

# UNIFORMED PHYSICAL SCHOOL SECURITY STANDARDS & OPERATIONS.

STATE OF CONNECTICUTCONNECTICUT GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON FIREARMS  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY.

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# 2013



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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

This PDF document has been prepared by Commerce Security Services, LLC. a Connecticut based For Profit Corporation formally of Newtown, Connecticut. as a Public Service Advisory.

### Introduction

Greetings Chairmen, Senators, Representatives, of the State of Connecticut General Assembly Committee for Bipartisan Task Force on Firearms Violence Prevention and Children's Safety. My name is David M. Marchetti and I am a Principal of Commerce Security Services, LLC. I also serve as the companies State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Special Licensee a Division of the Connecticut State Police. I act as the companies Legal Liaison, General Operations Manager, and Special Services Director. My professional background in the provision of Security Services & Investigations started in 1985 while still attending high school, I have approximately 28 years in the security industry profession which I have served proudly.

Positions I have held include Security Officer, Patrolman, Monitor, Shift Supervisor, Site Supervisor, Retail Store Detective, Lead Detective, Investigator, Contract Security Manager, Special Undercover Operative. Today I am a working owner / operator of a family owned business being this one. My environmental experience includes Corporate Offices, Manufacturing Plants, Mining Operations, Transportation, Medical Facilities, Facilities contracted with the United States Department of Defense, Department of Energy, or regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whereas such positions require governmental security clearances to the top secret level or higher. Chemical Manufacturing, Residential, and other areas including Educational Institutions. I am relatively knowledgeable in physical security measures, electronic surveillance and counter measures, corporate espionage, and other areas related to security.

My legal experience consists of a few small claims actions, actions on the regular court docket, pretrial negotiations, and routine interactions with practicing attorneys and litigators. I believe any competent court of jurisdiction would deem myself credible, and as an expert witness of the security profession and industry. My professional highlights include serving on a security detail when then President Ronald Reagan visited Union Carbide Corporation, providing services to the Harlem Globetrotter's, being assigned to the C.E.O of Sears & Roebuck, holding various security clearances, and today I act as a working Contract Security Manager for prominent area businesses and their owners. At the current time CSS oversees the physical security for assets valued in excess of \$300,000,000.00, not including the safety and security of persons upon such properties. CSS has excellent professional recommendations and a substantial list of clients.

To date, I have dealt with every type of criminal offense with the exception of a sexual assault or homicide, most of my arrests or detentions are for larceny, burglary, petty offenses. The last physical altercation I was involved in where I made an arrest was an intoxicated male who attempted to slash people with a box cutter while their backs were turned to him. I grabbed the suspect while not knowing what type of weapon he had in his possession, disarmed him, applied a restraint hold on him, secured his weapon, and with my free hand called local police to report the incident. Police responded lights and sirens and took the suspect into custody without incident. The last incident I dealt with involving a weapon, was about three months ago involving members of the general public, two females ages 14 & 15 respectively that were with older males who intended to supply them with liquor illegally and in all probability sexually assault them upon a client's property late at night. One female was in possession of a box cutter that she concealed under the front passenger seat of my vehicle ( no safety barrier between us ) I have no doubt over the years I have saved various members of the general public from being seriously injured or potentially killed while I have carried out the professional duties of my profession.

I have aided and provided backup assistance to area police officers on many occasions as well. The last incident that I was involved in was at a local diner which I am a regular customer at, Thanksgiving morning at about 12:00 a.m. two very large intoxicated male patrons were going to throw down in a crowded establishment. I got up from where I was sitting and stepped in between the suspects and said “ Hi Guys ” seeing the badge and uniform I wear they decided to go outside the establishment and “ Talk ” their differences out which was observed by the night manager. You have a crowded diner with intoxicated persons, two of which throw a plate to the floor and are going to get into a fist fight on Thanksgiving morning, where people can get obviously injured. Not while I’m there on duty.

### Societal Change & Trends

Unfortunately, times do change and not always for the better, “ Active Public Shootings ” have grown and intensified in American society, but school shootings are nothing new at all. The first school shooting is documented as the Enoch Brown school massacre as part of the Pontiac Rebellion school 15 massacre on July 26, 1764, where four Lenape American Indians entered the schoolhouse near present-day Greencastle, Pennsylvania, shot and killed schoolmaster Enoch Brown, and killed nine or ten children. Only three children survived.

The worst school massacre was not even a shooting but a bombing and arson May 18, 1927 in Bath Township, Michigan that killed 38 elementary school children (most of them 7-14 years old) and six adults, and injured at least 58 other people. Kehoe first killed his wife, fire-bombed his farm and set off a major explosion in the Bath Consolidated School, before committing suicide by detonating a final explosion in his truck. It is the deadliest mass murder in a school in United States history. Andrew Kehoe, the 55 year old school board treasurer, was angry after his defeat in the spring 1926 election for township clerk.

Over the last 30 years there have been numerous school shootings or attacks in excess of 100. February 27, 2012: Thomas "T.J." Lane, 17, is believed to have taken a Ruger MK III .22 caliber semi-automatic handgun and a knife to Chardon High School and fired ten shots at a group of students sitting at a cafeteria table. Three students died in the attack; a 16-year-old boy died immediately, and two other male students died from their wounds the following day. Three other students were injured. Lane was arrested when he was standing near his car parked near the school, and he is charged with murder, attempted murder, and firearms offenses.

April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School in Columbine, an unincorporated area of Jefferson County in the State of Colorado. Two senior students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, murdered a total of 12 students and one teacher. They injured 21 additional students, with three other people being injured while attempting to escape the school. The pair then committed suicide. The Columbine High School massacre is the deadliest mass murder committed on an American high school campus.

August 27, 2012: In Perry Hall, Maryland, a suburban community of Baltimore, Robert Gladden, 15, allegedly took a double barrel shotgun to Perry Hall High School and fired shots inside the school cafeteria. A 17-year-old senior with Down syndrome was hit in the lower back while he was sitting at a table and suffered critical wounds. Gladden was immediately subdued by school faculty members, and was arrested. He is facing numerous attempted murder charges and firearms offenses.

September 26, 2012: In Stillwater, Oklahoma, Cade Poulos, 13, shot himself in the head shortly before classes started at Stillwater Junior High School.

November 29, 2012: In Taylorsville, Utah, David Phan, 14, shot himself in front of other students. Phan reportedly was suspended from Bennion Junior High School on the day of his suicide. His mother picked him up from school at about 1:30 pm<sup>[54]</sup> and took her son home before returning to work. According to the local newspaper, it wasn't immediately clear why Phan was suspended from the school. Phan then took a gun from a locked safe in his home and walked back to the school around 3 pm. He met a group of students on the pedestrian bridge over 6200 South near 2700 West, where he pulled out the gun he had carried with and shot himself in front of those students.

