

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2021  
9:00 a.m - 11:22 p.m.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
2331 Phillips Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Reported by:  
JEFFREY R. BABCOCK  
Court Reporter  
For the Record Reporting  
1500 Mahan Drive - Suite 140  
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1 APPEARANCES :

- 2 BOB GUALTIERI, CHAIR
- BRUCE BARTLETT
- 3 MIKE CARROLL
- DOUGLAS DODD
- 4 JAMES HARPRING
- GRADY JUDD
- 5 MELISSA LARKIN-SKINNER
- CHRIS NELSON
- 6 RYAN PETTY
- MARSHA POWERS
- 7 MAX SCHACHTER
- PAM STEWART
- 8 RICHARD SWEARINGEN
- KEVIN LYSTAD
- 9 SIMONE MARSTILLER
- JOSEFINA TAMAYO
- 10 JACOB OLIVA
- SHEVAUN HARRIS

11 ATTENDEES :

- 12 PATRICK CROUGH
- 13 TIM HAY
- TONY MONTALTO
- 14 THOMAS JAMES

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. I've got  
3 about three minutes after 9:00, we're going to call  
4 the meeting to order. Jennifer, if you would, please  
5 go ahead and call the roll.

6 MS. MILLER: Okay. Good morning. We have  
7 Commissioner Bartlett? I can see you on there, but  
8 you're muted.

9 COMMISSIONER BARTLETT: Yeah, I'm here. I'm  
10 sorry, I just undid it.

11 MS. MILLER: Okay, Senator Book will not be  
12 joining us. Commissioner Carroll?

13 COMMISSIONER CARROLL: Here.

14 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Dodd?

15 COMMISSIONER DODD: I'm here. Good morning.

16 MS. MILLER: Good morning. Commissioner  
17 Harpring?

18 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Here.

19 MS. MILLER: Sheriff Judd? We'll come back  
20 to Sheriff Judd. Commissioner Larkin-Skinner?

21 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: I'm here.

22 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Nelson?

23 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Here.

24 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Petty?

25 COMMISSIONER PETTY: Here.

1 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Powers?

2 COMMISSIONER POWERS: Here.

3 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Schachter?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Here.

5 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Stewart?

6 COMMISSIONER STEWART: Here.

7 MS. MILLER: Commissioner Swearingen's in the  
8 room with us. Commissioner Lystad?

9 COMMISSIONER LYSTAD: Here.

10 MS. MILLER: And Sheriff Gualtieri.  
11 Secretary Marstiller?

12 SECRETARY MARSTILLER: Here.

13 MS. MILLER: Secretary Tamayo?

14 SECRETARY TAMAYO: Here. Present.

15 MS. MILLER: Mr. Oliva?

16 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Here.

17 MS. MILLER: And Secretary Harris?

18 SECRETARY HARRIS: Here.

19 MS. MILLER: Sheriff Judd, did you join us?  
20 I see you on there, but it's muted. Okay, so for  
21 right now we have everyone except Senator Book and  
22 Sheriff Judd.

23 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. We've had some  
24 changes in personnel, Secretary Marstiller has  
25 switched in her role from DJJ over to AHCA; Secretary

1 Harris welcome; and Secretary Tamayo, thank you for  
2 being with us. So we've had some shifts with the ex  
3 officio members of the Commission, I just want to make  
4 sure that we welcome you and announce that, and thank  
5 you for being with us.

6 We thought it was important to, even if  
7 somewhat briefly and via Zoom here and remote, be able  
8 to just get together and talk about a few things that  
9 are ongoing and get some updates. We had hoped that  
10 this meeting would be an in-person meeting, but again  
11 because of COVID, that's not possible. I hope that  
12 before the end of the year we will be able to do an  
13 in-person meeting down in south Florida and continue  
14 the Commission's work, and we'll have a discussion  
15 about that at the end, about the thoughts y'all have,  
16 and where you want to go.

17 And so this meeting this morning, as you can  
18 see from the agenda is more of an update, kind of a  
19 check-in status. We're not calling witnesses, but we  
20 will get some presentations -- or receive some  
21 presentations on where things stand.

22 A couple things I want to cover up front, I  
23 think first and foremost, is for the legislative  
24 session. We know that the two bills that were pending  
25 in last year's session, House Bill 7065 and Senate

1 Bill 7040, which were fairly extensive bills, and they  
2 were merged together towards the end, and they  
3 literally died on the floor in the waning moments of  
4 the 2020 legislative session. Sometimes those things  
5 just happen for a variety of reasons, and so we did  
6 not have a school safety bill that passed in 2020.

7 I've been in contact with President Simpson  
8 and with Speaker Sprowls, and they are willing to  
9 consider a school safety bill this year. They've  
10 asked representatives of both chambers to craft a  
11 committee bill that's in the process of being crafted,  
12 so we don't have that yet -- I had hoped that we would  
13 be able to have something to share with you at this  
14 juncture. I don't have anything to share with you,  
15 but I hope we'll have something when session starts  
16 next week. But you know, we're still in plenty of  
17 time, especially with committee bills, and they've had  
18 it now for several weeks, and I know that they're  
19 working on it. So as soon as we have the proposed  
20 committee bills, we'll be able to share that with you.

21 I can tell you from my discussions, though,  
22 with members in both chambers is that what they're  
23 looking to do is to try and get passed much of what  
24 was in 7040 and 7065, because we thought it was  
25 important last year, it remains important or we

1 wouldn't have asked for it, and that's the consensus  
2 of this Commission, and so we want to pick up where we  
3 left off and try and get some those things passed.

4 This is going to be a very tough session for  
5 the legislature because of how they're operating. You  
6 know, this is -- you know, the senate doesn't have  
7 anybody in at all, it's all remote; the house is  
8 limited, I think committee meetings are going to be,  
9 you know, somewhat limited. And so -- and they've got  
10 a lot of work to do as far as COVID and budget, et  
11 cetera, so I think the approach is going to be is to  
12 see if we can get through the things that didn't get  
13 through last year, and then for anything new, or old  
14 as they would say, that's probably going to have to  
15 wait until next year.

16 So -- but let's see where the bill comes out,  
17 and as soon as it comes out, we can share it. If we  
18 need to have another meeting to talk about it, we can  
19 certainly do that; but until we see it, we really  
20 can't have much more of a discussion other than me to  
21 share with you what I know, which is that it is going  
22 to pretty much track what was in 7065 and 7040  
23 largely; not totally, but largely. So does anybody  
24 have any questions or anything on that as far as where  
25 we are in the legislative process for 2021?

1           Okay. I want to update you just on the  
2 Guardian funding. As you know -- and as I received a  
3 lot of questions about that, as you know, the original  
4 funding which was 67 million, some of it was used, the  
5 short version is is that there was a pot of money  
6 sitting there until spring of last year when, in the  
7 COVID situation crisis, they took that money for  
8 budget purposes, so it left no funding for the  
9 training of Guardians.

10           And we had discussions with Commissioner  
11 Corcoran about it, I know he's had discussions with  
12 the governor's office about it, but right now where it  
13 is, unless anybody from DOE, Chancellor Oliva, if you  
14 have any update or anything you want to add to that,  
15 but the way it is right now is that each individual  
16 district is having to foot the bill for the Guardian  
17 funding. I know we have a class that is finishing  
18 here now in Pinellas that we're doing, and I'm billing  
19 the school district for it, so -- and they're going to  
20 have to pay for it.

21           So if there's a way that the state comes up  
22 with money in this interim period, then they can  
23 reimburse the districts; but right now the last word I  
24 had is is that it's in the works but it hasn't been  
25 approved yet for funding, so -- and then we'll see for



1 next year whether in the FY '21/'22 budget, whether  
2 the legislature appropriates any money for the  
3 Guardian program. But right now, that's where it is.

4 Chancellor Oliva, is there anything you want  
5 to add to that or --

6 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: I think you pretty much  
7 summed it up well, and we look forward to working  
8 through this session; and the governor, through the  
9 proposed budget, has doubled the previous allocation  
10 and shown a strong commitment for securing these  
11 dollars in the future, but we're just navigating  
12 through this school year now and working with each  
13 district, so --

14 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yeah, and the districts,  
15 you know -- and I know that there -- they do get their  
16 safe school allocation, so they do have, you know,  
17 money, and I believe that the sheriffs around the  
18 state are doing what I'm doing, which is to just bill  
19 the school district and -- because the Guardian  
20 training has to be done because it's a requirement  
21 that you have a safe school officer on every campus,  
22 and we were able to, from operating, if you will, the  
23 -- some of the equipment is that we were able to get  
24 together with all the superintendents and the  
25 sheriffs, and DOE was great about this and very

1 helpful in this, is is that with some of the  
2 end-of-year money from the last fiscal year, we were  
3 able to purchase some of that equipment.

4 So really the bill that's on the table was  
5 really the actual cost of training and the backgrounds  
6 and the screening; so the psychologicals, the drug  
7 screens, the cost of the trainers, some of those  
8 things; but stuff like uniforms, equipment,  
9 ammunition, targets, you know, the hard costs, all  
10 those were already covered, so you know, I think DOE  
11 was great and should be recognized for really trying  
12 to help everybody out to get in the best possible  
13 place. But we'll see what happens, and we'll keep you  
14 updated on the Guardian program. Anybody have any  
15 questions on that?

16 Next thing I want to talk about is the -- and  
17 update you on is the Broward radio tower issue. I've  
18 had some communications with County Administrator  
19 Bertha Henry down in Broward County. We know that  
20 they needed 16 towers to make the system come to life  
21 and to replace it and -- the old radio system down  
22 there. They had that stalemate in Hollywood over that  
23 16th tower. If you'll recall, they decided to move  
24 ahead and replace the system with just the 15 towers.  
25 And what I've been told by the county administrator

1 now is is that the City of Hollywood has now decided  
2 that it will not oppose the 16th tower to be placed in  
3 West Lake Park.

4 So they're going to move ahead with it, but  
5 it's going to take some time to erect it, so that they  
6 are making -- have made progress with that. The good  
7 news is is that Hollywood has backed down from their  
8 opposition, and they're going to move forward with it.  
9 But right now it's operating on 15 towers, they don't  
10 have the 16th, but the good news is that they appear  
11 to have permission from Hollywood, or a lack of  
12 opposition from Hollywood, so that should be moving  
13 forward.

14 The best I can tell, and I'm going to follow  
15 up with some of the stakeholders down there, again, in  
16 the near future, and certainly before our next  
17 meeting, which will hopefully be an in-person meeting,  
18 is a situation with ORCAT, the Office of Regional  
19 Communication and Technology in Broward where we had  
20 that presentation; and our last meeting where there  
21 was a lot of discord, and probably to some degree  
22 dysfunction. It seems to be better, and it seems to  
23 be moving in the right direction and that's a good  
24 sign. So if I get anything more on that, I'll let you  
25 know, and I'll certainly get an update. What I hope

1 to do is to bring people in, bring witnesses in and  
2 get updates and all, but we'll do that when we have  
3 our next in-person meeting.

4 The grand jury's third interim report of  
5 course went out -- we sent that out to you all, and  
6 that went out in December; you all have a copy of it.  
7 And the grand jury is continuing its work, I believe  
8 that they were supposed to be done in a year, but  
9 because of COVID, the Supreme Court extended it, and I  
10 believe they're getting close to wrapping up; but when  
11 we actually have a final report from the grand jury, I  
12 don't know. Of course, their proceedings were all  
13 confidential under law, so -- but I think that they're  
14 getting close to wrapping up, from what I understand.  
15 So that's about the best I can tell you as far as the  
16 grand jury's concerned.

17 So anything -- any questions on any of that,  
18 Broward County, radio towers, ORCAT, grand jury?  
19 Commissioner Schachter, go ahead.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Sheriff, the grand  
21 jury made several recommendations in the latest  
22 report. Do you know if the legislature has any  
23 intention to put that, you know, into the school  
24 safety legislation? You know, I would certainly like  
25 to -- you know, for the Commission to recommend those

1 recommendations, or are you going to talk about that  
2 later?

3 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: No, we can talk about it  
4 now. I know, Mr. Schachter, I know, okay, that the  
5 legislature's very aware of the recommendations in  
6 that third interim report by the grand jury. I don't  
7 know whether they are going to include those in any  
8 legislation for this year, given the circumstances  
9 that we're in.

10 I can tell you is that, you know, one of the  
11 things that's in there, while it seems maybe at first  
12 blush to be something that would be, you know, quote,  
13 "a good idea," or it has some appeal to it is the  
14 recommendation in there about the school police  
15 departments being abolished or coming under the  
16 sheriff. That is not as easy as it sounds; in fact,  
17 it's much more complicated. So I don't think that any  
18 big lift like that is something that the legislature  
19 could or should undertake; that's very complicated,  
20 and it would take a real study. And when you're  
21 taking entire police agencies, you know, like in Palm  
22 Beach County, Miami-Dade County, Duval, Pinellas, and  
23 all these that have many, many, many cops, and a whole  
24 infrastructure, and how they're set up, that is not  
25 something that can just be done easily or quickly.

