

School Safety Committee

The tragedy which took place in Newtown, CT. in December of 2012 shows just how vulnerable we are as a nation.

In my lifetime, it ranks as the second most horrific day overshadowed only by September 11, 2001.

Both instances were acts of terrorism. One was international and the other domestic.

After Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, we stepped up security at our airports and airline pilots also began to carry firearms in the cabins of their aircraft.

Years ago I travelled to Israel. To my surprise, high school students on field trips were equipped with AR-15 rifles to protect their groups against a terrorist attack.

Kindergarten teachers on field trips with their students were also armed.

Times have changed and terrorism has now come to our shores.

I want to see all of the children in every community protected and kept safe from harm.

I am not suggesting that we arm our teachers but I am suggesting that every community place an armed police officer in every school building across the country. In Stamford, we presently have police officers in our public high schools. What about our middle and elementary schools?

Nothing less than a trained police officer with arrest powers, in contact with headquarters will do.

In order to act as a deterrent, the police officer needs be armed properly and in uniform. He or she needs to be willing to put their life on the line for the protection of our children.

Anyone who objects to placing an armed policeman in each school, due to the cost, needs to think about the value placed on the lives of our children.

The children are the future of this country. We cannot afford to gamble with their lives.

Half measures are not acceptable. We need to learn from the past and come to the table with the resolve and the tax revenue to properly protect the schools.

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