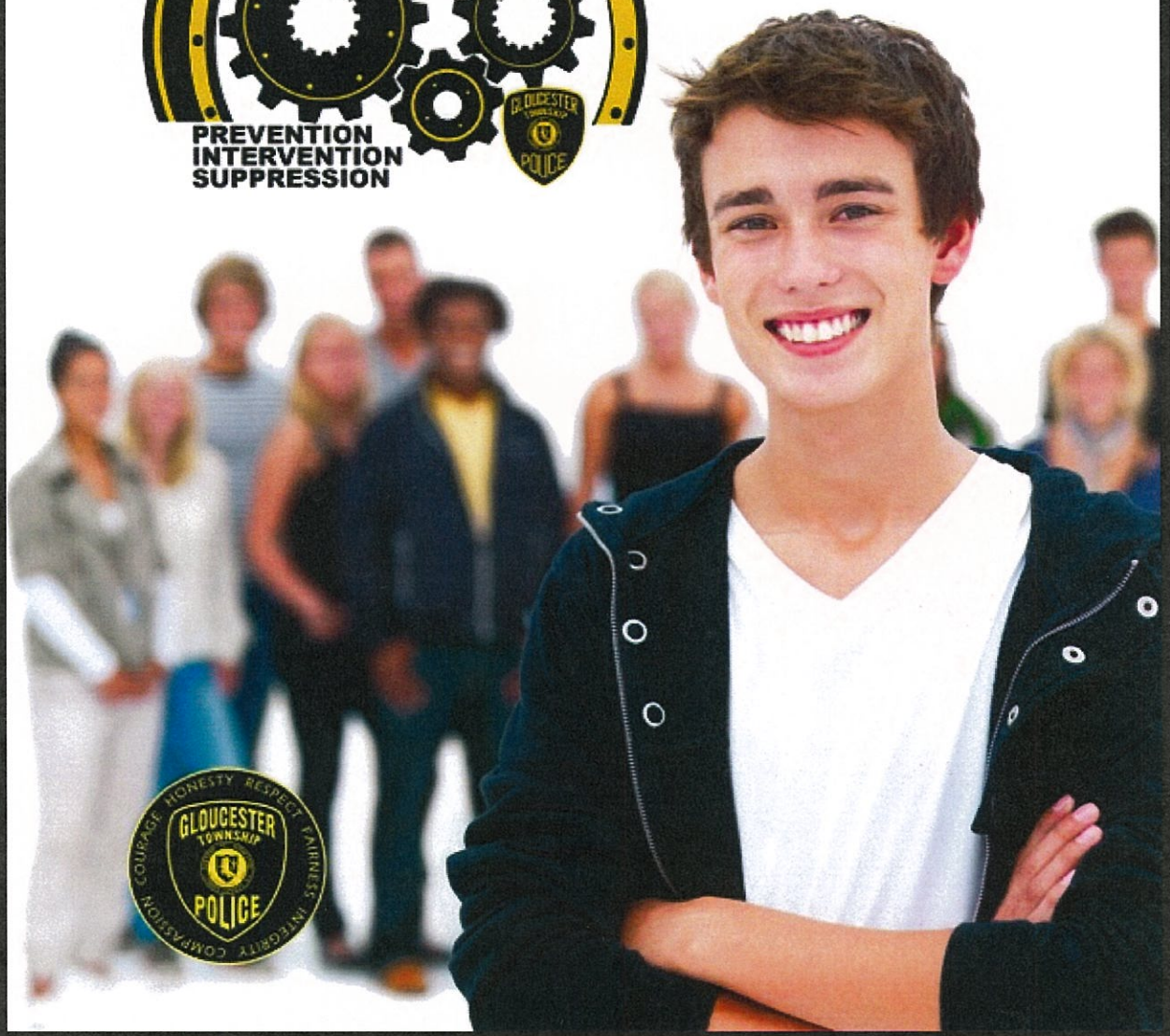
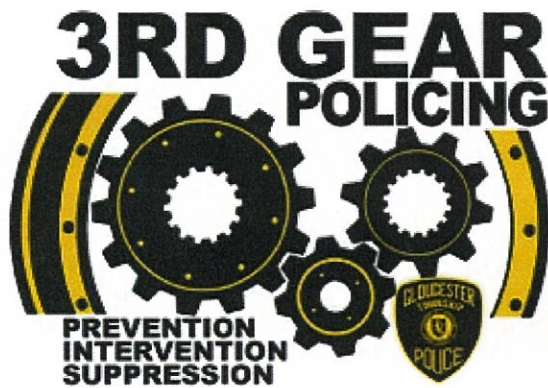
Dispatch: 856-228-4500