1 And maybe there's a question, while I see where  
2 they're going with that; in discussions I've had with  
3 other sheriffs, it would require a lot of  
4 consideration before something that bold was done.

5 So if those are the things you're talking  
6 about in there, I don't think that that would -- that  
7 particular item would or should happen this year.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Would you also put  
9 the banned district-run building departments in that  
10 category, or would that be a much easier lift?

11 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: I don't think that's an  
12 easy lift at all, either. I don't think so. And  
13 again, I don't speak for the legislature, I know  
14 they're aware of that, but I think that anything like  
15 that where you're taking these major pieces of  
16 infrastructure and shifting them to a smaller  
17 component of government would be something that really  
18 has to be studied and really has to -- there has to be  
19 a true transition plan if that were to happen, and  
20 it's really got to be studied from an unintended  
21 consequences and an impacts perspective.

22 I don't know -- we have Commissioner Dodd,  
23 who's a school board member, I don't know if you hear  
24 anything along those lines, or whether you share that  
25 sentiment. I can speak to the issue about police

1 departments more so than I can about the school  
2 building departments and that issue, but I don't know  
3 if there's anything you want to add on that? You  
4 don't have to.

5 COMMISSIONER DODD: I -- no, I mean, I kind  
6 of agree with your perspective on that, it would be a  
7 pretty big push on that.

8 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: So I think that those are  
9 things -- and I also think, you know, Mr. Schachter,  
10 that this is -- and while the grand jury report speaks  
11 for itself, it is an interim report. And I also think  
12 that, you know, for some people that I've talked to,  
13 they really want to see the final report by the grand  
14 jury, and hopefully we'll get to see that this year.

15 And I think it's also important to see that  
16 final report and what's in it, because that brings all  
17 of the grand jury's work together in one place with  
18 everything, and all their final recommendations,  
19 because they're still working. So you know some may  
20 say well, that's a recommendation, the city interim  
21 report, then it might be premature even until we see  
22 the final report from the grand jury.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Right. Right.

24 Okay.

25 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody have anything

1 else on any of that? So I think most of you are aware  
2 of Alyssa's Law, that was a separate bill that passed  
3 the legislature last year, but a panic alarm system in  
4 all of the close to 4,000 schools in the State of  
5 Florida; and there was funding for it, there was a  
6 procurement process; Commissioner Harpring,  
7 represented us, meaning the Commission, during that  
8 procurement process. And I'll just ask him to give us  
9 an update as to where that is.

10 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Thank you, Sheriff.  
11 Just did an ITN for the mobile panic alert system went  
12 out, there were ten submissions, we went through  
13 multiple days of multiple presentations every day, and  
14 that was a very interesting process to be a part of.  
15 I want to compliment the DOE staff and the SMEs for  
16 their participation and everything that we were able  
17 to bring to the table in terms of evaluating  
18 presentations.

19 And for the most part, they were very, very  
20 well presented and thought through, so at this point  
21 in time, regarding the ITN, nine of the ten companies  
22 that submitted the proposals have been recommended to  
23 the DOE secretary. There are three -- it's my  
24 understanding that there are three notices of intent  
25 to protest, the substance of which I don't have any



1 idea, but those should be -- well, could be required  
2 to be finalized within ten day's notice or the  
3 issuance of rather a recommendation --

4 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Hey, Jim, we're having a  
5 hard time hearing you, at least I am, I don't know if  
6 anybody else is. I don't know if it's on your end, or  
7 Jennifer, is it somewhere in the line, but we're  
8 having a real hard time hearing you. A lot of  
9 background --

10 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: How about that, is  
11 that better?

12 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Still about the same.

13 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Okay, well, I'll try  
14 to speak up, I've never been --

15 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: That's better now.

16 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: I'll try to do that.  
17 Most people are happy not to hear me --

18 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Because it's hard to  
19 hear, so can you kind of recap a little bit?

20 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: Okay, Sheriff. Most  
21 people are happy not to hear me, I'll try to get  
22 through it this time.

23 So nine out of ten of the proposals were  
24 recommended to the secretary of DOE, and there were  
25 three protests that were filed in that regard; those

1 would have to be submitted by tomorrow -- it's my  
2 understanding there's a ten-day window -- so the  
3 process is still ongoing, but I wanted to compliment  
4 the DOH -- or excuse me, the DOE staff and the SMEs,  
5 everyone was very interested and involved in going  
6 through the process.

7           Additionally, as I say, we met for a number  
8 of days throughout the day on these presentations, so  
9 we're hopeful that within the time frame allotted that  
10 we'll have all of those protests completed, as well  
11 as, you know, a final -- final determination from the  
12 secretary. And it's possible that you know, more than  
13 one is selected, but that's something that's outside  
14 of our purview.

15           I did want to just very briefly in just a few  
16 seconds circle back on the legislative and -- and  
17 being close and familiar with a number of, you know,  
18 state senators and representatives, I do want to echo  
19 that, what Sheriff Gualtieri said, that they are aware  
20 of what's going on.

21           I do become a little cynical, though, because  
22 for certainly Mr. Schachter, Mr. Petty, the other  
23 families of the victims and the survivors, this is  
24 real for them, and certainly real for all of us,  
25 and -- but as time goes by, sadly to say other

1 priorities do take place. We did have COVID, there  
2 are economic concerns, so I think to the extent that  
3 we can stay visible and stay vocal for our desires  
4 relative to school safety legislation, I think that's  
5 very, very important. Thank you, Sheriff.

6 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. Anybody have  
7 any questions for Commissioner Harpring? Commissioner  
8 Dodd, go ahead.

9 COMMISSIONER DODD: Yes. In relation to the  
10 Alyssa Law appropriations, I know those -- I think  
11 there were nine you said that were approved, how is  
12 that going to roll out? I mean, we have to have this  
13 in place by next school year, which is August, so I'm  
14 just curious, when will districts know about the  
15 funding mechanism there for those approved  
16 contractors?

17 COMMISSIONER HARPRING: I'll defer to  
18 Mr. Oliva on that.

19 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Go ahead, Mr. Oliva.

20 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Thank you. So if I could  
21 just kind of speak to this topic in a broad brush, the  
22 ITN process has not been complete, so I don't think  
23 it's fair for us to be talking about something that's  
24 currently going through a process, and then when that  
25 information is finalized, we will be able to provide

1 that support shortly there coming; but this is  
2 something I don't think we should be talking about in  
3 a public forum until we've finished that entire  
4 procurement process.

5 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yeah, fair enough. And  
6 it is still ongoing, so we'll just you know, leave it  
7 at. I think that where we really wanted an update was  
8 the fact that there was a process, it occurred; that  
9 it's still ongoing. I think it was publicly announced  
10 that there was an award, but there's protests, and  
11 that's probably about all to be said at this point.  
12 So we'll just leave it there for now, and then as soon  
13 as we can, we'll come back and update y'all on it.

14 All right. We're a couple minutes ahead of  
15 schedule, which is good. The next thing that we need  
16 to do is here is to review and approve the meeting  
17 minutes from the August 31st, 2020 meeting. Y'all  
18 received those, take a look at them, does anybody have  
19 a motion to approve the minutes?

20 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: I'll make that  
21 motion.

22 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay, the motion is by  
23 Commissioner Larkin-Skinner. Do we have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER LYSTAD: Second.

25 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Who -- Commissioner

1 Carroll, was that you -- or, no, Commissioner Lystad  
2 was the second. All -- any discussion on that? All  
3 in favor signify by saying aye.

4 (Chorus of ayes.)

5 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Any opposed, same. All  
6 right, said motion carries, the minutes from the  
7 August 31st, 2020 meeting are approved.

8 The next thing we have on the agenda is  
9 Director Tim Hay who is the new director of the Office  
10 of Statewide School Safety, the Office of Safe  
11 Schools, at the Department of Education. And Tim  
12 welcome, and we'll turn it over to you for your  
13 presentation on the update -- Tim's going to do two  
14 things for us: He's going to update us on the Office  
15 of Safe Schools and where they are; and also, we  
16 recently updated -- a couple additional questions, but  
17 we recently updated the ongoing survey that we've been  
18 doing now for the last couple years, where the  
19 districts are in compliance with either the law and/or  
20 school safety best practices. So Tim has a two-part  
21 presentation for us. Tim, I'll turn it over to you.

22 DIRECTOR HAY: Thank you, Sheriff. And I  
23 just want you to know that you, your department, and  
24 community have been in our thoughts; what you've been  
25 going through there, I want you to know that.

1           Commission members, you know, those of you  
2           that I haven't had an opportunity to meet I wanted to  
3           give you a little bit about my background. I have a  
4           Bachelor's degree in Criminology from Florida State  
5           University. I've been a sworn law enforcement officer  
6           since 2011, and I served as the Senate Sergeant At  
7           Arms for six years.

8           I came on board with the Department of  
9           Education on October 1st, 2020, and it is great to be  
10          a part of this incredible team here with the Office of  
11          Safe Schools. There's a lot of talented men and women  
12          that wake up each and every day with school safety  
13          being a -- really a mission, and it's great, and it  
14          humbling to be a part of this team. Director Damien  
15          Kelly had had a huge impact, and deserves a lot of  
16          credit for establishing such a strong foundation.

17          I wanted to share some of my recent  
18          activities. It was important for me during, you know,  
19          the first couple of weeks of coming into this role was  
20          to visit Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. I had  
21          an opportunity to visit there, I toured the campus,  
22          met some teachers and faculty, got to visit with them  
23          and get their perspective. I also had the opportunity  
24          to meet with Commissioner Schachter and Mr. Tony  
25          Montalto and just visit with them and share with them,

1 and just really listen. You know, they've done an  
2 incredible thing on improving what we do in regards to  
3 school safety, and it was great to be able to spend  
4 some time visiting with them, and I'm in regular  
5 contact with them as well.

6 I've had the opportunity to speak with the  
7 Florida Sheriff's Association members, and the Florida  
8 Association of District School Superintendents. I was  
9 able to visit with Sheriff Gualtieri and  
10 Superintendent Grego, and you know, trying to get  
11 plugged in and get involved at the district level.

12 I've also conducted virtual meetings with our  
13 school safety specialists, as well as participated in  
14 school safety check-ins with the regional staff. Just  
15 last week I was able to observe a full-scale school  
16 safety exercise in Seminole County at the invitation  
17 of Captain Rick Francis. And Captain Francis has just  
18 really been, you know, proactive in everything that  
19 he's done in regards to school safety, and he really  
20 tends to set a high bar, and then keep raising it.

21 And I just wanted to recognize him, you know,  
22 for his leadership in the school safety community. He  
23 has always been generous with his time and expertise,  
24 and he'll be transitioning into a new role within  
25 Seminole County Sheriff's Office, and I wish him all

1 the best, and we wish him all the best in his new  
2 mission there. I'm looking forward to an increased  
3 presence in the district, and I'll be more to happy to  
4 invite Commission members to join us on visits in your  
5 area.

6 So, talking about our regional staff, the  
7 Office of Safe Schools regional staff provide  
8 technical assistance and guidance on best practices  
9 for school safety and security. The region staff make  
10 announced as well as unannounced compliance visits to  
11 schools to review all safety and security practices.  
12 Since the beginning of this school year, staff have  
13 completed over 750 school monitoring visit. They  
14 share any concerns with the district and the Office of  
15 Safe Schools for prompt and continued follow-up to  
16 ensure requirements are being met. Again, our focus  
17 in everything that we're doing is to remain proactive  
18 with our school safety and security.

19 Specific elements of noncompliance are laid  
20 out in statute. The laws will serve as our guide for  
21 compliance monitoring, and further support for schools  
22 and districts. As compliance requirements expand, our  
23 office will provide ongoing support to districts to  
24 ensure clarity, consistency, and continuity across the  
25 state for all aspects of school safety measures.



1           The primary focus of our region staff is to  
2 look at the potential for specific vulnerabilities,  
3 and communicate those concerns of non-compliance  
4 within schools, including public charter schools and  
5 the district at large. As our staff go around to the  
6 state to visit schools, we're always identifying  
7 opportunities to provide more clarity to the  
8 districts. The Office of Safe Schools is currently  
9 working with our legal team on establishing a rule to  
10 be brought before the June's dated board meeting for  
11 approval.

12           The rule language is still in development,  
13 and will clarify requirements related to school safety  
14 including reporting, training, and monitoring. We'll  
15 be certain to share any updates on the rule with  
16 Sheriff Gualtieri.

17           One of the tools we use is the Florida Safe  
18 School Assessment Tool, or FSSAT. This has been the  
19 subject of a few Commission briefings, and you have  
20 had the opportunity to provide us feedback. This tool  
21 allows schools and officials to identify threats,  
22 vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls.

23           In addition to the individual school and  
24 district assessments, compliance monitoring is  
25 documented within the FSSAT. And I'm pleased to

1 report that in this past year, all the districts and  
2 school assessments were completed as required.

