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Marc Montminy, Chief

To whom it may concern:

The Manchester Community College campus is experiencing the same changes as the community at large. While crime in general has not increased, the incidents of extreme violence have risen dramatically. Police in the region are seeing more gun violence than ever before, particularly in the area of MCC. Allow me to draw your attention to several incidents:

- A triple homicide in East Hartford less than 2 ½ mile from the campus.
- The arrest for attempted murder with a firearm of a suspect living less than ½ mile from campus
- Felony suspect fled onto the campus to hide amongst the student population.
- A police officer shot during a standoff- 1 mile from campus.
- A robbery /homicide less than a mile from campus.
- A report of an armed intruder on campus that led to a school-wide lockdown.

All of the incidents listed above occurred in the last few years.

Manchester Community College is a unique position with respect to public safety. The college has hired five certified police officers with POST certification (the same certification required of municipal police officers), yet has made a conscious choice not to arm the officers in question. In effect, the college has created an expectation of police protection without any means to provide such protection. In reality, the difference between security officers and police officers is the direction in which they run when confronted by an armed assailant. An unarmed security officer cannot be expected to confront an individual with a weapon. Should gunfire erupt on campus, unarmed security will flee like everyone else. Statistically, every 15 seconds, someone will be shot during an active shooting spree- until the gunmen is stopped. How long it takes to confront the gunmen is up to you.

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Should an active shooting occur on premises, the State Police will respond. The troop barracks is in Hartford, so it may be some time before troopers arrive on scene. Most likely, a quicker response will come from the Manchester and East Hartford Police.

Since the Columbine school shooting in 1999, law enforcement across the country have been training to immediately confront a shooter rather than form a perimeter and wait for SWAT. This tactic forces the shooter to confront police, or barricade himself from police. Either is a better alternative than allowing the shooting to continue. The Manchester Police Department experienced this first hand in 2010 at Hartford Distributors. Eight people died prior to the police confrontation, but nobody died after police arrived- except the shooter.

An unarmed police officer becomes a liability during an active shooting. They are not capable of confronting the shooter, nor can they be used to form a perimeter. Armed police will not even use them as a guide throughout the building for fear of contact with an armed suspect.

There is clearly a large enough population at the college to warrant armed officers. The liability inherent in having officers without the ability to intercede outweighs any liability associated with firearms on campus. The Manchester Police Department is willing to assist our colleagues at the college, but there is an expectation that they be properly equipped and trained to do the job. My concern is that the presence of uniformed officers on campus provides an illusion of safety when none exists.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further prospective. I can be reached at 860-645-5524 or at marc@manchesterct.gov

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chief Montminy", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Montminy