Fax: 856-374-3509

Email: hearle@qtpolice.com



3RD GEAR POLICING: **BUILDING TRUST AND PROMOTING** **POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

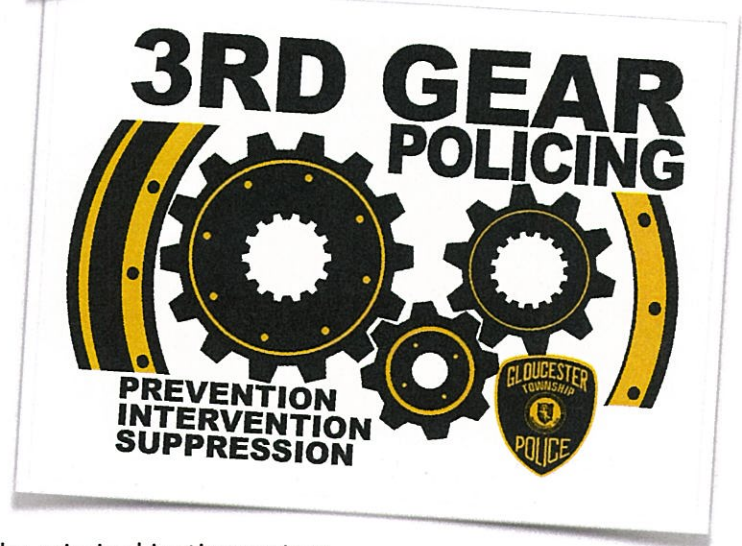


The Gloucester Township Police Department implemented a community wide violence prevention program entitled “ 3RD Gear Policing” in 2011. The focus was simple – as a police department we needed to implement strategies beyond 1ST Gear (Arrest) and focus on more holistic actions such as 2ND GEAR (Prevention) and 3RD Gear (Intervention). It became clear that police officers are often in a unique position to identify young people and families who need assistance, learn of the adverse experiences that children have been exposed to, and assist in providing appropriate protective measures to

children and their families succeed. Since 2011, every call for service involving a child or home where children reside, results in the child and his/her family being discussed at the department’s weekly meeting entitled the Juvenile Unit Huddle or “JU Huddle”.

We believe that our 3RD Gear Policing model together our with School Resource Officers, helps make the community, including our schools, safer. In our community of nearly 70,000 people and 9,000 school students we have implemented a model where every incident involving a juvenile must be reviewed to determine how we can help that child or family. Our commitment to this process is not only to prevent violence in the short term, but also to assist young people in achieving their academic potential, greater lifelong success, avoiding substance abuse, staying clear of the criminal justice system even into adulthood, and simply creating overall community wellness.

This program specifically involves:



The "JU HUDDLE"

The Juvenile Unit Huddle or *JU Huddle* involves all members of the department who are assigned duties that work with or protect children and families. Prior to a juvenile being discussed at the *JU Huddle*, a comprehensive review takes place of the juvenile's history and overall household history including all past calls for service at the home involving the child and anyone in his/her family.

The JU Huddle results in an action plan for every youth who has been involved with a police related incident both within the school or in the community, is reported missing, has been truant from school, had a crisis or mental health issue, has been subject to violence including domestic violence, witnessed a parent/guardian or loved one arrested, and more. Youth who have experienced such adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) are at an increased risk of poor health, substance abuse, suicide, and more.¹ The JU Huddle was implemented in 2011 and has resulted in actions plans and assistance for hundreds of youth and their families.