3 In support of the Comprehensive School Threat  
4 Assessment Guidelines, known as CSTAG, we adopted in  
5 2019, we have a process that focuses on behaviors that  
6 pose a threat to school safety; that serves as a  
7 preventative measure to identify needs and provide  
8 support to students. For this reason, we often refer  
9 to them as CARE assessments.

10 In the summer of 2019, we hosted three  
11 state-wide threat or CARE assessment  
12 trainer-to-trainer sessions for approximately 90  
13 district staff. Last fall, the office started  
14 conducting supplemental training for schools -- for  
15 school threat assessment teams statewide. We are  
16 evolving the program to include annual threat  
17 assessment refreshers and overview presentations to  
18 raise awareness of the nature of the program. Threat  
19 assessment is a model of care for students long-term.  
20 Staff have conducted 42 training sessions since  
21 October 2020, with another five scheduled. 324  
22 participants have been trained since January of 2021.

23 Office of Safe Schools staff continue  
24 providing technical assistance and training to  
25 districts and school-based teams to strengthen efforts

1 to ensure state-wide consistency, and create  
2 sustainability for threat assessments. And this  
3 really helps us take that proactive approach to being  
4 engaged in that way to provide that support for our  
5 students.

6 Another tool we utilize is School  
7 Environmental Safety Incident Report, known as SESIR.  
8 The new stand-alone SESIR rule was approved by the  
9 state Board of Education in May 2020. The rule was  
10 drafted to address concerns raised by this Commission.  
11 The new rule provides clear reporting guidance and  
12 updated definitions, as well as specific requirements  
13 for training and accountability. It was developed  
14 with input from districts and agency partners,  
15 including FDLE and DJJ.

16 33 SESIR training sessions, 22 virtual and 11  
17 in person, have been conducted during this school year  
18 with additional training scheduled. Every district  
19 has access to either the online or in-person training.  
20 The Department is pursuing more frequent collection of  
21 SESIR data which will help us and the districts  
22 improve data quality. The accuracy of SESIR data is a  
23 significant focus of the Office of Safe Schools, and  
24 one identified by the statewide grand jury in their  
25 latest report.

1           And we mentioned Alyssa's Law which was  
2 passed by the legislature in 2020, and we're grateful  
3 for Senator Book for her leadership on this bill.  
4 Each public and public charter school will implement a  
5 mobile panic alert system by the fall of 2021.  
6 Systems will ensure real-time coordination among first  
7 responders and transmit 911 calls and mobile  
8 activations. On February 15th, the Department  
9 announced its intended decisions to contract with nine  
10 vendors for this service.

11           Now, I'd like to talk to you about the  
12 results of our district survey that we conducted last  
13 month.

14           SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Hey, Tim?

15           DIRECTOR HAY: Yes, sir?

16           SHERIFF GUALTIERI: If you don't mind, at  
17 this point, just going through the survey and maybe it  
18 would be easier for Commissioners. If anybody has any  
19 questions for Director Hay on the presentation  
20 regarding the Office of Safe Schools and some updates,  
21 if you want to ask them now, go ahead while it's  
22 fresh. Does anybody have anything for Director Hay on  
23 what he's presented so far? Mr. Schachter, go ahead.

24           COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Thank you. Thank  
25 you, Director Hay. You and your team are doing a

1 great job, so thank you for everything you've done  
2 there.

3 You know, in reference to SESIR, is there a  
4 requirement that every district receive mandatory  
5 training? I know that there's a website with some  
6 training on it, but I'm wondering what the statute  
7 says as far as mandatory SESIR training from the  
8 state.

9 DIRECTOR HAY: Yeah, that was developed in  
10 the rule that was approved May 2020, and in the rule  
11 it does require that the superintendent identify  
12 someone to be trained in SESIR.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. So do you  
14 think that that is sufficient? You know, I know that  
15 training is a major issue with the accuracy of the  
16 reporting. You know, I personally, you know, am  
17 doubtful that we're going to have a hundred percent  
18 accuracy if you do not have every principal or  
19 assistant principal undergoing this training; I think  
20 it's critical. So I'm wondering if you think that is  
21 sufficient that you have a superintendent appoint one  
22 person, or it needs to be strengthened?

23 DIRECTOR HAY: Yeah, thank you for that  
24 question. So it's whoever the superintendent  
25 determines, so it's more than one person, typically;

1 and so I think the engagement we've had with the  
2 districts is that they're being proactive in reaching  
3 out to the training, I think -- and that's all about  
4 fostering those relationships; that's been a huge help  
5 having those region team members out in the field to  
6 establish those relationships.

7 I think the more frequent reporting is going  
8 to be a huge help so that if there is some numbers  
9 that either look high or low that we can be reaching  
10 out and correcting and providing the training that's  
11 necessary to make sure that there's consistency  
12 statewide.

13 So that's a huge focus of mine is -- and the  
14 office, is just to make sure that what we're receiving  
15 is consistently being reported. You know, you're only  
16 as good as the data that you have, and we want to be  
17 intentional where we place resources, and so if we can  
18 provide a little bit more structured accountability  
19 for that, we'll be better for it.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Thank you.

21 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Did anybody else have any  
22 questions for Director Hay? Okay, go ahead, Tim.

23 DIRECTOR HAY: Okay. If we could put the  
24 next slide up please. Okay, as a result of the  
25 survey, we currently have 3,753 traditional public

1 schools and public charter schools. Some schools are  
2 co-located on a single campus. We have a total of  
3 3,637 campuses statewide. Safe School Officer  
4 coverage is at 4,350 total, with 3,002 law enforcement  
5 officers, and 1,348 Coach Aaron Feis Guardians. Next  
6 slide please.

7 We asked districts about policies or  
8 procedures addressing Safe School Officer coverage at  
9 schools for those times when the assigned Safe School  
10 Officer is absent. For those 27 districts that  
11 responded "other" here, they generally addressed this  
12 issue via their agreements with law enforcement  
13 agencies. One district responded "no," since their  
14 agreement with the sheriff's office was verbal. Next  
15 slide.

16 Districts were asked if their sheriff had  
17 allowed a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian program, 47  
18 replied "yes," and 20 replied "no."

19 Regarding school boards that have allowed the  
20 Coach Aaron Feis Guardian program, 23 districts  
21 responded "no," and 44 districts responded "yes."

22 40 districts noted that their sheriff have  
23 provided Guardian training, only those 44 districts  
24 that had Guardian programs would answer the next  
25 several Guardian-specific questions.

1           13 districts report they had Guardians  
2 trained by sheriffs in another county. Note again  
3 that only 44 responded.

4           Eight of the 26 districts that have a school  
5 or schools covered only by Guardians report that those  
6 Guardians do not have a law enforcement radio.

7           This is a two-part question: It first asks  
8 if the district has shared its active assailant  
9 response plan or procedure with all district  
10 employees; and second, if they have all received  
11 training on the plan or procedure, 64 districts  
12 answered "yes" to both parts of this question.  
13 Again -- and going back to that last side, again, the  
14 statutory requirement is that school districts and  
15 public charter school boards adopt an active assailant  
16 response plan and certify that all school personnel  
17 have been trained annually. Next slide.

18           All districts reported that their schools  
19 conduct monthly active assailant drills. 45 districts  
20 replied that they have schools -- students do not  
21 physically move or react during the active assailant  
22 drills. Most of the "yes" responses are due to COVID  
23 protocols.

24           So of the 45 districts with schools where  
25 students do not physically move during active



1 assailant drills, 37 districts made that change due to  
2 current COVID protocols. Most of our school districts  
3 incorporate movement of students during active  
4 assailant drills. 56 districts report that their  
5 schools do require students to evade, in addition to  
6 locking down or hiding.

7 This question asks if all school employees  
8 either had a district-issued device or access to a  
9 device to immediately communicate a threat in an  
10 emergency. Currently 43 districts responded "yes."  
11 Beginning with the '21/'22 school year, all public and  
12 all public charter schools will be required to  
13 implement a mobile panic alert system under Alyssa's  
14 Law.

15 This question asks if all school employees  
16 have a district-issued device, or access to a device,  
17 to immediately receive notification of a threat in an  
18 emergency. 47 districts responded "yes" here.  
19 Regarding this question and the prior one, some  
20 districts use mobile phone apps that employees can  
21 download to receive or communicate active assailant  
22 information, but these are not usually district-issued  
23 devices.

24 This question applies to schools that are  
25 completely fenced: Does every school in the district

1 require gates to be closed and locked, or staffed when  
2 not being used for active ingress and egress? Some  
3 districts responded "no" here because the main entry  
4 gate remains open for visitors to access the parking  
5 area and main entrance. Our regional staff reinforced  
6 the need for gates to remain closed and locked during  
7 school hours.

8 Currently 15 districts do not require that  
9 gates be staffed when opened. Again, our regional  
10 staff are continually discussing best safety practices  
11 during their monitoring visits.

12 We ask districts which other suspicious  
13 activity reporting apps or tools they use, support, or  
14 promote, in addition area FortifyFL. The numbers here  
15 will add up to more than 67 since some districts have  
16 multiple tip lines; some are administrated by the  
17 sheriff's office, and others are district-managed  
18 hotlines. All districts report having a  
19 board-approved zero-tolerance policy and agreements  
20 with their local law enforcement agencies as required  
21 by the zero-tolerance statute. Also, every district  
22 responded that they behavioral threat assessment tools  
23 at all their schools.

24 When asked if a sworn law enforcement officer  
25 participates on every school threat assessment team in

1 the district, two districts responded no. Currently  
2 the statute reads the "Threat assessment team shall  
3 include persons with expertise in counseling,  
4 instruction, school administration and law  
5 enforcement." While the statute does not require a  
6 sworn law enforcement officer, only sworn officers  
7 would have access to relevant law enforcement  
8 information. Our draft rule on compliance would  
9 address and clarify this requirement.

10 All districts either use the state's  
11 standardized behavioral threat assessment instrument,  
12 or they are in the process of implementing it. In  
13 reference to the one district responding "no" to this  
14 question, that district was using an earlier version  
15 of CSTAG to create their own assessment model. They  
16 are currently training staff and transitioning to the  
17 updated CSTAG model which will be completed by the end  
18 of next month.

19 As I mentioned in the office update and the  
20 beginning of my presentation, staff had been very busy  
21 delivering CSTAG training to districts. Two  
22 additional sessions were delivered in central Florida  
23 so far this week. Assessing at-risk students in order  
24 to provide them critical intervention services is a  
25 priority function of the state's prevention strategy.

1           And I'd like to note, while all survey  
2 responses are not yet at a hundred percent, we have a  
3 lot of progress to show. We have regional staff  
4 visiting schools identifying improvements to their  
5 safety practices. Those same staff established  
6 partnerships within their region and share successful  
7 practices that they have observed in other schools.  
8 COVID has delayed some of our efforts, but we are  
9 striving for a hundred percent compliance on school  
10 safety requirements and best practices.

11           Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity  
12 to present today. It is in all of our best interests  
13 to maintain a proactive stance on school safety.  
14 Florida is leading the way, and we must continue to be  
15 focused and driven in our mission. Three years after  
16 the tragedy at MSD, it is still difficult to  
17 articulate the feelings of sadness, heartbreak, and  
18 loss that we all feel.

19           Through this unspeakable tragedy and grief,  
20 the MSD community, this Commission, and the families  
21 came together with strength and resolve to turn  
22 anguish into action. So much of this program's  
23 strength is due to the vision of the MSD families, and  
24 the dedication of those school safety professionals  
25 who are committed to keeping schools safe every day.

1 It's our goal to continue to work together with you to  
2 make positive changes to ensure all schools are safe.  
3 Thank you.

4 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Thank you. Are there  
5 Commissioners that have any questions on the survey  
6 for Director Hay? Mr. Schachter, go ahead.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Director Hay, in  
8 regards to a couple of your slides, if you could go  
9 back, you -- there was a slide referencing that on  
10 certain counties Guardians did not have a radio. Is  
11 -- you know, I think that's extremely important.  
12 Sheriff, you know, you talk about that very, very  
13 frequently. You've got to be able to call for an  
14 emergency, call a code red, if you don't have a radio,  
15 obviously that can't happen, and you know, bad things  
16 are going to happen. So can you go back to that  
17 slide? How many districts, and is there any plan for  
18 funding or to make sure that this is fixed?

19 DIRECTOR HAY: Yeah, that's a good question.  
20 That's one of the ones that our region team are trying  
21 to work directly with those districts on coming up  
22 with some solutions. I think some of the things that  
23 we're seeing is sometimes we have security companies  
24 that provide the Guardian support to a school and to a  
25 district, and so the challenges are who's going to

1 issue that radio specifically to that type when it's a  
2 vendor and it's not necessarily a district employee?