The 911 call was received at 3:05 pm. Later investigation revealed that Phan could have been a victim of bullying for being thought a homosexual. The Granite School District hasn't publicly released the reason for his suspension or any possible records of him having been bullied.

November 30, 2012: In Casper, Wyoming, Christopher Krumm, 25, using both a bow and arrow and knife, killed his father while the elder man was instructing a class at Casper College. Christopher then committed suicide by stabbing himself. Krumm had previously killed his father's girlfriend in a house near the college campus.

December 14, 2012 Adam Lanza, aged 20, killed 26 people and himself at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. He first killed his mother at their shared home before taking her guns and driving to the school. During the attack, 20 first-grade children aged six and seven were killed, along with six adults, including the principal and the school psychologist.

Sadly, these types of active public shooters have continued their actions to stretch out across America's shopping Malls, Movie Theaters, Strip Malls, and elsewhere. December 11, 2012 - Two people were killed and one wounded at the Clackamas Town Center. Shooter Jacob Roberts, 22, took his own life during the mall shooting.

October 21, 2012 - Radcliffe Haughton, 45, killed three people and wounded four at a spa in the Brookfield Square Mall complex in Wisconsin.

November 12, 2011 - James Coleman, 22, killed two people at the Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Maryland. Coleman was later shot and killed by police officers at his home. The mall shooter also wounded a police officer.

November 26, 2008 - Barry Lee Saunders Jr., 21, killed one person at the Westfield South Center Mall in Tukwila, Washington. Saunders was captured in Portland four days later.

December 5, 2007 - Robert Hawkins, 19, killed eight people before taking his own life at the Westroads Mall. Five more shoppers at the Omaha mall were wounded during the mass shooting.

April 29, 2007 - David Logsdon, 51, killed two shoppers and wounded a law enforcement officer before being shot and killed by the police at the Ward Parkway Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

February 12, 2007 - Five people were murdered and four killed at the Trolley Square Mall in Salt Lake City. Sulejman Talovic, 18, was ultimately shot and killed by police officers.

November 20, 2005 - Dominick Maldonado, 20, wounded seven people at the Tacoma Mall. Maldonado also took four hostages at the Washington shopping center before he later surrendered.

July 20, 2012, a mass shooting occurred inside of a Century movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight screening of the film *The Dark Knight Rises*. A gunman, dressed in tactical clothing, set off tear gas grenades and shot into the audience with multiple firearms, killing 12 people and injuring 58 others. The sole suspect is James Eagan Holmes, who was arrested outside the cinema minutes later.

The weapons used vary including shotguns, rifles, handguns, cross bows, bombs / IED's, knives, and even a homemade flame thrower!

## Societal Response

Little or next to nothing, it's status quo for the most part, an incident happens and police respond to the aftermath of the killings. In many of the school shootings like Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut it was a dismal, pathetic, inept, physical security failure and I will explain why in this publication. People just don't know how to respond to someone hell bent on accessing a crowded place to kill and injure as many people as humanly possible, even with the intent of committing suicide in the end. "Mad Dog Killer Syndrome" or MDKS as I will refer to it accordingly.

His brain appears to be normal was the ME's finding, well of course his brain appeared to be normal. He mentally snapped, his butter slipped off his noodle, he was enraged that his mother wanted him committed to a private mental facility. I can provide numerous reasons why Adam Lanza killed his mother and then killed all the kids at Newtown's Sandy Hook Elementary School. Without aggravating factors first look at the mentality of these individual MDKS suspects, they are operating with a kamikaze mentality, a member of a Japanese air attack corps in World War II assigned to make a suicidal crash on a target, an airplane containing explosives to be flown in a suicide crash on a target. It's like they have blinders on and have one mission, to kill and injure as many people as humanly possible before taking their own lives. Were all the Japanese Pilots that flew kamikaze attacks mentally ill? No, and they were / are looked at as national military heroes. This raises the issue of viable threats or suspects, and the most viable criminal suspect who would do these shootings are, you. Perhaps the person sitting next to you, maybe that Police Officer, Teacher, Politician, or your Son or Daughter...

There is no tell tail sign of who's a viable suspect, no tests that can be administered, no DNA to identify, the only signs in some cases are actions like collecting ammunition, supplies to make IED's, and casual statements.

November 21, 2005 - A Connecticut state trooper shot and killed his ex-girlfriend, a Newington police officer, then turned the gun on himself in a murder-suicide Monday evening. Ciara McDermott, 30, was found dead around 6:30 p.m. in her house at 348 Ridgewood Road. Sources said she was killed by state Trooper Victor Diaz, who was scheduled to turn himself in to West Hartford police earlier Monday on charges he harassed McDermott.

June 16, 2005 Divorce Court Shooting Kills Couple and Wounds Lawyer A retired state trooper shot and killed his estranged wife, wounded her lawyer, then fatally shot himself in a parking lot next to a state courthouse in Middletown, Conn., yesterday, leading officials to partly lock down the courthouse, the authorities said.

January 18, 2013 - A 7-year-old student at Sayles Elementary School in Norwich was arrested after police said the child threatened a teacher. A resident state trooper responded to the school on Monday after receiving a report that the student made a verbal threat to harm the teacher." It was reported to the resident trooper and the resident trooper responded, investigated the situation, and felt that it warranted referral to the juvenile court system for this child," Lt. Paul Vance said. "It's important to note that anytime a threat takes place, regardless of the age of the person responsible, they are taken very seriously. Edmund Senesac, the Superintendent of Schools, sent an email to parents Friday." We would like to assure you that no other students were involved in this incident, no weapons were involved, and student and staff safety was never an issue," Senesac said. ( Say that after the kid returns to school with an AK-47 and bag full of clips ).

My point is, anyone can snap and loose it, doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers, kids, there are no factors as to age, race, creed, color, economic status, education, employment, no factors at all.

The question here is not who is the viable threat in public shootings, but what are the threat factors.

When a company calls me to notify me they have terminated someone and they are concerned for their safety, I issue that individual a threat factor based on the following assessments:

Age of Terminated Person: Non- Applicable.

Race, Sex, Position of Person: Non- Applicable. ( as examples )

Time with company: Long term employees are a greater threat.

Previous Reprimands: A factor of provocation.

Statements & Attitude: Good signs if person is a threat.

Criminal arrest or willingness to violate the law: i.e. Threatening, Minor Assault, ( good signs)

Excessive Weapons Possession or fixation with weapons ( good sign )

Ability to obtain new employment ( good sign )

I assess them as a level I, II, or III person and advise management not to worry right away, wait six months down the road when they can't pay their bills, mortgage, argue with their wife, and their life pretty much turns to crap, that's when stress levels rise, they get frustrated, angry, and are likely to respond in some degree. Signs that an issue or viable threat exists may include threatening letters, or implied threats in writing, anonymous phone calls, stalking or surveillance of the property, employees, or management, dumpster diving after hours by the suspect, lying in wait for management, refusal to sever ties with the business or its employees ( visiting during work hours or lunch ) and other factors. The same should and could be applied to viable shooting suspects, here is a fine case as an example.