Common action plan items and outcomes include:

- Connecting youth with a broad spectrum of social and developmental resources.
- Identification of the child's "trusted adult" in the school.
- Participation in one of our numerous diversion programs for first time juvenile offenders - avoiding the school to prison pipeline.
- The School Resource Officer visiting and "checking in" with the child at school.
- Informing the school principal, school social worker, or counselor of the child's needs.
- Family counseling with a licensed social worker at the Police Family Resource Center.
- Invitation to our peer support group, *The Gathering Space*, where young people develop leadership and personal coping skills.
- Ongoing follow up and casual check- ins by the school resource officer in a mentoring role.
- Involvement in the Community Children's Garden at the Police Family Resource Center providing therapeutic support while fostering community spirit.
- Participation in the department's PAUSE Program which is school suspension reduction program sponsored by the Gloucester Township Police Department



¹

Jane, E. S. (2017, May 2). Addiction doc says: It's not the drugs. It's the ACEs - adverse childhood experiences. Retrieved September 20, 2017, from ACES Too High: <https://acestoohigh.com/2017/05/02/addiction-doc-says-stop-chasing-the-drug-focus-on-aces-people-can-recover/>

The juveniles that are discussed at the *JU Huddle* are identified by:

Juveniles who have committed a delinquency act

Juveniles who have committed a criminal offense are diverted whenever possible from the formal criminal justice system and participate in our community based assistance program at the Gloucester Township Police Family Resource Center. Such programs include the six week "GT Focus" Program for those 13-17 years of age and the one night "Handshakes Not Handcuffs" program for children 12 years of age and under. This Gloucester Township model has reduced first time offending youth

recidivism by nearly 50%.



Children exposed to violence and trauma

Officers are required to complete a Juvenile Exposed to Arrest and Trauma form whenever a child is present during the arrest of a parent/guardian or has witnessed a traumatic event (overdoses, search warrants, medical assists, assaults, and more). This form and process was created by the Gloucester Township Police Department.

While on domestic violence calls for service, officers must complete the Home Safety Worksheet to assist in identifying children who live in homes where domestic violence has taken place. The Home Safety Worksheet was developed by the Gloucester Township Police Department.

Youth who are reported missing

Officers personally interview every juvenile who has run away from home upon their return or recovery using the Juvenile Return Questionnaire. The Juvenile Return Questionnaire was developed by the Gloucester Township Police Department and it is a screening tool to help identify children who have been exposed to violence, physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, depression, and more. A review of missing person incidents after implementation of this process found a reduction of 64% in repetitive missing person reports.

Juveniles in crisis

Whenever it is learned that a juvenile has suffered a crisis episode the juvenile's past history and household history are reviewed at the JU Huddle for the development of an action plan.

Children who are chronically absent from school

School administrators report chronically absent students to the municipal court for action against the parent. Prior to the 3RD Gear Policing Policy there was not involvement of the police department. The new procedure requires the school administrator to notify their assigned School Resource Officer who then ensures that the juvenile's past history and household history are discussed at the JU Huddle for the development of an action plan.



Officer Contact

All officers are required to carry with them "3RD Gear Policing" cards which have contact information for the Gloucester Township Police Department Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center is staffed by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who speaks with parents and makes referrals which often includes bringing the juvenile's case to the *JU Huddle* for assistance.

IMPACT ON CRIME

Since the implementation of the 3RD Gear Policing model overall crime has fallen by nearly 34% (2010-2016)

3RD GEAR TRAINING AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Training

Every Gloucester Township Police Officer has received training in:

- Child Brain Development
- Community Policing and its impact on youth and the community
- Tactical breathing techniques for children when exposed to a traumatic incident
- Effects on children when exposed to violence and trauma
- Proper arrest procedures when arresting a parent or loved one in front of a child
- School based policing
- Appropriate responses to children who have run away

Policy Considerations

The below Gloucester Township Police Department policies govern the administration of the 3RD Gear Policing model:

- Juvenile Justice Guidelines
(Arrest procedures in front of children, diversion programs, tactical breathing, and children exposed to violence/trauma form and more)
- Information Sharing with Schools
(Connecting out of school incidents to potential in-school violence, community wide bullying prevention, information exchange for action plan development)
- Missing Persons
(Juvenile Return Questionnaire, changing mindset from "runaway" to child in need of services)
- Project HIVIS (Home Involved Violence Strategies)
(Home Safety Worksheet - identifying children in homes of domestic violence)
- Project SAVE (Substance Abuse Visionary Effort)
(Assistance with addiction)

TRAINING AND PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Training and speaking engagements are available regarding this 3RD Gear Policing model. Programs range from brief thirty or sixty minute information sessions to full day or more on- site training programs.

Interested in a presentation or training? You may contact:

Chief W. Harry Earle

Hearle@gtpolice.com

856-374-3539



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS AND THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE AT:
GTPOLICE.COM

Testimony of Christopher Benedetto
2 Thackery Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
christopher.benedetto69@gmail.com
856-745-8537 (cell)

My name is Chris Benedetto and I live in Cherry Hill. Despite Cherry Hill being the 13th largest district in NJ, the State sees fit to give us just \$264k in security aid. Since we have 19 schools, that works out to \$14k per school, or \$24 per student.

This is too little funding as compared to other schools security funding. For example, let's look at how other similar schools are funded by the state. Witness this SFRA adjustment and security aid data that I will reference today in my comments:

	Jersey City	Washington Township	Cherry Hill
Student Enrollment	31,000	7,000	11,000
Uncapped Aid SFRA Proposes	\$236M	\$40M	\$30M
Actual SFRA Adjustment Aid Delivered	\$412M	\$50M	\$15M
% & Surplus/Deficit SFRA Funding To Uncapped Adjustment Aid	175% / +\$176M	124% / +\$9.6M	49% / -\$15M
Security Aid from Budgets (Account # 10-3177)	\$12M	\$747K	\$264K

First, JC. Over aided not only with Adjustment Aid by \$176M annually, they are also flush with security aid in the millions. How is it that only 3X as many students in JC are budgeted to receive 450X more than students in Cherry Hill? Are the demographics so different in JC? The costs? And why do they get 190 security guards and central staff in a city that is now fetching home valuations close to \$800k but only paying 29% of their LFS? Clearly JC has figured out how to get a ton of state sponsored security aid, and at a much higher rate than comparable districts. I urge you to investigate this situation and put forward a plan for how security like it exists in JC can be replicated in all Districts – especially those districts with multi-year security and adjustment aid deficits like CH.

I know, I know, it's an unfair comparison of CH to JC. Of course some districts need more Security Aid than other districts because their populations are different or they don't have strong tax bases. But the fact is that the State of New Jersey also gives more Security Aid to districts that are wealthier than CH. Why does the State of New Jersey assess Princeton a more dangerous place compared to Cherry Hill? You give it \$100 per student. Is Montclair a really rough town? Because you give Montclair \$113 per student.

Turning to Washington Township. A close neighbor of ours with 3x as much security aid but fewer students. Here, again, higher security and adjustment aid has provided tremendous advantages to Washington Township. How do I know? Here are quotations from a public memo sent by the WT Superintendent to parents after the Stoneman Douglass shooting.

- Currently, our schools are equipped with surveillance cameras ...

Testimony of Christopher Benedetto
2 Thackery Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
christopher.benedetto69@gmail.com
856-745-8537 (cell)

- ... our schools have three active armed police officers dedicated to working exclusively in our buildings throughout the school year.
- Nearly three years ago, with the support of our Board of Education, the District began to install security vestibules in all of our schools. This project was completed when the last vestibule was installed ... last school year.
- ... our local police have the ability to observe live feeds of each school.
- Last school year the District was given the go ahead, by our Board of Education, to begin the process of changing out all of the classroom door-locking mechanisms to a state-of-the-art electronic door-locking mechanism.

So what am I - a CH resident - to take away from the situations in JC and WT?