3 So there is some funding challenges, you  
4 know, that I've heard within those that are  
5 represented that don't have those. I can tell you  
6 that it's not common; there are situations that it's  
7 there, and it needs to be addressed and, you know,  
8 improved on. We want to see those -- you know, our  
9 job here is to get those numbers down, and so  
10 hopefully we can sit down and have some conversations  
11 with the school superintendent and with the sheriff to  
12 bridge that gap and find some solutions to issuing  
13 those radios that are needed.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. So do we have  
15 all the counties represented here? It doesn't look  
16 like it on this slide. That's 36 plus eight --

17 DIRECTOR HAY: That's the ones that have  
18 Guardians. So they're not (unintelligible.)

19 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Got it, the other  
20 counties have SROs, so they -- they have radios.

21 DIRECTOR HAY: That's right.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Got it. And then in  
23 reference to this slide, it mentioned schools that  
24 have not given active assailant training to everyone,  
25 how many schools was that again? It was just several;

1 right? And what was the reason why?

2 DIRECTOR HAY: So let me find that slide.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: In the three years  
4 after Parkland, I just don't understand --

5 DIRECTOR HAY: Sure.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: -- why there's  
7 three districts.

8 DIRECTOR HAY: Yeah, some of the feedback  
9 that I'm getting with this one that we've got to work  
10 through with the districts is there are times that you  
11 have substitute teachers that may be on board -- you  
12 know, and they look at these questions, you know,  
13 under a microscope. So "Has your written active  
14 assailant response plan procedure been distributed to  
15 all district employees?" So you know, they may have  
16 received something, but has every district employee  
17 received the whole active assailant response plan?  
18 They may not issue it to every district employee.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay.

20 DIRECTOR HAY: So you know, I think the three  
21 that are represented there are doing a lot of work in  
22 regards to active assailant responses, I mean, that's  
23 the feedback that I'm getting when I'm visiting the  
24 districts is this is a priority to them. I think the  
25 question, you know, is worded in a way that, under an

1 abundance of caution, they put a "no," to answer that  
2 question.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. Okay. At one  
4 point in time -- and maybe, Sheriff, you can answer  
5 this question -- we had talked about developing a  
6 statewide threat assessment tool for the districts to  
7 report into a database; is that still in the plans?

8 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yeah, ideally, yes,  
9 Commissioner Schachter, but the obstacle to it is  
10 funding and development of a statewide database. We  
11 have now a statewide tool that everybody's using  
12 except for that one district, and Director Hay talked  
13 about that, and I've had discussions with them about  
14 that, there's a reason for that in their transition,  
15 so I'd say, you know, we have compliance, but there's  
16 no easy of exchange of information inter-district,  
17 which is what you're getting at, and that's where we  
18 had discussed. So that as a child is moving between  
19 Broward and Miami/Dade and Palm Beach and Brevard or  
20 wherever, that everybody would have access.

21 So I think ideally, but that's, you know,  
22 something that's going to have to be on the list for  
23 the future. Because that would be huge to have a  
24 statewide database, and the cost of that would be  
25 millions, so that's -- I think is the obstacle.



1           COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Right. Right.  
2           Okay. And then lastly, in the grand jury report they  
3           talked about giving the Department of Education  
4           sufficient staff and investigative resources to  
5           provide meaningful oversight, feedback, information to  
6           investigate the completeness and veracity of SESIR  
7           reports. Director Hay, do you feel that you have the  
8           resources that you need to do your job, or do you  
9           think that, you know, that's something that we should  
10          recommend as a Commission?

11          DIRECTOR HAY: I think that we've come a long  
12          way from where we started. I think, you know, we're  
13          very grateful for the additional resources that have  
14          been provided through Department of Education. You  
15          know, I think, you know, we're still trying to be  
16          creative with meeting some of the challenges that we  
17          have, so you know, I think you can always -- you know,  
18          you can always use more, but I think we're really  
19          having an impact with what we have now.

20          Yeah, I still think we have to have our foot  
21          on the gas pedal; it's not time to let off of it, so I  
22          think that, you know, I see this -- you know, I see us  
23          being more engaged. I see us doing more training.  
24          You know, I see this as something that's going to  
25          continue to evolve and grow over time, and so I do

1 think there will be some discussions on some of those  
2 challenges that we face as we try to implement, you  
3 know, positive change moving forward.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: And then Sheriff,  
5 the last question I have is -- and I'm not sure, you  
6 know, maybe, you know, one of the mental health  
7 experts can address this, but I'm very concerned about  
8 the mental health of our students in Florida. You  
9 know, taking into account, you know, this COVID  
10 pandemic everybody is going through, can anyone speak  
11 to that or -- that has a grasp on, you know, the  
12 number of suicides that have happened, the number of  
13 Baker Acts that have happened, you know, during COVID,  
14 you know, addressing the mental of our students? I'm  
15 wondering if anybody has any, you know, input or  
16 comments on that.

17 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, as far as data  
18 goes, Mr. Schachter, on Baker Acts, it gets published  
19 periodically. You can look at the Baker Act through  
20 the University of South Florida, the Baker Act  
21 Reporting Center there, they publish information so  
22 anybody can go on and look at that regarding the  
23 number of Baker Acts that's broken down in all  
24 different types of categories.

25 As far as the number of suicides, there's

1 no -- that I'm aware of, there's no central repository  
2 for that, that's something that -- and even in  
3 districts, and Commissioner Powers or Dodd can speak  
4 to that, there's -- I don't know that the districts  
5 have a reporting on that. And some, as it involves  
6 kids, the districts may not because it would happen  
7 off-campus.

8 So I think, you know, your concern,  
9 rightfully so, about the mental well-being of the kids  
10 is that some of it, and especially if it's a suicide  
11 or suicide attempt is probably going to happen  
12 off-campus, so they wouldn't be in a position to  
13 attract any of that. So I don't know, again, if the  
14 school board members want to weigh in, or if Mr. Oliva  
15 wants to weigh in, and certainly Commission  
16 Larkin-Skinner, so why don't we start with --  
17 Mr. Oliva, go ahead, and then we'll go to Commissioner  
18 Powers.

19 CHANCELLOR OLIVA: Thank you, Sheriff. Thank  
20 you, Mr. Schachter, for asking such a great question  
21 that we could spend a lot of time on navigating, but I  
22 would start by saying, as just kind of a general  
23 overview is maintaining that continuity of services  
24 for our students in a safe and an emotional and  
25 responsive place has been a top priority of

1 Commissioner Corcoran, the Governor's Office, the  
2 First Lady; and in fact, that sense of urgency around  
3 making sure that students are connected to peers and  
4 adults that care about them is then reflected in the  
5 diligence that we've executed with the reopening of  
6 schools, and knew that that was one of the main  
7 reasons why we needed to make sure our schools are  
8 open and our students have a safe place to go.

9 And when we look at what is really that  
10 system of care, and some of that's in the schools, and  
11 as some of the services ramp up going to the private  
12 providers and we have a lot of other experts on here,  
13 but it's really access to student services.  
14 Throughout this pandemic, we have students that need  
15 to see counselors, that need to see psychologists,  
16 that needed to belong to something, be in Little  
17 League, you know, being able to talk to their friends  
18 and not be isolated. So at kind of that universal  
19 level, at kind of what we would call that Tier 1  
20 support, making sure throughout distance learning,  
21 throughout the summer and reopening schools, that was  
22 always at the first and forefront of how do we this in  
23 a safe and compassionate manner?

24 And Florida has been recognized nationally  
25 for being able to do it; other states are still trying

1 to figure out to do so. It's starts with great  
2 leadership, and we've been really fortunate here in  
3 the state to work with some really innovative leaders  
4 that helped us push the boundaries to that system of  
5 care.

6 But then even, kind of from that school end  
7 as well, we have that kind of path that goes down for  
8 access to student support services for our system and  
9 our families, but also access to the mental health  
10 education. And in fact, that conversation hasn't  
11 slowed down either with Commission Corcoran and our  
12 state board, and we've recently, within the past year,  
13 have adopted some state board rules that look at  
14 required instruction in reporting on how do we support  
15 students with mental health education, substance abuse  
16 education, and human trafficking. And for the first  
17 time this last summer, districts had to report to us  
18 how they're providing mental health education to all  
19 of our students.

20 And while we have not arrived in that manner,  
21 there's still a lot of work to do, but that is such a  
22 great question, and part of that question is why we've  
23 had to act at such high levels of urgency. I know  
24 there's other experts on here as well, but I did want  
25 to share that.

1           And then we were blessed with even the  
2           governor's budgets and recommendations for  
3           legislatures to continue the mental health allocation,  
4           and brought forward this school year to add additional  
5           dollars towards that; and our assurances with our  
6           reopening plans that we work with districts and how  
7           they're using their CARES and federal dollars, they  
8           had to explicitly share some of those plans on how do  
9           we make sure we stay connected to students. So  
10          there's a lot of work happening in that arena, but I  
11          think we still have a lot more to do.

12                   SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner Powers, go  
13          ahead.

14                   COMMISSIONER POWERS: Yeah, so I'll echo  
15          everything that Mr. Oliva said. It was -- we have had  
16          amazing support at the local level for mental health.  
17          And in addition to our community support, so while  
18          we've gotten a lot of support from DOE, we are seeking  
19          a lot of support from our community, as it is a  
20          priority for everyone.

21                   But I wanted to talk a little bit about the  
22          Baker Act piece. I know, at least in our county and  
23          surrounding counties, even if a Baker Act happens to a  
24          student that is outside of the school day, there's  
25          still a threat assessment that is completed. So if it

1 happens on a Saturday, the sheriff's department or the  
2 police department notifies the school and there's a  
3 threat assessment, and I believe that the majority of  
4 counties are -- school districts are probably doing  
5 that exact same thing.

6 So just to reassure you, Mr. Schachter, that  
7 just because it happens outside of a school day, we  
8 are keeping track of that, and it's going through the  
9 same process as if it had happened at school.

10 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: And just for the record,  
11 I -- you're correct on that, and I think it's  
12 happening most places, and what I was referring to is  
13 -- because I think his direct question, and it's all  
14 tied together, was suicides. Obviously if you had an  
15 unfortunate -- he was asking about the number of  
16 suicides, if there was a child that committed suicide  
17 at home, as an example, then of course there's not  
18 going to be a threat assessment attended to that, and  
19 the districts aren't keeping any data on the number of  
20 suicides, that I'm aware of; that would be through the  
21 law enforcement agency. But if there's a suicide  
22 threat, suicide ideations or anything, that would be  
23 -- then the districts and the threat assessment teams  
24 at some level are getting involved with that. So I  
25 just want to make sure that you knew what I was

1 talking about too, when I -- but Commissioner Dodd, go  
2 ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER DODD: Yes. And Mr. Schachter,  
4 that's a good question. We have a lot of concerns  
5 over the mental health of our students, especially  
6 with virtual education. And you know, more students  
7 are coming back into brick and mortar, which we see as  
8 a good thing, to get them in face-to-face instruction  
9 around a support group.

10 I will tell you in our county, a mid-size  
11 county in Florida, Citrus County, we've had a good  
12 community response, we've -- the mobile response team  
13 process has worked amazing, we've got a lot of good  
14 things have happened there, we have good  
15 communication. It is a community issue.

16 You know, I'm very sad to say that last night  
17 I got a call from the district superintendent that a  
18 young man in our school district had taken his life,  
19 and that it's very, very shocking, and we have -- at  
20 that school we have a large contingency of counselors  
21 there today to help out, and to work with students and  
22 faculty members and the community, because it's very  
23 devastating. But our community sees it that we're all  
24 in this together and that's what we're trying to do  
25 with our school district, and so I just wanted to



1 mention that to you.

2 Also, you know, it's so good for our students  
3 to be able to participate in extracurricular  
4 activities like sports. You know, we had fall sports,  
5 we've had winter sports, we had spring sports. The  
6 Florida High School Athletic Association and us  
7 districts have worked well to be able to bring that  
8 somewhat sense of normalcy for students to get them  
9 back active, and that's a great thing for a child's  
10 mental health to be able to be a part of a team and  
11 have coaches that really care about developing young  
12 men and women in the athletic spectrum, and that's a  
13 great thing. So those are some of the positive  
14 things, but we're very concerned about mental health  
15 issues with our students. There's no doubt.

16 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Commissioner  
17 Larkin-Skinner, go ahead.

18 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: So  
19 Mr. Schachter, and everyone else, obviously everyone's  
20 echoing the same concerns that we all have for our  
21 youth. Unfortunately most of the data that you talk  
22 about, Mr. Schachter, is lagging data, and we don't  
23 have it all compiled, that I know of. I haven't seen  
24 it yet, but as far as what's happened since last  
25 March.

1           Anecdotally, however, I can tell you that one  
2 of the things I've discussed with many of my peers is  
3 the fact that our children's CSUs and children's  
4 psychiatric hospitals have been busier than before.  
5 We've had more admissions, longer lengths of stay.  
6 Our kids are really struggling with the atmosphere  
7 that we're all living in. There's a lot of family  
8 stress, a lot of stress on the kids. You know, an  
9 online or virtual learning environment is not  
10 conducive for every child to be successful, so they're  
11 falling further and further behind, despite the best  
12 efforts, I believe, of all of our districts.