Case # 237-Danbury:

While on duty providing services to clients I had previous contact with two minor youths from the area about 14 and 15 years of age. They were engaged in simple trespass on several occasions and had been previously warned to stay off the properties, it was obvious they were looking to get into some type of trouble upon the properties we patrol. It's was a Sunday morning early when I was approached by someone and advised two white males youths were doing something on one of the properties down in the woods also involving City of Danbury property part of the Parks Department.

I proceeded to investigate and stopped them some distance away after discovering they had dumped a stolen shopping cart, used tire, and other refuse down into the Still River. It was then I discovered one of the youths had in his possession in his backpack a rather large illegal knife.



§ 53-206 - Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited (a) Any person who carries upon his or her person any BB. gun, blackjack, metal or brass knuckles, or any dirk knife, or any switch knife, or any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, or stiletto, or any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches or over in length, any police baton or nightstick, or any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than three years or both. Felony Offense.

I had already called the local police who dispatched an officer, who was very professional at the scene. It was my intent to wave them both charged with Criminal Trespass 1<sup>st</sup> degree as a lesson and perhaps unlawful littering, I did not want to see a fifteen year old kid charged with a felony offence given his youthful age. The responding P.O. called downtown and inquired if we could overlook the knife and was advised “ No ” it’s all or nothing. The two youths got a walk after their parents showed up and I explained to them how lucky their boys were as not to be arrested that morning. I did not bother to check the State of Connecticut adult criminal conviction database as they are minors and would be excluded.

After the kid with the knife and his father left I spoke with the other teenager and his father who were very nice people. It was then I learned that ( a ) The other youth is always carrying a weapon usually a knife ( b ) he’s been bullied by older teens and is scared for his safety ( c ) he’s been suspended and expelled from school in the past for weapons possession. If I had known this at the time, or had a data base to check on this teens prior offenses, he WOULD NOT have gotten a walk and I would have had him arrested at the scene. He’s walking around city streets and private property with a concealed deadly weapon, he knows it wrong to do but yet he continues to do it. He should be arrested and held accountable, as for his motivations of carrying it in public and on school grounds he should have been expelled and arrested the second time he was caught by school administrators. People look for reasons why this occurred, were their signs, violent by nature, provoked into a rage, mental illness, he was abused as a child, he had and suffered from Bipolar Disorder, he had PTSD, whatever.

You can make up dozens of reasons or excuses it’s really irrelevant and pointless in all honesty. Based on my experience, **some people are just violent and confrontational by nature**, they snap. I have seen it first hand and have dealt with it in the line of duty. **People are unpredictable by nature**, toss in a pinch of mental illness, alcohol, drugs, rage, depression, you have a potential time bomb on two legs. Sometimes there are signs and sometimes not, I have had people smile and talk with me and in the blink of an eye turn on me becoming violent ( Intoxicated people are the worst ). A lot of people are just nutty and they may seem like sound, sane, people too. Look at the Connecticut State Trooper who tried to smuggle a weapon into a state courthouse which went unreported. One would assume this is a armed person “ In Control ” of themselves, as he stood outside the court house and shot at his wife and killed her divorce lawyer. Mentally going off the deep end can affect the Rich, Middle Class, Poor, White, Black, Hispanic, the Elderly, the Kids, Males, Females, Police Officers, Lawyers, Teachers, or the Clerk behind the McDonalds counter. There is no narrow profile as to who can snap and attack a room full of infants in society.

Trying to come up with a standardized profile is at best silly if not impossible, you’re better off just accepting the fact that ( a ) People by nature can be violent by whatever cause, ( b ) There is no profile as to whom can snap mentally, ( c ) work on an assumption that everyone is a viable and potential risk, student, former student, parent, divorced parent, teacher, ex-teacher, principal, ex-principal, current or former staff, members of the general public. Dec 23, 2012 - U.S. military officials are investigating the apparent suicide of a Navy SEAL commander in Afghanistan. ( the unpredictability of people and their actions just prove and support that anyone can be a viable danger or threat by nature ).

## Publically Un-Discussed School Crime

The Teachers Union, Teachers, and others must step up and publicize when a crime occurs within schools. Just like police abuse and misconduct, most police officers get away with it as people are scared and don't say anything when a cop commits a crime, abuses his authority, or crosses the line. They depend on your silence and fear, well the kids do too, but this is slowly changing due in part to video cameras in cell phones. Cops in Bridgeport, Conn. have been accused of brutality after a video surfaced showing them beating a suspect. On Jan. 26, the New York Post reported that 3 cops have been pulled off the streets after their chief saw a video of them "kicking and stomping" a suspect after he'd already been subdued by a stun gun.

Teachers are no different and "The Letter of the Law" does not and should not stop at the schools front doors either. Same as the Letter of the Law Applies to Police Officers as well. When any criminal offense is committed it should be documented and or reported without exception. School Administrators should not be taking the law into their own hands and deferring matters as "In School Matters" responding with suspensions and expulsions of students who commit criminal offenses. I have even seen a college campus do this, and it's wrong. I have noticed that some Police Officers, Corporate Managers, Schools, and others have this apparent perspective that the state's criminal laws do not apply to them, or that the state's criminal statutes stop at their doors and does not apply to them. Most recently I had to deal with a former client that was willfully violating state fire codes by blocking or obstructing emergency exits in a building full of hazardous materials potentially endangering employees. Executive management corrected the issues but allowed this facilities manager terminate our services maliciously rather than back us up 100%.

I am just as guilty as a State of Connecticut Licensed Security Officer in giving the kid with a knife a walk, he should have been criminally arrested, period. The next minor child I deal with that's committed a criminal offense is getting arrested, my perspective changed when I discovered a fourteen year old female has concealed a deadly weapon in my car and she was sitting behind me.

I viewed her as a potential criminal victim and not a criminal suspect based on her age, that was almost a fatal mistake.

- ❖ The State of Connecticut should either create a state wide data base or collection system for minors who commit offenses arrest made or not, or a system to register public safety risk suspects to be used by schools, police, security, courts, medical professionals. Which would also include missing children, outstanding arrest warrants, and use caution when approaching advisories. Requiring a user name, password, reason for entry, offense, and any other important information as well.

Example: 12/03/13 John Q. Public DOB:02/23/78 / 56 Grand Street Danbury, Ct 06810  
Cause of entry: Subject found outside of girls dorm room at WCSU grounds 1:00 a.m.  
verbal trespass warning issued, tenant claims male has been harassing her. Entered by:  
WCSU Police Dept. ( If I as a Security Officer discovered him at her place of work he  
would not get a walk or warning, I'd detain and summon police for a stalking charge ). But  
not being privy to a preexisting complaint I would give him a warning and let him leave  
unknown to her.