I learned that adjustment and security aid does not logically follow the child or the formulas. For example, the enrollments in WT today are not equal to the dollars they are getting. And I learned that JC qualifies for millions in security aid thanks to overt efforts to not tax its own residents.

I also learned that CH is not fairly aided even when it comes to comparative districts that are notably wealthier and safer than ours. And I learned that the State's formula for Security Aid supposedly guarantees every district at least \$75 per student yet 194 districts - including CH - get less than this minimum.

Turning to CH's numbers and security position. Today we have almost no security in our schools. Very few paid and regular security guards. No central security office or budget center. A handful of operational cameras and no live feeds to Police, Fire, and Ambulance. There are millions of proposed dollars for Security in the upcoming referendum, but they won't be realized until 2020 and these improvements are to be funded by the local citizens through a bond. You do know we already have to pay a LFS tax of 121% and only receive 49% or less of our adjustment aid for the last 10 years? You do know that CH has several Title 1 schools, crumbling infrastructure, many students on FRL as well as 19 separate schools to secure?

My point today: CH needs adjustment and security aid from the state to secure our schools. We seem to have been intentionally held back for the last 10 years and need state financing to improve our schools. In America's current climate, with risks worse than ordinary schoolyard fights, how can you abandon the state's basic responsibility to ensure safety by not even fairly funding Security Aid?

I demand that you work to provide our full uncapped SFRA funding of \$29m this June, and a significant increase in categorical security aid funding in June as well.

Sources:

- 2018/2019 proposed SFRA and Education budget figures from State
- Publicly available school district budgets:
 - o Jersey City
 - o Cherry Hill
 - o Washington Township
- New Jersey School Board Association (for definition of categorical security aid)
- Washington Township District Website

School Security Discussion Points
Chief Thomas Macauley
Camden County Sheriff's Office

New Jersey Related Laws

1. New Jersey Title 2C, Chapter 39. Firearms, Other Dangerous Weapons and Instruments of Crime (*N.J.S. 2C:39-1 et seq.*) and Chapter 58. Licensing and Other Provisions Relating to Firearms (*N.J.S. 2C:58-1 et seq.*).
2. Usually takes several months to receive a permit to purchase after an application and criminal background is complete.
3. 2016 New Jersey passed Senate Bill 86 allowing for Class 3 Special Law Enforcement Officers in schools (*N.J.S. 40A:14-106*).

Training for Police Officers

1. Patrol Officers are usually the first responders (not a SWAT or SERT function).
2. Incidents last 8 – 12 minutes.
3. Patrol Officers are trained to immediately respond to the shooter.
4. Several police agencies have equipped their Police Officers with long rifles.

Training for Civilians

1. Civilians are made aware of signs to look for in students and co-workers.
2. Civilians are made aware of run, hide, and fight.
3. Have a plan.
4. Civilians are made aware of how police respond, so they don't appear confrontational.

For Further Discussion or Training Needs Contact the Camden County Sheriff's Office 856-225-5470.

Strategic Ops Group



NEW JERSEY SENATE AND ASSEMBLY JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING

VERSION 1.2

APRIL 9, 2018

Presented by
Brian C. Kovacs and Jesston Wilson

NEW JERSEY SENATE AND ASSEMBLY JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING

Our Company, Strategic Ops Group, specializes in situational awareness and survival techniques. We offer a cadre of former Law Enforcement and Special Operations Military personnel, with a diverse range of skill sets and real world experience. Operating in Unconventional Warfare and Special Operations has given us the knowledge and experience to think outside the box, when choosing the best solution and providing Threat Assessments and Training.

We recognize that preventative strategies such as anti-bullying programs and support networks are paramount in regards to school safety. These current programs are valuable and when coupled with other measures create resources for prevention. However Strategic Ops Group is here to provide thorough threat assessments for each and every school or educational venue to mitigate and minimize these tragic events from ever happening.