13           So I think what we need to keep in mind is  
14 this: Even when everything is back to what we  
15 considered normal before the pandemic, that the impact  
16 of this is going to last, and we need to be aware of  
17 that, and we need to be prepared for that. And the  
18 mental health allocation, I think, the fact that it's  
19 in the governor's budget and he added to it is  
20 fantastic. And we need the legislature to hear how  
21 important this topic is, because all of the mental  
22 health services in Florida, because of the budget  
23 issues because of the pandemic, are at risk of being  
24 cut. So I think any voice that can step up and say  
25 "Listen, this is important, the mental health of our

1 youth in this state, they're our future, is  
2 important," will be really helpful for the legislature  
3 and the governor to continue hearing.

4 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. Anybody else?  
5 Go ahead, Mr. Schachter.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Yeah. Chairwoman  
7 Larkin-Skinner, I was just looking online, and -- at  
8 the USF report that Chairman Gualtieri mentioned, and  
9 it looks like for children under 18, there were -- you  
10 know, if I go back to 2016/2017, there were 32  
11 thousand involuntary Baker Acts; and then 2017/'18, 36  
12 thousand; 2018/'19, 37,800. So you're right, I don't  
13 see the numbers for the last couple of years. I  
14 certainly would like to see that and, you know, we're  
15 very, very concerned obviously; especially since we  
16 know that, you know, with schools opening and the  
17 depression that children are under. So yeah, do you  
18 know when the new report comes out?

19 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: I talked to them over  
20 there recently, Mr. Schachter, and I know they're in  
21 the process of getting the information out. And one  
22 of the things you're going to see, though, and this is  
23 where I talked to -- I talked to them about this, is  
24 that I think that it's going to be misleading. And  
25 the reason it's going to be misleading is -- to a

1 degree is because the kids are out of school for so  
2 long. So that's one of the things they're concerned  
3 about in the data, because with the schools being  
4 closed for a good part of, you know, last year is --  
5 and the same thing with all the numbers, whether it is  
6 SESIR numbers or Baker Act numbers or -- everything,  
7 the numbers are going to be skewed. So it's going to  
8 be very tough, and it's going to have to be looked at  
9 with a critical eye, an analytical eye in that regard.

10 All right, anybody else? Commissioner Dodd,  
11 go ahead.

12 COMMISSIONER DODD: Yes, sir. I had another  
13 question for Director Hay in reference to the Guardian  
14 program. And I was just curious if you keep any  
15 records on schools or school districts that have more  
16 than one School Safety Officer on campus? And I know  
17 that was a big topic of discussion that we had as a  
18 Commission, we talked about, you know, one officer may  
19 not be enough, and I know the issues that we were  
20 dealing with just trying to get enough law enforcement  
21 officers on every campus. And we did that, and we've  
22 continued to work on the Guardian program, and there's  
23 a lot of schools now that do have more than one School  
24 Safety Officer or armed person ready to respond, so I  
25 was just curious, do you have any of that data?

1           DIRECTOR HAY: We do. We track that data.  
2           And I'd be happy to get some numbers for you, but  
3           you're right, I mean, those that have a Guardian  
4           program usually have a number of those Safe School  
5           Officer presence on campuses, and so that is something  
6           we're seeing. And we're seeing some of the districts  
7           that said that they don't have a Guardian program  
8           currently, are actively pursuing a program. So the  
9           feedback I've received in the districts has been  
10          really positive to that program. You know, everybody  
11          seems interested in continuing it, growing it, and  
12          being able to really provide that layer and presence  
13          within our schools. We're going to be better for it.  
14          But I'll be happy to provide the specifics pertaining  
15          to the coverage for the schools.

16                 COMMISSIONER DODD: Yeah, and I think it  
17          would be a good idea. I know that it was mentioned in  
18          the interim -- this third interim report, minimum  
19          compliance I think was referenced for the School  
20          Safety Officer; but yet I know in our district, you  
21          know, we have many of our schools that have a School  
22          Resource Officer and a Guardian, and man, that's --  
23          our parents feel very good about that.

24                 And so I just -- I know other districts are  
25          in the same boat, I know we talk about larger

1 campuses, I know we never could figure out a ratio of  
2 how many students per SRO, I mean, we went all around  
3 on that; but I still think there is movement in that  
4 direction, and that's something that we should  
5 highlight.

6 DIRECTOR HAY: Absolutely. I agree with you,  
7 yes, sir.

8 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody else have any  
9 questions for Director Hay from his presentation and  
10 the survey? Commissioner Petty, go ahead.

11 COMMISSIONER PETTY: Thank you, Sheriff.  
12 Director Hay, I just wanted to thank you and the team  
13 at DOE for the presentation today. I think it's  
14 important -- you know, we're not perfect, I don't  
15 think we expect to be perfect at this point, but I can  
16 see tremendous progress both at the Department, but  
17 also within our district, so I appreciate your report  
18 today.

19 I want to commend the districts and -- for  
20 taking some important steps; despite COVID, despite  
21 everything else that they're dealing with and going  
22 through this past year, I'm seeing progress. It  
23 doesn't mean we take our foot off the pedal, as you  
24 said, but it definitely -- we should recognize and  
25 thank them for the progress that's being made. So

1 thank you.

2 DIRECTOR HAY: Thank you for that. And  
3 that's something that I've seen as I visit the  
4 districts. Those school safety specialists have been  
5 doing this since, really, the beginning. You know, we  
6 can talk about all those challenges, and we spend a  
7 lot of time on "Okay, how do we address this, how do  
8 we address that," but when you come full circle they  
9 always go back to "We've come so far from where we  
10 were to where we are today." And that's really  
11 encouraging to hear, because you know, there's more  
12 challenges that are there that we've got to work  
13 through.

14 And you know, if you're doing safety and  
15 security right, you're always seeing those challenges,  
16 they're going to always be there. You've got to grow,  
17 you've got to evolve and continue to improve what  
18 you're doing; but to see their recognition of the work  
19 that's really been done has definitely left an impact  
20 on me, and has given me encouragement that we're going  
21 in the right direction, we've just got to continue to  
22 fight the good fight and keep working, you know, in  
23 the areas we need it.

24 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Any other Commissioners  
25 have any questions for Director Hay? Okay. Just a

1 couple things I want to -- just as we transition and  
2 segue into the next presentation that we have, one of  
3 the things, though, I do want to mention, for  
4 anybody's that's listening, especially for the  
5 districts that are listening out there, on the issue  
6 of the radio, and I understand that concerns that some  
7 may have as far as the Guardians, who is being used,  
8 able to use and having access to the law enforcement  
9 radio, that is a legitimate issue and a concern, but  
10 if -- if cost is an issue, just know that with the  
11 Guardian money that the Department, the Department of  
12 Education had authorized and does authorize the  
13 purchase of radios as part of the equipment for those  
14 Guardians.

15 I can tell you here in Pinellas that we have  
16 roughly about 110 guardians, and each of them who are  
17 employed by the district -- approved by me, but  
18 employed by the district -- they all have, each one of  
19 them has a law enforcement radio. And you can buy  
20 them without (inaudible) cost, they can get a lesser  
21 radio still through Motorola, who your vendor is, so  
22 don't let -- my point is don't let cost be an obstacle  
23 to equipping your Guardians with radios so that, if  
24 there is an incident and you have a law enforcement  
25 response, law enforcement can communicate with those



1       Guardians, you don't have a blue-on-blue situation,  
2       and the cops can be directed to where they need to be  
3       as quickly as possible.

4                Because if you have a Guardian that's got  
5       somebody at gunpoint, and they can't communicate with  
6       the responding cops, it has potential adverse  
7       consequences, and also can hinder the most effective  
8       response. So the whole point of that is don't let  
9       cost be a factor. If there's other factors, then so  
10      be it, but don't let cost be a factor.

11               The other thing I wanted to just mention was,  
12      in slide 15 that Director Hay had, there was two parts  
13      there. One was -- and part of it -- one part's going  
14      to be addressed Alyssa's Law, the question was do you  
15      have something in place where all employees can sound  
16      the alarm, can hit a panic alarm, can communicate and  
17      talk and say there's a problem?

18               But remember what we've been talking about  
19      for a long time now is the -- really the keys and  
20      successful components to the initial response to an  
21      incident. First thing is you've got to identify it.  
22      You got to have the people -- and we're working toward  
23      that, everything that's being done. You've got to  
24      identify the threat. You've got to know you have a  
25      threat. And that gets back to seeing, in this case,

1 Cruz on the campus and knowing he's a threat. So you  
2 got to identify the threat.

3 The second thing is that you have to be able  
4 to communicate the threat to others. So that gets to  
5 the panic alarm. That gets to some device where you  
6 can put it out so people know that there's a problem.  
7 But the thing that's not addressed, as I understand  
8 it -- and I can't get into the particulars, but by the  
9 panic alarm is people have to be able to receive the  
10 threat. And if everybody in there, every classroom  
11 teacher, and everybody in there can't receive it then,  
12 you know, that's a hole. And that's where the other  
13 question goes to.

14 So I don't think that, you know, as  
15 everybody's continuing to look in this and evolve, and  
16 we've made great progress with it, is to identify the  
17 threat, communicate the threat, react to it, and can  
18 everybody on that campus receive the information so  
19 when the alarm is sounded -- now, some of these panic  
20 alarms may have that, I don't know, I haven't seen  
21 them, we don't know what these nine vendors are going  
22 to do and all how it's going to be played out, but  
23 that also is an important component is that just  
24 because they hit a panic alarm, and if it's set up in  
25 a way where it goes to the police department, let's

1 say, and police are responding, that's great, but does  
2 everybody else on that campus know as soon as that  
3 button's hit that you've got a problem so that they  
4 can immediately react?

5 And that's -- I'm not sure -- I don't know  
6 whether we're going to have that with -- via the  
7 Alyssa Law's system or not, if it's going to be a  
8 panic alarm that goes out to a law enforcement agency,  
9 or the office, or how that's going to work, so I'd say  
10 that that's still an unanswered question.

11 The last thing which will be a segue into our  
12 next presentation -- on the agenda it had on there an  
13 overview of the 2021 legislative session, the third  
14 grand jury report, but I basically already did that, I  
15 put that on the agenda to have a more-detailed  
16 discussion if we had a copy of the proposed committee  
17 bill. As I said here earlier, we don't so, but -- so  
18 this will be a segue into the next presentation that  
19 we'll go to which is on the FortifyFL update is is  
20 that, in the presentation Director Hay did, on page  
21 18, is that -- I'll tell you that we've really seen an  
22 up-tick -- and this goes, Mr. Schachter to, I believe,  
23 to the point that you were raising or the questions  
24 that you were asking about the kids' mental health and  
25 all this going on in the schools and outside with the

1 kids. And we're seeing a real up-tick in the  
2 reporting via the various reporting platforms.

3 But just remember that the data that we're  
4 going to get here in a second from Assistant Special  
5 Agent in Charge Annie White from FDLE is just the  
6 FortifyFL network. A number of districts are also  
7 operating other reporting platforms, everything from  
8 the See -- See Something Say Something app -- try and  
9 say that fast -- to a variety of other ones.

10 And so those are apps where the data and the  
11 metrics are maintained by the individual district,  
12 FDLE doesn't have that. So as you see ASAC White's  
13 presentation, know that that's only partial data. But  
14 I can tell you from a boots on the ground is is that  
15 we're seeing a real up-tick. And here in Pinellas as  
16 an example, is that they have the See Something Say  
17 Something app -- got it out that time -- and -- and  
18 the FortifyFL app. And a lot of it unfortunately --  
19 and I think very sadly -- a lot of it we're seeing  
20 that is being reported as self-harm.

21 We are getting information about harm towards  
22 others, threats, but I'm telling you is that a whole  
23 lot of it is self-harm that is being reported by kids  
24 that are seeing other kids act in a certain way,  
25 social media posts, et cetera.

1           So just wanted to point that out that there  
2           are -- even though those districts are required to  
3           have and to promote the FortifyFL app, they also have  
4           had, even prior to FortifyFL, other platforms, or  
5           they've initiated additional platforms that they are  
6           dual-using, or dual-promoting. So again, this is only  
7           a small piece of it.

8           All right. Before we move on, anything on  
9           any of that with Director Hay, then we'll move on to  
10          the presentation on FortifyFL. All right, so we'll  
11          move on to that presentation. Annie, are you ready?

12          MS. WHITE: Yes, sir, I am.

13          SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Go ahead.

14          MS. WHITE: Yes. Give us a second, we're  
15          getting it up. Good morning, Commissioners. I was  
16          asked to provide a brief update on where we are with  
17          FortifyFL.

18          As you can see from the first slide, we are  
19          now at 249 law enforcement agencies, just over 6900  
20          schools, and 73 districts. Since our launch in  
21          October of 2018, we have had just under 12,000 tips  
22          to-date. Next slide.