**Teachers and Administrators should not be scared to come to work to teach, they should not have to act as police or security, should not have to break up physical altercations, or be subject to acts of criminal conduct in the work place.** This is not the case by any means and they are not alone in society. In speaking to a nurse from Danbury Hospital I was advised that Doctors, Nurses, and others are routinely threatened, harassed, and even assaulted by patients and in some instances visitors. So I asked why not have them criminally arrested as it's a Felony offense. I was advised that the management of the hospital looks down and discourages such actions by employees. Again, corporations and management of private companies have this apparent perspective that the state's criminal laws do not apply to them, or that the state's criminal statutes stop at their doors and does not apply to them.

That's nonsense and a horrible policy that violates the rights of their own employees upon the property, you commit an offense you should be arrested, minor child, sick individual, cop, whom ever, a crime is a crime and a victim is a victim and should be addressed as such, it's called the civil rule of law which our nation is based upon.

“ School Crime ” should be treated no differently than if the offense was committed on the public street. And the types of crime vary from Bullying ” Sec. 53a-181. Breach of the peace in the second degree: Class B misdemeanor. Forcefully taking of lunch money, Sec. 53a-133. Robbery defined. Sec. 53a-136. Robbery in the third degree: Class D felony. (a) A person is guilty of robbery in the third degree when he commits robbery as defined in section 53a-133. and so on.

By 7<sup>th</sup> grade these kids are intelligent enough to know what is right and wrong, I would suggest a small course or introduction to the state's basic criminal laws and a stern warning “ School Crime ” will not be tolerated and the penalties for engaging in such actions on school property including arrest, suspension or expulsion, community service, counseling, grade reduction, after school detention. Send a loud and clear message to today's youth that age will not get them off the hook if they engage in criminal conduct, one of the best courses I took at Danbury High School was by William Marcy – Law. I not only learned of my rights as a student, but learned about the law and the judicial system, that was a win, win, win, class I took.

Offer a basic law class in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to students focusing on individual legal responsibility, Liability, the Justice System. Instead of a trade school how about the state create a “ Professional School ” for youths that want to become paralegals, police officers, criminal justice administrators, lawyers, politicians, and other professional options for high school youths. I would like to see the state create a position of a Physician's Assistant but for a Lawyers Assistant, someone unlike a paralegal who can actually practice law under the auspices of an attorney. A statewide “ Scared Strait ” program would not be a bad idea either. Have volunteers come into the schools once a year as convicts and describe what prison is like for at risk youth, or have them tour a correctional facility. Having some large, angry, inmate under guard telling some out of line kid he better not end up in prison as he will end up as his “ Girlfriend ” will make an impression. If it scares them into towing the line and not engaging in criminal conduct, I would support it.

#### State of Connecticut & Municipal Response

I would suggest the State of Connecticut create a permanent State Security Commission having cognizance of all matters relating to the physical security standards for all State & Municipal Buildings, Public Education Buildings, Public Events whereas more than 100 people will attend, Transportation Access points ( Bus, Train, Terminals ) including DMV locations and offices, Public Libraries, and other places held out and open to the general public, including large private properties like Malls, Shopping Centers, Movie Theaters, and alike. Such Commission shall also have oversight in the licensing, training, and oversight of all State of Connecticut Licensed Security Officers. Such Commission will be formed of an active duty State Fire Marshal, Chief of Police, Practicing Attorneys ( Litigation & Civil Rights ), a Member of the states Judicial Branch, a Member of the State's Public Safety Committee, a Member of the State's Judicial Committee, 2 State Special Security Licensees, State Board of Ed Member. Such Commission shall have authority to create legislative acts pertaining to these above issues, investigation violations, hear public testimony, and guide local municipalities, Malls, and other areas of interest in complying with a concentrated effort in improving physical security. Municipalities could also form their own Commissions as an alternative or appoint a “ Municipal Security Director ” in effect. An experienced person should be preferential as using someone who is inexperienced can cause needless waste of finances and failure.

#### Sandy Hook / Newtown School Shooting

Emotions aside, what does Sandy Hook and Columbine High have in common? They were both dismal, inept, incompetent, physical security failures. I know of private corporations that have better security in place and this was foreseeable, not Newtown but within the State of Connecticut, in Fairfield County. Then again so is a Mall shooting, Movie Theater shooting, and elsewhere, it's a sign of the times.

I would like to point out that, the firearms used by the suspect Adam Lanza were apparently legally obtained by his mother in which he subsequently killed her with the same firearms. This is not uncommon by any means, as many firearms owners are often killed with their own weapons; she was perhaps negligent in their storage and safe keeping. Would it have prevented the killings, I doubt it as he was obviously in a rage. Would it have diminished the number of victims most likely. I do not believe this to be a firearms issue over all with the exception as a firearms owner Mrs. Lanza acted with a level of callousness and disregard for the safe keeping and storage of such firearms especially since she was aware her son had mental health issues.

Based on the events as they unfolded and as reported by news media, apparently someone at Sandy Hook Elementary felt it prudent to install a bell and electronic door lock to access the school building or administration offices. Unfortunately, as this was done the person responsible for the installation or direction of its installation failed to see a "Foreseeable " physical failure in its application and installation. Based on the fact such item lock was deemed prudent by someone in the school, that it was installed I believe a level of civil liability would be assumed by the School, Administration Staff, and ultimately the Town of Newtown, perhaps even the Board of Education as well.

I have been advised that at an elementary school in Newtown, when I am not sure, but at some point a male stranger accessed the school and exposed himself to small children prior to this incident. I was advised that the schools response was to really do nothing at all in the way of increasing security upon the property. I think Government, Boards of Education, School Administrators, and School Staff have had more than fair warning this was a possibility in every school given Virginia Technical School, Columbine High School, and other shootings at schools that have happened nationwide. Seem to serve as adequate grounds for a civil liability claim before the courts based on inadequate security. Sandy Hook Elementary was 100% a dismal, amateurish, physical security failure, because someone made an oversight plain and simple, they were able to break out a window and reach though the door and open it. At the very least it would have caused a delay to the suspect buying time for law enforcement, but with multiple shots to the door or window doubtful it would have stopped him. People have misconceptions that cinder block walls, wooden doors, wired glass, sheetrock, will stop bullets, even car doors thanks to the movies and T.V.

The question remains in light of all of these school shootings, how does society prevent them? How should authorities respond to them? What measures can be taken to help prevent these shootings? Why did he target the school? And much more all of which are pretty much left unanswered or responses of warm fuzzy hugs, counseling, anti-bullying programs, putting armed people in schools, arming the janitors or teachers. It seems amusingly enough that no one is viewing this incident in a perspective of common sense moderation, comprehension, and communication. Instead people are screaming at each other about changing gun laws not changing gun laws, and a host of other things like what the NRA publically proposed at a billion dollars a year.