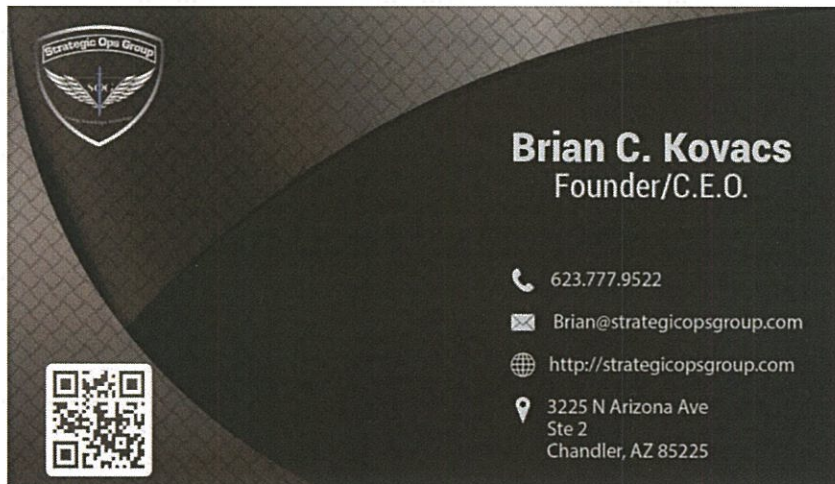
Regardless of economic background, political choice, religious beliefs or ethnicity, I think we can all agree that our children's safety should be placed above all else. Right now, nearly 19 years after the Columbine Massacre, our schools are still a very vulnerable target. Unfortunately the exact same mistakes that were made during the Columbine Massacre are still being made today. Our goal is to make these senseless tragedies a thing of the past. Our experience allows us to identify these vulnerabilities, assess possible threats and develop comprehensive action plans that will save lives.

We were taught, and we teach our children, that knowledge is your most important asset. Our schools are FILLED with highly intelligent people - the teachers, custodians and administrative staff. Our program utilizes these people, and gives them the tools they need to survive and protect lives during these most heinous of situations. We have made our programs highly adaptable, to fit nearly any location, staff structure or budget. We will enhance the awareness of the current school staff, turning them into a self-assessing security council that can and will evolve with the ever changing threat climate. Most importantly all of this can be done long before there is any discussion about arming the school staff. Best of all these programs will require minimal additional physical or financial resources. For schools who have adopted some form of School Resource Officer program we can provide enhanced knowledge and training to help them to achieve new proficiency as well.

The economic and practical aspects of our program would allow it to be implemented across all 2500+ schools in New Jersey in a timely manner. In addition we can also help to develop a statewide standardization for school staff to easily communicate with local Police units and first responders, identifying the threat and de-escalating the situation as quickly as possible. Effective communication is absolutely key during a crisis.

The minimalist approach of our program is no coincidence. We have tailored it specifically to have the least amount of mental impact to the students by remaining as un-intrusive as possible to the school day. As these new methods are implemented there will be minimal negative effect on students psyche. Much of the effectiveness of this program relies on how subtle it really is. The convenience of this program is that it can even be instituted on a weekend or during summer vacation.

Everyone on our team has spent their lives perfecting their craft in the defense of this great country and her people. On behalf of our team we are honored to be given this opportunity to speak by Senator Teresa Ruiz and Assembly Woman Pamela Lampitt, to shed light on some of the options that we offer at Strategic Ops Group.





Testimony Before the Senate and Assembly Education Committees
on School Security
April 9, 2018

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, a number of representatives from the nonpublic school community provided detailed testimony to this joint Committee. I want to emphasize one important issue.

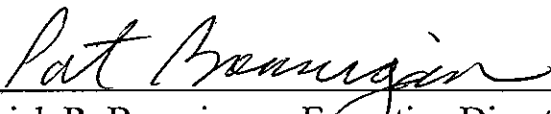
The nonpublic school community is far from immune from security threats.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget increases Public School Security Aid by over \$265 million. At the same time, Nonpublic Security Aid is frozen at last year's level.

Our nonpublic school children are as important and loved as their public school counterparts.

The State should provide as much security for nonpublic school students as they do for public school students.

Respectfully submitted,


Patrick R. Branningan, Executive Director