23          The next slide shows you the tips by year.  
24          It should be noted that 2018 was the launch, and only  
25          has three month's worth of data; but if you look at

1 the 2021 numbers, as you can see, that is just one  
2 month. For the month of January, we had 437 tips. So  
3 we have seen an increase in tip reporting. Next  
4 slide.

5 We have been working to enhance the app with  
6 cyber security enhancements, including virus scanning  
7 of tips. As you all know, tipsters can include  
8 attachments; we recognize that this was a significant  
9 security risk on the cyber side, and we do now have  
10 our scanning of tips and any attachments.

11 We are also currently working with FR  
12 (phonetic) to test coding in an effort to reduce tips  
13 with no content, or meaningless content. We are  
14 working with staff at DOE, we have a test site that we  
15 are utilizing to make sure that it's -- it will  
16 function with our app. We're still testing, we don't  
17 know if we will implement this yet or not. Next  
18 slide.

19 And lastly, the next two slides provide  
20 categorization of tips. I had been asked in the past  
21 kind of what we were saying as far as tips. As you  
22 will note, this is -- we started that in August of  
23 2019, so this is just August through December of 2019.  
24 Those are the tips that we were seeing. I'll give you  
25 just a second.

1           And then the next slide is our 2020  
2           classifications. If any of you are trying to do math,  
3           you will notice that these do add up to over a hundred  
4           percent; that is because some tips may contain both  
5           categories, so they would register in both categories.  
6           But last year, as well as the year before, we saw some  
7           pretty serious tips come in, everything from self-harm  
8           to bomb threats, et cetera.

9           And that is where we're at with FortifyFL at  
10          this time. If there are any questions, I'm happy to  
11          answer them.

12                 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: I have a  
13          question, Annie.

14                 MS. WHITE: Yes, ma'am.

15                 COMMISSIONER LARKIN-SKINNER: The staff admin  
16          classification, what is that?

17                 MS. WHITE: So we may receive tips as far as  
18          "I'm a teacher here, I wanted to make sure the app's  
19          working. How does this work?" So we still do get  
20          some tips like that. We may have tips that come in  
21          from administrative staff at the schools saying  
22          they're testing the app, so we put it in that  
23          category.

24                 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anybody else have any  
25          question for ASAC White?

1 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Yes, I do, Sheriff.

2 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Go ahead, Mr. Schachter.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: You know, prior to  
4 COVID, the school safety specialists had done a survey  
5 to analyze the effectiveness of FortifyFL as compared  
6 to the other school districts that have other apps  
7 like Speak Out, Say Anything; and what we found was  
8 the number of tips received -- let's see here -- was  
9 3,700, and -- for the established systems; and  
10 FortifyFL, they received 580 tips.

11 The number of actionable tips that we  
12 surveyed amongst -- I think we did a look at seven or  
13 eight school districts, and this was surveying the  
14 school districts that had other existing tip apps, the  
15 number of actionable tips that they received from  
16 their established systems, not FortifyFL, was 3,500,  
17 and then the number of actionable tips from FortifyFL  
18 was 155. So -- and then, you know, the really, really  
19 surprising numbers were we were trying to figure out  
20 how much of the tips that came in from FortifyFL were  
21 spam versus -- and actionable, versus not. And what  
22 we found was that FortifyFL, 62 percent of the tips  
23 that came in were spam, and only 27 percent of them  
24 were actionable.

25 So you know based on what the school safety



1 specialists -- and I've spoken to them since then --  
2 you know, there's still a major problem with  
3 FortifyFL, so you know, has there been an analysis to  
4 see -- compare FortifyFL to the other tips apps,  
5 because you know, the other apps are working very  
6 well, the kids know how to report in to them, and  
7 they're reporting, you know, actionable information,  
8 whether it's self-harm or harm to others; but  
9 unfortunately through FortifyFL, you know, it's --  
10 they're not utilizing the app the same way and we're  
11 not getting the same number of actionable tips that we  
12 are through the other services.

13 MS. WHITE: So we would have to compare their  
14 data, we don't have access to their data, and I know  
15 that was only seven or eight school districts.  
16 FortifyFL was established, you know, to provide a base  
17 line reporting capability, as most districts across  
18 the state don't have the monies to procure some of  
19 those larger apps that you're speaking of. I would  
20 have to look at the data.

21 I will say that we have been working with the  
22 Department of Education to roll out more education on  
23 the app; I think that has helped. One of the other  
24 factors is some of those -- I did see that survey, and  
25 some of those districts reported that their app was

1 anonymous; however, when I inquired further, it was  
2 not.

3 So I think that factor has benefited them.  
4 It has hindered us in such that we have had abuse of  
5 the system; unfortunately that's a factor, but per  
6 statute, ours is anonymous, and I do believe that  
7 factors in.

8 I do feel the education that Department of  
9 Education staff has been working on to educate people  
10 on what the app is, as you can see we still have  
11 administrative personnel at schools saying "What is  
12 this page for?" You know, without going into tip  
13 content, as I said, it's anonymous, but we have had  
14 school faculty accidentally placing tips, and then of  
15 course sending in other tips saying "Hey, sorry, I was  
16 testing this."

17 So I think the education piece is going to  
18 help with those non-actionable tips for certain, as  
19 well as, you know, like I said, the biggest factor is  
20 they can reach out to a tipster, we cannot because of  
21 the anonymity of the app.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: And so were you  
23 saying that school administrators were reporting tips  
24 by accident?

25 MS. WHITE: Well, I -- they were using it, we

1 have had some that -- a new teacher that was testing  
2 the app by accident. We've had those. We have to  
3 report that in our tip categorization. Every tip we  
4 have comes in, and it's categorized so that we can  
5 accurately depict each tip.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: How many would you  
7 say are actionable or just spam? You know, I see  
8 non-school safety, unintelligible, you know, I'm just  
9 wondering what percentage are, you know, real, and  
10 what, you know, are just spam?

11 MS. WHITE: We do not get the response from  
12 the recipient agency or school district on whether  
13 some of these tips -- sometimes we do, but more  
14 frequently than not -- we do not know the follow-up of  
15 this tip.

16 Now, you can certainly look at the  
17 classification and see that the meaningless tips or  
18 the unintelligible tips, 23 percent of them right off  
19 the bat are not actionable. But I don't know what  
20 actions the district or the law enforcement agencies  
21 took on the other tips to know if they were actionable  
22 or not. We don't receive follow-up often on a tip.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: You know, Sheriff,  
24 this survey that was done was done in March of 2020,  
25 and it was done on -- the districts that participated

1 were ones that already had existing tip apps; so look  
2 at Seminole, Monroe, Santa Rosa, Orange, Pinellas, Lee  
3 and Brevard. I would like to make a motion that we  
4 expand this survey to all the school districts to get  
5 the definitive numbers to see, you know, how many tips  
6 that are coming in are actionable, how many are spam;  
7 so that we have, you know, not just anecdotal  
8 information, but a full picture of the effectiveness  
9 of FortifyFL. And if it is not effective, we remedy  
10 that situation, because our school safety directors  
11 that are receiving these tips are being inundated with  
12 this information. They have a lot on their plate, and  
13 I want to make sure that they're not wasting their  
14 time. So I would like to make that motion.

15 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, a couple things:  
16 One, first I've heard of this survey, so who did the  
17 survey?

18 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: This was done by the  
19 school safety specialist organized by Captain Rick  
20 Francis to disseminate -- to you know, collect all the  
21 data and put it together.

22 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, if you've got it,  
23 send it to me. I haven't -- first I've seen it, heard  
24 of it, I don't know anything about it. The other  
25 reason -- I'm curious about this is -- your motion is

1        somehow that FortifyFL is receiving more spam, as you  
2        call it, or is -- how is when you take See Something  
3        Say Something or Safer Watch, or you take any of these  
4        reporting apps, if the districts are, as they are,  
5        required to promote that there are reporting platforms  
6        and there are apps, web-based, et cetera, is that what  
7        makes FortifyFL one where, to use your way you're  
8        framing it, more junk, more spam, more irrelevant  
9        stuff? Why -- I would more go to FortifyFL than  
10       another, it's a reporting app, so you're saying -- and  
11       you said it before that you think that FortifyFL is  
12       flawed, so what's the flaw in FortifyFL, as opposed to  
13       the other ones? If I'm missing --

14                COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: If we look at just  
15       what Pinellas reported, so Dennis Russo compiled this  
16       data, and basically the number of tips that received  
17       the 2019/2020 school year, they received 2,200 tips  
18       into their Say Something app. FortifyFL only received  
19       81. So 99 percent of the tips came through your Say  
20       Something app. If you look at the actionable tips in  
21       Pinellas, they received 2200 actionable tips, where  
22       through FortifyFL, they only received ten actionable  
23       tips that came through FortifyFL; that's only 12  
24       percent.

25                If you look at the spam numbers through the

1 Say Something app, they only received five spam tips;  
2 but through FortifyFL, there were 71 spam tips, so 88  
3 percent of the tips that came in from FortifyFL in  
4 Pinellas County were spam.

5 So to answer your question, I don't know what  
6 the difference is, but the kids have -- they know  
7 about both of these apps, and apparently, you know,  
8 they're misusing FortifyFL. I'm not a FortifyFL  
9 expert. I would recommend that we do an analysis so  
10 that we don't have just seven or eight districts, we  
11 have the entire state, to figure out these metrics on  
12 a statewide basis; and then based on that information,  
13 we have, you know, an analysis to compare these other  
14 apps to FortifyFL. And I'm sure that once you do that  
15 comparison, you'll be able to see what the difference  
16 is, what's lacking, and how we need to fix it.

17 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, yeah, we can do  
18 that, and -- but one of the things, as you talked, and  
19 I think one of the things may be, is remember -- and  
20 you've raised this before, is is that some of these  
21 apps when it's being reported, they're live monitored,  
22 you've got somebody who's vetting it, they can call  
23 in, they can talk to somebody, et cetera, correct --  
24 with some of them; correct?

25 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: I'm not sure. I'm

1 not sure the answer to that. I would assume so, but I  
2 don't know for sure.

3 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: You have to look, too --  
4 and we'll get into it. We can get into it. We can do  
5 this on the next round of surveying we do, and --  
6 because you've got to determine how it's being vetted.  
7 So if it is being live answered and live monitored and  
8 there's a vetting, what are they reporting? So are  
9 they getting the junk, but they are not even reporting  
10 it because they're vetting it out at an early stage,  
11 that could account for it, because as we know in  
12 FortifyFL -- we know the work flow in FortifyFL is is  
13 that by the time somebody sends it (inaudible)  
14 directly with the law enforcement agency and the  
15 district, and then as ASAC White said is is that they  
16 then vet it. So there's not a vetting before it goes  
17 to the agency and the district, and they're vetting  
18 that.

19 So I think there's a lot of -- if we're going  
20 to do it, we have to know how each app operates, where  
21 the vetting is occurring, how it's occurring, and are  
22 they discarding something before it even hits down to  
23 the agencies, because here it's not. So there's a lot  
24 there and some of that data, as you know -- and you're  
25 talking about the Pinellas data, that was back in the

1 time when FortifyFL was being woefully underutilized.  
2 That's kind of old data at this point. And  
3 FortifyFL's now being much more utilized than it was  
4 back in that time frame.

5 So I made a note of it, we'll add that into  
6 the next round of surveys that we do, we'll try to  
7 identify all -- we have here, as Director Hay put in,  
8 we've identified a number of different -- in this  
9 survey, a number of different reporting platforms, but  
10 we'll see if we can do something more robust with it,  
11 get all of the methodologies, and see if we can get  
12 the data from the districts and then report back.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Thank you.

14 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right, anybody have  
15 anything else on reporting apps, FortifyFL, or  
16 anything for ASAC White? Any other question?

17 All right. So the last thing we wanted to  
18 talk about from a presentation standpoint, and I'll  
19 just set the ground work and turn it over to Assistant  
20 Special Agent in Charge Patrick Crough with FDLE, is  
21 we know that there are behavioral threat assessment  
22 teams in the schools. We also know that it's  
23 necessary to do a threat assessment in a greater  
24 context. Commissioner Swearingen at FDLE had asked  
25 for the legislature to authorize and fund teams



1 throughout the state -- at the governor's request, I  
2 believe -- but the teams throughout the state that  
3 would be these threat assessment teams with  
4 psychologists, law enforcement, Multi-Disciplinary  
5 Teams that could look at threats and manage the  
6 threats in the various regions.

7 It didn't get fully funded, it got partially  
8 funded, I'll stop there and turn it over to ASAC  
9 Crough who will tell you where FDLE is on that in  
10 establishing these threat assessment teams. So go  
11 ahead, Patrick.

12 MR. CROUGH: Good morning. Well, thank you  
13 for allowing me the opportunity to present this to  
14 you. I was requested by Commissioner Swearingen to  
15 provide you a 35,000-foot high overview, an update of  
16 where we are with the programs standing it up.