Sandy Hook Elementary was a needless sad tragedy, as was Virginia Technical, and Columbine High, this should not be happening obviously. But everyone from Local, State & Federal Government, Schools, Administration Staff, and ultimately the Towns and Cities, even the Boards of Education failed to sit up and take notice of this new, not so new societal trend. Based on available information at the time this was started prior to the date of December 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 the mother of 20 year old Adam Lanza it is believed began proceedings to obtain legal custody of her son who came from a recently divorced home. Apparently, it was her intention to commit her son to a psychiatric facility, according to a lifelong resident of the area who was familiar with the killer's family. The soon to be killer it seems had some type or level of mental health issues or social disorders, and upon finding this information out he understandably became irate and the killing spree started. One must imagine a 20 year old young adult finding this out provoking feelings of betrayal, anguish, hate, rage, insecurity, as a basic foundation. He most likely felt at a great disadvantage as well as his mother could afford to hire a lawyer and as an adult in all probability utilize the state's legal system to accomplish her

objective. It's not a shock he shot and killed her first by any means, and the number of round he pumped into her head makes it evident he was enraged to say the least. In all probability he had a sense of hopelessness, extreme fear, paranoia, and anxiety.

One would have to be curious as to the basis of her actions, as Adam Lanza had no known criminal record, did not display aggressiveness or violence in general; he was a geek into computers, a bit of a loner, an honor student. Adam Lanza has also been described by those who knew him as highly intelligent, and a spokesman for Western Connecticut State University told The Associated Press he took college classes there when he was 16, earning a 3.26 grade point average and excelling at a computer course. Alan Diaz, 20, who was friends with Adam Lanza at Newtown High School, said the Lanza he knew was ill-at-ease socially, but not a monster. "He was a wicked smart kid," Diaz told FoxNews.com by email. "When I first met him, he wouldn't even look at you when you tried to talk to him. Over the year I knew him, he became used to me and my other friends, he eventually could have full conversations with us. "I've heard him laugh, he has even comforted me once in a hard time I had," Diaz said. "A big part of me wishes I never dropped contact with him after he left high school, felt like I could have done something." One person said nobody will completely understand why Adam did what he did.

I disagree 100% the trigger that set Adam Lanza off was finding out his own mother wanted to have him committed against his will. Adam Lanza was intelligent, socially awkward, a loner, and most likely a typical person his age, creating some waves, engaging in stupid things, flexing his ego into adulthood, typical activity. Apparently being a single mother she did not know how to handle him, and found his activities overwhelming as well. His response to this situation would be the same as mine at his age, rage, anger, feelings of betrayal, hate, contempt, extreme fear, uncertainty, abandonment.

That is enough to make any 20 year old snap and respond with violence, but the key question is why the kids, why the school?

That's an easy one to answer, if no one's noticed a trend in public and school shootings, maximum casualties and deaths. Slowly incidents have increased as have the number of people injured and killed its parallel increase in public and school shootings, greater causality and death rates. It's a societal trend but what is it based upon, why increased shootings and higher victim rates. Although guns are intended as tools they have been used as weapons since their development, so guns are nothing new, if an AK-47 is used or a Shotgun is used it's a moot issue, the results are the same, guns don't kill people, people kill people. In China where they stripped all citizens of firearms, today they worry about a new trend where an adult takes two knives and runs into a school acting as a human machine or human blender, stabbing, slashing, and cutting groups of small children.

Humans by right of nature are violent period has nothing to do with mental health issues or anything else, it's a basic emotion which for the most part humans control and repress, rage and anger are the same as love and compassion – emotions humanities down fall as a race and species man is an animal always has been and always will be. As such man no matter how well behaved, clean cut, dressed in a tux, is still an animal with primal instincts and that makes man unpredictable by right of nature. Thus, this is not a firearms issue or mental health issue per se.

The school was targeted by Adam Lanza on the basis of the above maximum casualties and deaths perspective, ( Mad Dog Killer Syndrome ) with an emphasis on suicide at some point thus denying society and the families justice, closure, or why a picked a school as viable targets, that's why he picked the school ( easy viable target with maximum contained targets ) the same as a hospital, nursing home, or mall.

Nancy Lanza loved guns, and often took her sons to one of the shooting ranges here in the suburbs northeast of New York City, where there is an active community of gun enthusiasts, her friends said. At a local bar, she sometimes talked about her gun collection. It was one of her guns that was apparently used to take her life on Friday. Her killer was her son Adam Lanza, 20, who then drove to Sandy Hook Elementary School, where he killed 26 more people, 20 of them small children, before shooting himself, the authorities said. Ms. Lanza's fascination with guns became an important focus

of attention on Saturday as investigators tried to determine what caused Mr. Lanza to carry out one of the worst massacres in the nation's history. Investigators have linked Ms. Lanza to five weapons: two powerful handguns, two traditional hunting rifles and a semiautomatic rifle that is similar to weapons used by troops in Afghanistan. Her son took the two handguns and the semiautomatic rifle to the school. Law enforcement officials said they believed the guns were acquired legally and were registered.

**Means, Motive, Opportunity, the three basic elements of a crime,** Weapons being the Firearms for mass casualties, Motive Rage towards his mother and society as a whole ( Columbine Syndrome ), Opportunity prior knowledge of the school, it's location, perhaps layout, or local area. Calls for stricter firearms control is a knee jerk reaction, it's a small Band-Aid on a gaping wound, it's a politically correct stance and nothing more, it's in effect closing the barn doors AFTER the horses have gotten out. What's so bad about Americans having all these guns? The murder rate is at an all-time low, right? Well, sort of. More like emergency medical treatment efficacy is at an all-time high. As the gun debate reaches a fevered pitch from Washington to Twitter to Newtown and back again, in the wake of the Sandy Hook school shootings.

We hear a lot about businesses struggling in this economy, but there is one business that is thriving here in Connecticut and around the country: the gun business. Gun sales in the state are up dramatically. Expectant mother Sarah Beland of Bristol could be heard firing her very first shots, with her very first gun. She says she'll carry it to feel safe." I have to walk quite a distance, for work. I used to have to walk at 11 o'clock at night, half way up the street, so being a female, and being alone late at night, yes," said Beland. "Makes you feel safer."

One night I called a Police Officer to the scene of where a deer had been hit by a car and suffered a compound fracture to its leg and it was suffering. The young Police Officer was a very nice fellow but it became obvious that he had never shot anything that was living, let alone looking at you. I had to instruct him on how to shoot a deer safely i.e. discharge going through animal and potential pass through and blow back, and where the bullet might go after it went through the deer's spinal cord. The Police Officer was visibly upset and uncomfortable killing the animal, his hand was shaking and he felt horrible that he had to kill this creature as an act of mercy. What would happen if he had to pull his firearm on another human, look at them face to face, and shoot? If he hesitates it could cost him his life or someone else's. It's always been my argument that it takes a special type of person to be a Police Officer one who possesses such traits of honesty, discipline, ability to communicate, actual knowledge of the law, and other things, like the ability without hesitation to draw a weapon and drop someone if necessary.

