

Nassau County



Police Department

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PATRICK J. RYDER
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

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The events in Texas last week demonstrated an unfathomable level of evil. Following just days after another incident of mass violence in Buffalo, these horrendous acts have caused understandable concern in our community. No one knows this more than me. I have the honor and privilege to be entrusted with keeping our County safe. The most important part of this mission is keeping our children safe. As a father, this is a duty which I take to heart.

During my term as your Commissioner I have been committed to increasing security in our schools. In 2018 the Nassau County Police Department - Homeland Security was expanded to take on the role of School Resource Coordinators. This team has developed relationships with all of our schools and often aid in handling potential threats.

We regularly conduct Situational Awareness training to promote suspicious activity reporting. Our trainers illustrate the pre-cursors to violence and teach educators the importance of passing along actionable information to law enforcement. Recently we expanded this program to include an "Actions & Consequences" presentation geared toward teenagers who often are the first to encounter a peer going down the pathway to violence. We explain how they too can recognize warning signs and how they can pass this information on to a trusted adult at school or directly to us. All too often after a tragedy we discover missed warning signs which were not passed along to appropriate authorities.

I have told my team "we cannot miss!".

To that end we have a mechanism in place to ensure that every school related case is fully investigated. NCPD Intelligence Division partners with NCPD Homeland Security to form the NCPD Threat Assessment Team. This working group reviews every school related incident and conducts follow-up as appropriate. Our goal is to intervene at the point of inspiration to prevent someone from reaching the point of operation.

Homeland Security also provides periodic assessments of each school buildings physical security procedures. Recognizing that active assailant attacks are historically time driven events we have worked toward the goal of taking time away from the attacker. This starts with hardening the target. Our team suggests multiple layers of exterior security including single points of entry, limited access vestibules, active monitoring of video surveillance and periodic perimeter sweeps to insure doors are secure. Our POP teams follow this up as members of the district wide safety teams and can often be found evaluating schools during lockdown drills. Everyday our patrol sectors are required to visit a school on their post.

In furtherance of our goal to reduce response time, we have worked with all 56 public school districts and many private schools to implement the RAVE panic button app. This allows trusted partners to push a button on their phone which instantaneously alerts our Communications Bureau (911) of an active assailant situation. It also alerts other members in the facility profile so that they can take action as needed. Even when the caller cannot speak, the 911 operator is able to determine their location and get resources on the way. We are also able to text with the caller through this App if that is a safer way to communicate.

And finally, I want you to know that NCPD members are prepared to respond should that active assailant call ever come. Our training follows the best practices of Rapid Deployment. The first officers on scene will be the entry team to make contact with the assailant. Each patrol car is equipped with enhanced ballistic protection including a helmet and heavy vest. We have also added Stop the Bleed kits and a Dynamic entry breaching sledge to force entry to a locked building / classroom. NCPD conducts active shooter training for recruits as well as in-service refresher. We also train with our partner agencies in the city and village Police Departments. An NCPD officer can partner with a village police officer and make immediate entry.

We will not wait.

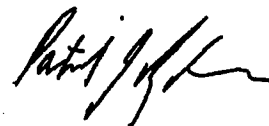
We know that we must immediately make entry to stop the threat. Without hesitation we will also implement our evacuation plan to remove anyone injured. Our NCPD Emergency Ambulance Bureau is a key resource in this assignment. They are also equipped with enhanced ballistic protection and can integrate with our Police Officers to create a Rescue Task Force. This team can render initial lifesaving interventions and begin removing the injured as the threat is being mitigated by the officers on the rapid deployment team.

Since last week's incident we have received multiple tips and suspicious activity reports. I want you to know that each case will be investigated. We will also closely monitor the investigations of these recent tragedies so that we can continue to enhance our training.

In closing, I want to reiterate our dedication to keeping your children safe. The County Executive and I communicate daily on this subject to coordinate our efforts to provide a safe learning environment for students, teachers and support staff.

It is not just our job, it is our mission.

God bless,



Patrick J. Ryder
Commissioner of Police