17 Let me just take a minute just to tell you  
18 about myself and my background, since I have been  
19 determined to be the program manager for this  
20 initiative, and I'm very honored for that. I'm in  
21 currently my 38th year of law enforcement; I did  
22 approximately 30 years, a little less, up in Monroe  
23 County, New York. I started out the road patrol with  
24 the sheriff's office there, and went into the violent  
25 warrants and narcotics.

1           I spent 20 years of my 30-year career in the  
2 major crimes, special victims, homicide unit where we  
3 worked a lot of cases involving people under trauma,  
4 which was -- I was first exposed to. I also spent 20  
5 years of my career in the hostage rescue team as a  
6 negotiator and ended up commanding that team at the  
7 end of my career. And we also provided crisis  
8 intervention services as well.

9           So the mental health perspective, in my  
10 career, was very prevalent and I found it to be very  
11 rewarding in talking somebody out of a tragic  
12 permanent solution to a temporary problem.

13           I also spent time working stalking cases. In  
14 Monroe County, we were very progressive in going after  
15 the protracted case that would cross over  
16 jurisdictions, and they -- either they stemmed from  
17 domestic situations, but then with all the lay-offs in  
18 Rochester, New York being the home base to Kodak,  
19 Bausch and Lomb, at one time Xerox and Rochester  
20 Products, there was a lot of lay-offs back in the 90s  
21 and early 2000s. This created a very hostile  
22 environment in that world where threats were being  
23 made against management or upper-echelon executives.  
24 So again, did a lot of work in that area, and we  
25 utilized the LAPD model, for any of you that are

1 familiar with that, at a time.

2 I came to FDLE back in 2012, I'm in my ninth  
3 year. I spent my whole career out of the Fort Myers  
4 region. I was focused on organized crime,  
5 specifically the human trafficking element, with an  
6 international nexus. Again, this was a  
7 victim-centered type of investigation, which the  
8 reason why I say that is because this initiative is  
9 going to be a subject-centered and victim-centered  
10 type program where we're going to focus on getting  
11 these people the services they need. Next slide  
12 please.

13 The Behavioral Threat Assessment Management  
14 objective is to identify the threat that is being  
15 posed, then what we want to do is complete a  
16 fact-finding investigation and assessment of the  
17 threat and all involved; the subject, as well as the  
18 intended target or targets.

19 We want to formulate a strategy that changes  
20 the subject's pathway to potential violence via  
21 behavioral management programs, or utilizing the  
22 arrest, and then a post-arrest behavioral management  
23 program. This strategy will involve potentially  
24 long-term management in certain cases, and we are  
25 prepared for that.

1           The BTAM strategy is a methodology -- the  
2 methodology that we're going to use is an actual  
3 paradigm shift from the traditional law enforcement  
4 operation where we focus on investigations that lead  
5 to an arrest and a conviction. Why do I say this?  
6 Well, we just went through our first iteration of  
7 training of our agents and task force officers, and  
8 I'll get to that in a moment; but the training was  
9 kicked off with a guest speaker, by Commissioner Ryan  
10 Petty. And Commissioner Ryan Petty used a wonderful  
11 analogy that I related to, being from Rochester. It  
12 was the Kodak digital camera invention. I lived in  
13 Rochester and I remember that. And what Commissioner  
14 Petty pointed out was it was way ahead of its time,  
15 and the Kodak executive team wasn't very supportive of  
16 this mission, and as a result, eventually due to some  
17 hiccups and technological set-backs, they shelved the  
18 program. And I think we all recognize we live in a  
19 digital world now.

20           The reason why I bring this up is it was a  
21 great analogy as to where we are in law enforcement  
22 today. We are in a paradigm shift. We have to focus  
23 our resources and our objectives in a way that's going  
24 to holistically go after the situation for the two  
25 entities involved: The subject, as well as the

1 intended target. Next slide.

2 We're kicking off a pilot program. Now, this  
3 is not to exclude the other regions, but this is a  
4 huge undertaking in building out our program from the  
5 nucleus out; in building that what Sheriff Gualtieri  
6 referred to as a Multi-Disciplinary Team.

7 The three regions chosen were the Tampa Bay  
8 operations region, which is -- the "AOR" stands for  
9 Area of Responsibility. Each region includes probably  
10 about eight to ten counties. The Orlando Regional  
11 Operations Center, as well as a Fort Myers Regional  
12 Operations Center. These three regions are somewhat  
13 centralized, so in the situation where we have to  
14 serve other areas of Florida during this transition,  
15 the pilot project will be able to allocate resources  
16 quickly from those three regions.

17 The FDLE BTAM program will be overseen and  
18 coordinated by a program manager, that would be myself  
19 currently. The program manager is the designated  
20 Assistant Special Agent in Charge from the Office of  
21 Statewide Intelligence, for the purpose of maintaining  
22 operational and strategic consistency with the  
23 targeted violence program policy procedure, and  
24 sharing of information and intelligence between three  
25 regions, and ultimately the state. Next slide please.

1           The program manager will also continue  
2 seeking and cultivating partnerships with the law  
3 enforcement agencies at each of the AORs, and sharing  
4 the FDLE's targeted violence prevention program  
5 message with our other professional disciplines that  
6 may be able to assist with the overall mission of  
7 changing the pathway of those individuals intending to  
8 commit a premeditated act of violence against a  
9 targeted individual or the general public.

10           The Multi-Disciplinary Team, otherwise known  
11 as the MDT, will consist of state, local, and federal  
12 law enforcement agencies; state probation and  
13 Department of Corrections; the state's attorney's  
14 office, Office of the Attorney General; both  
15 government and non-governmental agencies that provide  
16 social, human, and mental health services; local  
17 school districts and state universities located at  
18 each of these three pilot project regions. These  
19 universities, as you well know, have robust  
20 psychology, social work, and mental health academics  
21 which we feel we can eventually tap into and bring  
22 them to the table to assist us in those respective  
23 regions, and throughout the state.

24           Each regional MDT will hold biweekly meetings  
25 for the purpose of reviewing ongoing cases in that

1        respective region. The process will utilize all of  
2        the MDT partners to implement a holistic approach to  
3        keep the targeted person and public at large safe.  
4        The goal is to assist the subject intending to commit  
5        targeted violence to change their pathway away from  
6        violence by receiving the necessary services via the  
7        prescribed behavioral management program.

8                This essentially means it's going to take a  
9        village to keep that village safe, and this is a  
10       concept we want to use, that community policing  
11       concept: Bringing the community together, and  
12       especially these professional disciplines to achieve  
13       this goal, and reduce the risk of that type of  
14       violence. Next slide please.

15               The current status of the program where it  
16       stands now. The FDLE policy and procedures are in  
17       their final phases of review and approval. It was  
18       important that we set these up prior to putting this  
19       program in full metric. There's 40 hours of BTAM  
20       training from nationally-recognized BTAM subject  
21       matter experts. We just went through one of our first  
22       weeks of training during the week of February 15th,  
23       out of our TB ROC location. Due to the social  
24       distancing requirement of COVID, we had to break some  
25       of these classes up into several. This was a huge

1 success. I attended, along with Commission  
2 Swearingen, Assistant Commissioner Foy. And as well  
3 as Shane Desguin from the Office of Statewide  
4 Intelligence.

5 We reviewed and sat in the entire 40-hour  
6 course, found it to be very successful. Based on my  
7 training and experience over the past 38 years, and  
8 having been involved with many types of training  
9 involving mental health and strategizing about serving  
10 a victim-centered or subject-centered-type  
11 investigation, I found this training to be highly --  
12 just these people were truly the experts, and they  
13 gave us some great insight in how to move forward from  
14 a perspective that law enforcement doesn't utilize.

15 We're standing up the targeted violence  
16 program Behavioral Threat Assessment Management squads  
17 and task forces, in the three regions as we speak. We  
18 wanted to get the first iteration of training going  
19 before we stood up these projects.

20 The FDLE assessment forms, these forms are  
21 being designed in the final phase. This form will  
22 be -- will support consistent investigative assessment  
23 operation throughout the entire state. So basically,  
24 every squad in every region will basically do the same  
25 type of investigation so we can share that information



1 and be consistent in our efforts.

2 For the time being, the data intel sharing  
3 will be utilized through our AIMS, which is an  
4 Automated Investigative Management System, our Insite,  
5 and the FCIC hot file. The FCIC hot file is under  
6 construction now with Charlie Schaefer's office at  
7 FDLE. We're currently in the stage of putting the  
8 procurement together and to formulate that on the  
9 dangerous violent person section of the FCIC.

10 The Insite database, which is usually used in  
11 the past --

12 (Brief interruption.)

13 MR. CROUGH: I'm sorry? So these three  
14 databases will be utilized. We will look into  
15 formulating something down the road as this project  
16 evolves, but right now, so we can be operational and  
17 we can share the data and intel, these three  
18 mechanisms will be utilized to do that. Next slide.

19 The FDLE's professional unit was tasked with  
20 also developing additional training; right now, basic  
21 recruit training to teach police recruits some of the  
22 principles involved in this type of investigation,  
23 what to look for, and how to respond to it. We're  
24 also devising an on-line course for the current  
25 officers that are currently already working, and

1 that's a work in progress but that will be more of a  
2 continuing education where they, again, can be  
3 educated on the matters involved with targeted  
4 violence.

5 And also we're coming up with our own 40-hour  
6 course that we'll be able to teach around the state,  
7 and also our agents as well. Again, we're getting  
8 help from those subject matter experts that are  
9 providing the training now. Ultimately, FDLE would  
10 like to provide that training for the rest of the  
11 agencies in the state when this course is fully  
12 designed. It's in the working process.

13 We're also building a BTAM program for agency  
14 executives, sheriffs, chiefs, and their command  
15 staffs, it's a short version, but an -- just an  
16 overview of what the program's about, the principles  
17 of the program, and what our objectives will be, and  
18 what they can also anticipate from FDLE and the  
19 task forces in their region. Next slide please.

20 Where we stand today as far as the FDLE  
21 support resources, we are acquiring, we've been  
22 approved for a regional legal adviser. This person  
23 will provide legal counsel and support to the BTAM  
24 squads and partner agencies. And what I mean by  
25 "partner agencies," is the task force members. This

1 person will specialize and be up-to-date in the case  
2 law involving this type of investigation. Obviously  
3 we're very concerned about not violating people's  
4 civil rights, we want to make sure we do it by the  
5 numbers, and so this regional legal adviser will be  
6 that person for us that specializes in this arena.

7 As it stands right now, they'll be stationed  
8 out of our Fort Myers Regional Operations Center to  
9 serve the southern part of Florida during the BTAM  
10 process, but they'll be available to all seven  
11 regions.

12 We also acquired an Operational Review  
13 Specialist, otherwise known as ORS. This person will  
14 be a pivotal role for our program. What we asked in  
15 the job description was they be fluent and skilled in  
16 allocating mental health, social services, human and  
17 services for the subjects of investigations, and also  
18 their intended targets. Again, we're going back to  
19 that victim/suspect/subject-centered investigation.  
20 We want to change the paths of these people, and what  
21 do we need for that? We need a lot of support from  
22 the social mental health agencies, in each respective  
23 region and statewide. The reason for that is if we're  
24 going to change the path of these people, we have to  
25 give them some alternative means to focus and to

1 change their thinking.

2 Now, in the case of an arrest, we also want  
3 to be able to provide them with a program post-arrest,  
4 and that's -- let's not forget our intended victims;  
5 especially with protracted multi-jurisdictional  
6 stalking cases, domestic violence, where this type of  
7 targeted violence would come up, we want to be able to  
8 supply them with the same services as well.

9 We've also been approved for Inspector in the  
10 Office of Statewide Intelligence. This inspector will  
11 serve as a person in the Office Statewide Intelligence  
12 to assist with the oversight of FortifyFL. And it  
13 will also be that person to assist in the BTAM program  
14 as we build it out throughout the state, and be that  
15 subject matter expert on-hand to assist those regions.

16 We're also contracting for the first year  
17 with a forensic operational psychologist. This person  
18 is a clinical psychologist; however, they're going to  
19 specialize in the forensic side, and also that word  
20 "operational" means they're going to assist us with  
21 investigative, real-time decisions that we have to  
22 make to determine what course of action we need to  
23 take and what types of operational decisions we need  
24 to make, depending on what this person's behavior is  
25 demonstrating to us as we're conducting this

1 investigation and assessment. This is a small field  
2 with limited specialists. We are putting this out to  
3 bid, and hopefully we'll have one of those on board  
4 sooner than later. Next slide please.

5 The evolution of this program, the targeted  
6 violence prevention behavioral threat assessment pilot  
7 project in the three regions, TB ROC, O ROC, and FM  
8 ROC, will be evaluated periodically to determine where  
9 modifications need to be made to the program to  
10 improve both performance and expanding it over the  
11 next four regions.

12 The reason why we're doing it in these three  
13 regions, there's going to be some bugs to work out,  
14 and we figured it would be easier to condense it, work  
15 out of those three regions, before we expand it, just  
16 from a managerial standpoint.