Given all of this, I would estimate that less than 5% of police officers meet the criteria. Most people lack the ability to kill a human or animal it takes a special mindset if you will, Firearms "Make you feel safer." But often it's a false sense of security as the carrier may lack the mindset to use the weapon, in many instances people who don't use it, delay in using it, or just keep it lying around the house for " safety " end up getting killed with their own weapon. So going out and buying a gun to feel safer is in effect not advisable by any means unless you have and possess the mental ability to use it.

Firearms have flooded our streets nationwide, if you know where to go and who to speak to you can easily get one illegally. Short of ceasing all firearms they will always be available to American's short of unlawful seizure, and we now that's not going to happen unless government wants a war with its own citizens. China disarmed it's citizens, the results, adults grab two knives and have run into schools as human la' machines ( blenders ) stabbing, slashing, and cutting as many kids as they can until police arrive. This is what society is up against not just Newtown, Connecticut.

A review of the various weapons used in school killings have included handguns, rifles, shotguns, cross bows, bows and arrows, bombs, and even a homemade flame thrower! You know the old saying " Where there is a will, there is a way ". If someone is intent in targeting a school they will do even if you take guns away, they will do a Bonsai Attack with two large butcher knives or meat cleavers.

On the basis of the Columbine High School massacre and now the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary it's more than evident that potential security threats come from within the public school system and externally. Double sided security issues exists for administrators which have remained pretty much unaddressed by the schools, administrators, board of education, municipalities, the states, and even federal government, which is unacceptable. Some raise the issue of gun control; others raise the issue that schools should not come off as prisons, and everything in between. The bottom line are the issues of potential harm to children, loss of life, public safety, civil & criminal liability, increased insurance costs, all of which translates to money, money which is limited given the current economy. I would suggest that people deciding what steps to make or enact TOTALLY IGNORE many of these halfwits, people with other agendas, and backers of knee jerk reactions. Do what you perceive to be morally right and correct, this is not an issue of gun control, budgets, putting police in every school, or anything else. These shootings focus light on a very clear lacking in not only physical security, the failure to respond accordingly, but very poor established security programs and policies.

As far as the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary I will not point the finger at any one individual, but I will state ( a ) It was a physical security failure ( b ) It could have been stopped, prevented, or limited ( c ) unauthorized and untrained persons handled the security issues for the school which were poorly thought out and addressed ( d ) the school itself failed to have proper security measures in place even after the Columbine High School massacre which should have served as a common sense awakening to the education community in our nation as well as municipalities, and states. As should various shootings at malls and movie theaters, time to wake up and smell the coffee! As for civil liability in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, liability should be clearly vested with the Municipality, Town Board of Education, The Municipal Police Department, The School, and it's Administrators. The State of Connecticut at this time should not be held liable for the actions of second or third parties, keeping in mind the Town of Newtown is an incorporation thus legally an entity unto it's self legally. Anything or anyone under their direct control they would assume civil liability for under an inadequate security claim or property negligence claim under the law.

There is a horrific trend in our society that's been emerging for some time, yet many have failed to notice it or acted to prevent it. Schools, Nursing Homes, Malls, Shopping Centers, Private Businesses & Movie Theaters. active public shooting scenarios, from Wal-Mart to Sandy Hook Elementary. What can be done, who should face the liability, and the long term results. When you need to hold a property owner & tenant business liable for inadequate security and viable damages under the law. Force change through civil litigation and liability exposure. Having proper security in place can save lives and eliminate liability, and provide you with peace of mind that help is nearby if called upon.

The physical security you have in place can mean life or death to you and others as "Seconds" not minutes count. Offering viable opposition, obstacles, and delays to a shooter can add up to precious minutes, minutes that buy time for armed police or security response. Schools, Malls, Public Buildings, are generally not designed for this type of critical emergency, nor are any response plans. What would you do if you were in the Mall and someone started shooting people? In effect you have three options, become a victim, fight, or flight. I'd fight looking to ambush or blind side the shooter, playing dead until he was close, dying is easy, so is getting shot in the back running. Every second a shooter can't aim his weapon or focus on his intent are lives saved.

If getting in your face or wrestling with you and your gun gives ten people the opportunity to flee then it's worth it, even if I get shot. Giving Mall Security, School Principals, or others access to a secured Shotgun which requires two people with two keys to access it, the ability to confront and shoot an active shooter on sight with no warning works for me. Fight or Flight it's really just that simple. Back years ago they were called " Mad Dog Killers " they exist and act with one cause and reason, to kill and injure as many people as they can, as fast as they can. Who cares why they do it, like a rabid dog you put them down as fast as you can. Every second they live someone dies.

When it comes to the commission of a criminal act, you can't always run away. You can allow yourself to become victimized or resist the choice is yours. In some cases like robbery by an armed suspect that's demanding your money, give it to them it's not worth dying over. If someone shows a clear intent to harm or kill you, do whatever you need to do to survive. If confronted by an active shooter it's been reported that attempting to appeal to them on an equal level can save your life, say something they can associate with you go from being a viable target to a person.

Please don't shoot me I just had a baby, don't shoot me I just got married, don't shoot man I'm just trying to make a living, have reportedly worked. Having the ability to Humanize yourself, NOT trying to reason with a shooter seems to work to some degree " Please don't kill me I have two little girls". Even a crazed shooter can make a connection with small kids, parents, moms, dads, close friends. Then go so the sympathy part of his Sub-consciousness for your survival. How the shooter perceives you can make a difference between life and death. Communication with a shooter is viable, but what's just as important is how they perceive you, act like a victim and in all probability you will end up as one, act like an authority figure and that will get you shot. Be empathetic, sad, pathetic, the shooter might associate with that and continue walking away.

**Perimeter Security** – Establish fence lines restrict and limit access to grounds. Remove viable hiding places for storage of weapons, ammunition, and supplies. Clear away excessive bushes where weapons can be concealed, block off stairs that have space under them ( hiding place ) Think as if you were going to be a school shooter. Restrict access to a majority of the grounds and parking lots, letting students park vehicles on the property not a good idea ( viable storage for later weapons retrieval ) think of them parking off campus, or strict restrictions in place ( no access to cars while school is in session ).

**Exterior Building Security** – All perimeter doors except for front lobby doors should be locked and alarmed ( stiff penalty for causing false alarms ) windows on doors and classrooms should be at least tinted or treated with ballistic materials ( prevent clear line of sight for shooters ) they can shoot from outside into school. Strict limited access control while school is operating. Identification badges for everyone. Secure restricted areas and monitor viable staging areas where shooter can prepare prior to assault ( parking lots, side of building, keep building free from potential hiding places, loading dock areas. Install closed circuit T.V. ( save money by installing it yourselves ). Have a panic button installed to notify everyone and law enforcement dangerous condition exists goes on lock down. Do not evacuate building ( in an ambush like pulling a fire alarm a shooter just has to focus on group of people exiting building i.e. they run into ambush or cross fire ).

**Internal Physical Security** - Restricting access, preventing forced access, visitor and student screening, access control to restricted areas, limiting access to delay or stop intruder buying time for police / security response, fight or flight policy, armed responses, assaults carried out by internal threat ( students ) vs. assault by outsider ( stranger ), multiple shooter situations. Intelligence gathering ( bullying, harassment, planned fights, school crime i.e. weapons possession, drug possessing, Intervention, special instruction for staff. Consider installing automatic security gates in school to limit and restrict shooters ability to move around or have free access. Classroom doors with viable locks on them ( keyless locks ) with ballistic proof windows. Create a dead man's trap to isolate potential shooters. Hire a contract security service firm, and create ERT teams - Emergency Response Teams ( Volunteers ) taught to respond to emergencies, including the use of a shotgun. A steel box with dual locks on it containing a 12 gage pump shotgun requiring an administrator and teacher to access it in an emergency, hard key lock, combination lock, but requires consent of two adults to access. Have school order Air Tasers and keep in secured containers – something is better than nothing for self-defense. A roving armed security patrol can act as a deterrent as well.

#### Simple School Math

Person intent on shooting as many people as he can + Physical Security Barriers + Ability of someone to terminate threat = Deterrence, Relocation, Delay for Police or Security, Threat to Shooters Own Safety & Life = Dead Shooter or Another Acquired Target = Prevention of School Shooting. Pretty simplistic..

Yes, physical security standards can be applied to all schools pretty much one size fits all, i.e. School Lobbies and Main Entrance Office should be designed to restrict access once school starts but should be open for usage in the morning and when school gets out. I would suggest retractable security gates for access control like used in the malls. The door or doors to the office from the lobby area should be of steel with bullet proof windows with a magnetic lock in place, windows should be bullet proof that oversee the lobby area and on the exterior. ( this should be standard for all primary visitor offices & lobby areas ).

### Police Officers vs. Security Officers

I do not support police officers in public schools, **police officers are intended to protect and serve society at large not special interests**, keeping in mind it's all the tax payers who are paying for their services. Being unionized they are also **expensive and cost prohibitive** they are better used within the municipality to respond to, investigate offenses, and make arrests where needed, including schools. Children are really no safer with a police officer present and alone they themselves become viable targets of active shooters on scene. If I were going to do a school shooting I would open a friendship with the " school resource officer " I'd want him to view me as a " Non-threat " and I'd shake his hand a lot. You walk up to him or her, engage in conversation, shake hands as you leave, holding on to the hand he uses to draw his weapon and with your free hand draw your weapon and neutralize the resource officer. Quick, clean, fast ,and very efficient. Anyone working within the school must keep a distance, you're not present to be peoples friends or buddies. You are present for one reason, protection of property and people, response to reported offenses, and initial investigations, nothing more and nothing less. Your present to do a job and provide a service nothing more and nothing less, and dropping your guard can cost you your life.

Security Guards – The State of Connecticut legally makes no legal distinction between that of a " Security Guard " and that of a " Security Officer " there is a huge difference. Your typical Guard is poorly paid as little as \$9.00 per hour. Usually not the best choice for serious security work usually hired by large national security contractors. They are pretty much hired to fill a contract and to act as eyes and ears and that's about it. **What most people don't know is they can cause you huge legal problems and liability exposure.** Under the state law they are defined as: the licensed and registered person hired to safeguard and protect persons and property, by (A) the detection or prevention ( **Prevention does legally include arrest** ) of any unlawful intrusion or entry, larceny, vandalism, abuse, arson ( **Legally not limited to these offenses** ) or trespass on property such security officer is hired to protect, or (B) the prevention, observation, or detection of any unauthorized activity on property the security officer was hired to protect.

Here lies the problem and issue and it's also what makes Security Officers different from Security Guards, the State of Connecticut mandates training in the state's CRIMINAL Codes, if you're going to be protecting people and property, including preventing the commission of criminal offenses YOU MUST HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATES CRIMINAL LAWS. Although such training is mandated by law prior to professional state licensing, **a substantial majority of professionally licensed " Security Guards " have obtained licensing under false pretenses.** I have interviewed some of them in the field and at best they are incompetent, I had to threaten one with a criminal arrest for unlawfully blocking off a roadway and preventing people illegally from accessing their business which would also constitute illegal seizure of privately owned property. Now here is the second kick in the head, these Security Guards are expected to engage in the above following acts of protecting people and property, preventing offenses, and such. **The vast majority of them are under orders to never ever make an arrest or detention of a suspect, just call the police. Never use physical force to protect anyone, up to and including themselves ( self-defense ) or they will be terminated, all contrary to the states laws.**

The large security companies know what directives they give their Security Guards, but in most cases clients are unaware of the laws of the state or their standing orders. They are paying for protection but what they have is a false sense of security at best, they are being defrauded. The security companies are well aware their Security Guards are not trained in Connecticut General Criminal State Statutes, thus the orders not to make arrests or detentions, not to use any force even in defense of one's self, that's why most people view security at the mall as a joke, and they are right. Security Guards should not be used in any way, shape, or form in schools.

**RIDGEFIELD CT May 2 2009 — Town police — with the help of their dog, Zeus — arrested two people at Ridgefield High School on drug charges April 24, including a school security guard. RIDGEFIELD - School officials will stop using - at least temporarily - a security company that employed a guard who was arrested this week on charges of trying to sell marijuana on the grounds of Ridgefield High School. "This is a very serious matter involving the safety and security of Ridgefield students," said Superintendent Kenneth Freeston. "We need to conduct our own investigation and review closely the findings of the investigation conducted by Securitas," the private security company. ( Not what I would want protecting my child and the potential liability exposure is excessive ).**

Security Officers, which I am also proud to say I am a licensed one as well, thus could fill the role to handle security at schools armed or unarmed, HONESTLY trained in state statutes, trained in use of force, they will act to protect people and property and when needed will make an arrest or detention and can legally engage in the following activities.

Security Officers may legally respond to and investigate the commission of any offense on property they are hired to protect. Legally they may also be vested as " Special Constables " Peace Officers for such property. Security Officers may make lawful valid criminal arrests for Misdemeanors & Felonies, for Misdemeanors the suspect must be witnessed or taken in the act, Probable Cause for felonies. Investigatory Detentions may also be made for law enforcement authorities as long as probable cause exists. ( Should have state statutory arrest authority vs. common law arrest authority ). Assault of a Security Officer is a Class C Felony carrying a criminal penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000.00. Security Officers may legally carry mace or pepper spray, a baton or nightstick while on duty. They may also keep a loaded shotgun in their vehicle or have access to it legally. Security Officers with a Blue Card may legally carry a sidearm while on duty. Security Officers are authorized by state statute to use " Reasonable " physical force to effect any arrest, in defense of themselves or third parties. Unlawfully interfering with a Security Officer in the performance of his lawful duties is Sec. 53a-181. Breach of the peace in the second degree. or Sec. 53a-182. Disorderly conduct: Class C misdemeanor. For which a person may be arrested for. Security Officers may not legally carry Air Tasers, a law that needs to be changed. Legally there is no difference between that of a Security Officer vs. Security Guard, but there is in training, operational policy, services performed, association in dealing with crimes, and more. CSS follows the letter of state laws and exercises such authority as vested with them in accordance with the law and in the performance of their official legal duties.

So who would you rather have acting to protect your daughter or son at school, a Security Guard or Security Officer?

[We don't want our schools to be like prisons.](#)

Security understands this; I don't support armed uniformed police officers in schools as they are intended as law enforcement and not security. But, in defense of this there is a deterrence factor in having a uniformed person in place for safety and security. Security can be put in place but it can also be so low key it's almost unnoticeable. Plain clothed Police or Security Officers are viable, covert officers can work as well. What looks like a janitor with a mop can also be a Police Officer or Security Officer, who might also be armed. Never let anyone know just what type of security is in place, it's not uncommon for people to ask us if we are armed. Our response is to change the subject all together and leave them guessing.

Some viable considerations are for schools and municipalities to consider creating actual Security & Safety Departments. With an emphasis on school security while in session they would handle security and safety issues through a Director. off season focus on public areas like the local libraries, parks, city hall, special functions, and other areas. Police are intended for law enforcement duties to provide police protective services to the community at large, not deal with false alarms, filling in as crossing guards, keeping roads blocked off that have flooded out, and other mundane tasks. Most police departments are under staffed, short changed in their budgets, limit overtime, and receive huge numbers of calls; they are over worked as it is. They don't need to have school security issues thrown upon them too.

In the case of the Sandy Hook Incident and Tragedy, it could have been prevented? In all probability, yes. Could the number of deaths been minimized?, Yes as the longer it took the suspect to gain access the more viable time would have existed for responding police. The **key factor is TIME & OBSTRUCTIONS, the longer it takes a suspect to access his viable victims or commit a crime the more likely he is to be discovered, confronted, and apprehended.** Like any crime shootings are no different emotions aside, Means, Motive, Opportunity, and Time are critical factors to such commission. The secondary measure to stop and prevent it is Response, why do most businesses have alarms? Prevention. Why do Police carry firearms in the average career of a police officer they will not have to shoot anyone? Prevention against deadly assault. For every action is a counter action, including criminal acts. Measures should be weighed, looked at, discussed, and be moderate but viable and effective. People trespassing on your property, post it as No Trespassing and look to have them arrested. Someone stealing set up a sting operation to apprehend them. The more physical security obstacles to throw up to them the harder and more discouraged they will become.

I would suggest taking one or two schools and have them set up with all the security features, a display model if you will to be used for training of police and other emergency service providers, to show school administrators how security should be set up as well as teachers, to identify potential situations like shootings, bombing, ambushes, and such. It's a working school during the day but doubles as a training environment for others.

#### The Great Firearms Argument

Putting emotions aside let's be 100% realistic here, the Sandy Hook children who died and the staffers, how many bullets actually passed through them and struck others? Children have little weight that means their ability to stop a bullet is not like that of a 260 grown man, less resistance. Passing or creating firearms legislation is kind of like putting a Band-Aid on a gaping bleeding wound, or closing the barn doors after the horses escaped ( assault weapons are in society all ready and you as legislators can't do anything about it ). Yes you can limit firearms as to the number of rounds they can hold, restrict large clips, but they are still out there in society in the hands of private civilians. You're better off focusing on **COUNTER MEASURES** to prevent shootings in schools and society as a whole with **PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES**, as that you can control, regulate, and apply. If someone is intent on killing others, they will at least try it, the best you or we as a society can do is prevent it. No one can tell is someone will mentally snap and go on a rampage, but, but, you can install that steal door with ballistic glass in it, you can post an undercover armed security officer posing as a teachers aid or office worker. You can take other measures as well which are low key and very effective.

Bill Steven's of Newtown in his testimony put it just right, ( <http://youtu.be/dhXPICjr0Vw> ) and he's right some of the proposals brought by people are at best asinine.

#### The Boom Box for School Administrators, Appointed School Staff, State Licensed Security Officers, Emergency Responders.

A metal box of such length and width and bolted down as to accommodate a single 12 gage pump shotgun with 00. buck shot to be physically mounted in the main office, security office, sub offices or other viable controlled and monitored area marked as emergency stretcher, fire hose, or other low key item. Such box secured with a dual lock requirement thus giving no single person access to it, it would require an administration staff member Principal, Vice Principal, Security Officer, Custodian, or other person in conjunction with any teacher or teachers aid to use two separate combinations, thumbprint, or key to access such weapon. Upon accessing such weapon and identifiable t-shirt or vest as ( being a friendly ) such qualified member shall take such weapon and proceed to where any active shooter is located. Upon finding such active shooter no warning shall be issued to disarm and such active shooter shot on sight. Upon such active shooter going down such responder shall fire a second round at, into, the shooter. Such responder shall move any weapon away from the suspect, advise them not to move, and remain at scene to guard such suspect until authorities arrive. If suspect moves responder is authorized to shoot suspect again ( may be reaching for additional weapon ).

Why a permanent State Security Commission? Why establishing qualified Security Directors? Just some food for thought for legislators, school administrators, and others. Since 9/11 I have stated that what was done on American soil was at best amateurish in nature from a terrorists perspective. From a mindset of a criminal, terrorist, psychopath, think of these viable potentials:

Having seen the results of Sandy Hook and the resulting deaths, meanwhile in other nations the United States is seen as a nation that has killed innocent children. What would happen if an Islamic extremist acting alone or in cooperation with others seized an elementary school not with the intent of holding hostages, but with the intent of destroying the school with explosives? What physical safeguards and plans are in place? Now times that by say ten individuals intent on the same mission targeting ten different elementary schools? Can you imagine the impact; I have told many people that if they really wanted to rip the heart out of a community or society they could target our nation's children as viable targets. ( This situation just got real now ).

Children are being bused home, the bus is full, and making its first stop someone steps out and shoots the driver (A school bus driver in rural Alabama gave his life this past week to defend school children on his bus. When a gunman boarded the bus ) not with the intent of grabbing a child, but with the intent of mass shooting, it's crowded, confined, also a viable target. Has this even been a consideration? Improve school security; they just might ambush a bus, visit the mall or movie theater.

There are so many different possible and viable scenarios for active public shootings, terrorist acts, and worse that the vast majority of these security issues have remained unaddressed by society as a whole that is the sad part as Sandy Hook or some other area school shooting was in fact foreseeable and thus in all likelihood preventable.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Marchetti, Principal, CLSO.  
State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Special Licensee.  
Director of Field Operations.

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