17 It is anticipated that additional funding and  
18 positions may be needed for the program to evolve in  
19 the statewide program that it intends to become;  
20 however, Commissioner Swearingen has made it very  
21 clear, whether we get this funding or not, FDLE's  
22 committed to this mission. We hope to get finding,  
23 but whether it's there or not we will make the  
24 necessary changes and get this program up and running  
25 statewide in the very near future. Next slide please.

1           In conclusion, I just want to share an  
2 anecdotal experience. I participated in a meeting  
3 with the FBI behavioral unit out of Quantico, in  
4 Orlando, when I met with some of our law enforcement  
5 partners in Orlando last month. According to them,  
6 the State of Florida, this program, is the first  
7 statewide program of its kind in the United States;  
8 that's according to them. This novel program will  
9 utilizing current law enforcement best practices,  
10 along with the community policing concept, as I  
11 mentioned earlier, to cultivate the long-standing  
12 partnerships between the aforementioned government and  
13 non-government agencies, and higher educational  
14 institutions. These partners will continue to work  
15 together via the Multi-Disciplinary Team model, in an  
16 effort to reduce the risk of targeted violence on a  
17 long-term basis. Any questions?

18           SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Does anybody --  
19 Mr. Schachter, go ahead.

20           COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Let me just look at  
21 my notes. Let's see her, SAC Crough, thank you very  
22 much for your presentation. I think that this is  
23 great, this is definitely what we need. Can you speak  
24 to how the new BTAM unit will eliminate silos?

25           You know, I just think of, you know, the FBI

1 is creating their own BTAM unit, we've got fusion  
2 centers, we've got threat assessment units in local  
3 sheriff's departments and police departments, can you  
4 just, you know, address that, and how we're going to  
5 make sure that everybody is communicating, and there  
6 aren't -- we're not just creating additional silos?

7 MR. CROUGH: Yes. The goal of this  
8 program -- the goal of this program is to eliminate  
9 those silos via the information sharing and intel  
10 sharing through these Multi-Disciplinary Teams. What  
11 the purpose of that is not only for case review and  
12 deconfliction, but is to develop relationships.

13 Where you develop relationships with each of  
14 these agencies that are participating, whether they're  
15 going to show up at the meetings or not, we're going  
16 to cultivate those relationships. This is regional  
17 project that will be overseen by each SAC and ASAC of  
18 that region. I will serve as the coordinator to  
19 maintain consistency.

20 But your concern is very valid, and that's  
21 what we're going to eliminate is those silos. I have  
22 assurance from the three FBI regions now -- or the two  
23 FBI regions in the state that they will participate in  
24 the sharing of information which they can share.

25 I think it's imperative that we partner with

1 the larger agencies in each respective region to open  
2 those lines of communication, develop those  
3 relationships with at least one point of contact, as  
4 well as the smaller agencies, to bring them in the  
5 loop. And this is going to take some time. It's a  
6 build-up.

7 We start with a nucleus team, and then we  
8 start to build it out with each of these other  
9 discipline, including the universities; and we create  
10 that rapport, that relationship, where hopefully then  
11 it just subterfuges basically some of the bureaucratic  
12 red tape we run into with these type of issues. We  
13 can pick up the phone and talk to somebody immediately  
14 about what we're dealing with, and continue on with  
15 our efforts.

16 So Commissioner, that is the goal of this is  
17 to eliminate those silos, and we're going to do  
18 everything we can to do that. It's just going to take  
19 some time, but I can assure you based on my -- I was  
20 brought into this project in October, I've been living  
21 like a nomad driving around talking to law enforcement  
22 agencies, and the desire is out there. Everybody is  
23 welcoming this with open arms to establish those lines  
24 of communication.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Okay. Beautiful.



1 Beautiful. Are you utilizing any social media  
2 monitoring, you know, programs, you know, to -- I  
3 understand you're -- you know, we're going to be  
4 getting, you know, threat information from all these  
5 different agencies that are going to funnel  
6 information to you, is that something that you're  
7 looking at as well?

8 MR. CROUGH: Absolutely. We have probably  
9 some the best analysts in the world working at FDLE,  
10 and those people are gifted when it comes to  
11 monitoring social media, so yes, that's going to be a  
12 big component of our strategy.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: You know, I know  
14 that all these social media companies are moving  
15 towards end-to-end encryption of all of their data.  
16 Is that a concern of yours and, you know, as we look  
17 to try to prevent these acts of targeted violence  
18 emanating from social media?

19 MR. CROUGH: Well, withholding information  
20 would always be a concern, but we'll have to learn to  
21 navigate those new waters as they're unfolding in  
22 front of us. So that will be a challenge, but I  
23 anticipate we'll come up with a solution.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: And my last question  
25 is, Sheriff, the reason that I think that that

1 statewide database that I was speaking about earlier,  
2 you know, to make sure that if children move school  
3 districts, we're able to, you know, have that  
4 information sharing. I think one of the other gaps  
5 that this Commission should address is after kids, you  
6 know, go to college and universities, can we provide  
7 information to higher education?

8 And you know, this would, you know, also  
9 concern the BTAM unit so that they're going to be  
10 working with universities, you know, a lot of these K  
11 through 12 schools are doing these threat assessments,  
12 we have threat assessment teams in all of our schools,  
13 but there currently is no linkage to higher ed, to  
14 really inform, you know, higher education if there are  
15 threats, you know, of children that want to commit  
16 harm to themselves or others. So do you think that  
17 that is an area that, you know, we could spend some  
18 time or that needs to be addressed?

19 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Well, there's a lot  
20 there, you know? I would say -- I don't think we need  
21 to spend time on it, we've already spent time on it.  
22 We've addressed it, we've made recommendations on it,  
23 and you know, I think -- if you think you're going to  
24 have at some point some higher ed, non-ed, schools,  
25 everybody all on one system, I don't think that's

1 going to happen. I think that's just not realistic.

2 And you know, if you could -- if we could get  
3 something just within the schools, because there's so  
4 many complicated areas there with law enforcement  
5 agencies, various bubbles that share information,  
6 you've got FRPA, you've got all these different --  
7 mental health, you've got all these different  
8 components, and all the laws and access to  
9 information, if we could just get something in the  
10 schools, that would be a great start.

11 And you know, people are well aware of that  
12 recommendation, but like I told you before, it's a  
13 huge lift and a huge cost factor. But it doesn't mean  
14 we don't keep raising it, we will, and we'll keep it  
15 on the forefront, and you know, hopefully at some  
16 point in time -- I think it's a great stride to just  
17 get a consistent behavioral threat assessment  
18 instrument statewide -- that's big -- in these teams  
19 now where, you know, we've got the right people on the  
20 teams and they're functioning, so that would be a next  
21 step, we'll keep pushing it.

22 Does anybody else -- anybody have anything  
23 else on the -- just that statewide -- it was more of  
24 an overview and a familiarization just to bring it  
25 forward. Commissioner Swearingen asked that we hear

1 about that and see what's going on on a statewide  
2 level regarding threats, threat management, because  
3 that's really what it's all about. Anybody have  
4 anything thoughts on that?

5 All right. So Jennifer, what we're going to  
6 do is just we're going to have any discussion here  
7 with the agenda. We had scheduled our conclusion for  
8 11:45, other than any discussion commissioners want to  
9 have, we're ready to conclude and we -- except for  
10 public comment.

11 And I was going to put on the record,  
12 consistent with the settlement agreement we reached  
13 based upon that lawsuit is that we have to do public  
14 comment within an hour on either side of what we  
15 advertised it, and we are within that hour. I had  
16 advertised it for 11:45, it's now 11:08, so we are  
17 within that hour, so we're not going to wait until  
18 11:45 for public comment. So right now as we sit,  
19 we'll have a brief round table for anything that  
20 anybody wants to bring up. Do we have anybody that  
21 wants to make any public comment at this point,  
22 Jennifer?

23 MS. MILLER: We do. We've received two  
24 requests but they have not called in.

25 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. So that's why I'm

1 saying it now so that anybody that does want to make  
2 public comment, abide by the guidelines that were  
3 published, and we will have a brief round table and  
4 then we'll call for public comment. And if people are  
5 there, then we'll take the public comment at that  
6 point, if not then we'll -- we're within the hour that  
7 we published.

8 All right. So moving forward, like I said,  
9 you know, we need to wait and see these bills that  
10 come out from the legislature, see what those are.  
11 We'll see what this -- what the grand jury does. I  
12 have a list of a number of people to bring before the  
13 Commission for updates, including Superintendent  
14 Runcie and Sheriff Tony, a whole bunch, when we're  
15 able to meet in person again. We'll continue to  
16 monitor the situation, of course, and it would be nice  
17 to be able to meet in person sometime this year, but  
18 we don't have any direct control over that situation  
19 of course, so we'll just keep an eye on it.

20 A lot of the things that we have on the list  
21 to cover are things that we've provided input on  
22 previously, so is there anything else that any of the  
23 Commission members want to bring up, any input you  
24 want to provide? Sheriff Judd, go ahead.

25 SHERIFF JUDD: Yeah, Sheriff, I just want to

1 suggest that, at the appropriate time, we need to wrap  
2 around and support that grand jury report. They've  
3 done a lot of heavy lifting, they've done a lot of  
4 stuff that can and should help us, and they may have  
5 even given us new ideas that we would need to push  
6 toward the legislature, as well as the grand jury.

7 So I don't know what format you want to do  
8 that in, but I think it's important that we closely  
9 monitor and wrap around and support that grand jury  
10 effort.

11 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Yeah, I agree. I think  
12 that we -- we had a brief discussion about it, I  
13 think, you were maybe tied up early on and then came  
14 on, we did talk about it. I don't know for sure,  
15 but -- of course, it's all confidential -- I think,  
16 though, that we'll hear something from the grand jury  
17 with a final report this year. Exactly when -- and  
18 they've issued the interim reports, but once we have  
19 that final report, I agree with you it's something  
20 we'll delve into. We'll make sure as soon as it's out  
21 that you all have access at the same time we will, but  
22 make sure that everybody's aware and get it out, and I  
23 think that will be a robust discussion that we have.  
24 Because I know that, just from the interim reports,  
25 that they've done a tremendous amount of work, so

1 absolutely that will be something we'll look at  
2 closely, it will be on the forefront.

3 Anybody have anything else from a round table  
4 standpoint? Anything else you want to bring up?  
5 Anything that's not already on the list of things that  
6 you've provided about what we want to talk about that  
7 we can't do a in-person meeting? Mr. Schachter?

8 COMMISSIONER SCHACHTER: Yeah, I just think  
9 that this meeting was another example of how Florida  
10 is a leader in the safety of our schools, from the  
11 presentation that SAC Crough just gave on the  
12 Behavioral Threat Assessment Team statewide, to  
13 protect not only our schools, but every citizen in our  
14 state, from acts of targeted violence; to the  
15 presentation by Director Hay.

16 So as I travel around the state everyone  
17 asks, you know, what is Florida doing? They're  
18 watching us because post-Parkland, we have made a lot  
19 of changes that I think our students and our staff are  
20 much safer than they were prior to the tragedy. So  
21 thank you to all the members of this Commission.

22 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Anything else before we  
23 take public comment?

24 All right, Jennifer, we're ready for public  
25 comment, do you have the speakers who want to address

1 the Commission?

2 MS. MILLER: Yes, sir. We have Tony Montalto  
3 on the line.

4 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Mr. Montalto, go ahead.  
5 Mr. Montalto, are you there?

6 MR. MONTALTO: I'm here. Hello?

7 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Yeah, go ahead.

8 MR. MONTALTO: Okay. Thanks everyone who  
9 presented today, and to all the Commissioners for  
10 continuing this vital work. All Florida citizens  
11 should be grateful for your efforts.

12 However, I must take a moment to remind  
13 everyone why this Commission exists. I didn't hear  
14 any mention of it at the beginning, so I'm just going  
15 to say it now, we just passed the third commemoration  
16 of the massacre which took the lives of 17 wonderful  
17 souls. I'm going to take a moment now to read their  
18 names.

19 We'll start with the three staff members, all  
20 of which who served their schools and their  
21 communities: Scott Beigel, Aaron Feis, and Chris  
22 Hixon.

23 Next, we'll go on to the students who were  
24 lost, each with a bright future: Alyssa Alhadeff,  
25 Martin Duque, Nicholas Dworet, Jamie Guttenberg, Luke



1 Hoyer, Cara Loughran; my beautiful daughter, Gina Rose  
2 Montalto; Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow  
3 Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen  
4 Schentrup, and Peter Wang.

5 We've made great strides as have been  
6 mentioned, but of course there's more work to do. We  
7 implore your Commission, the statewide grand jury, the  
8 Florida legislature and the governor to continue to  
9 pass policies and laws which will keep all of  
10 Florida's students and staff members safe.

11 Something that will additionally help that is  
12 letting the families know the threats that their  
13 children are under. We stand with Parkland, the  
14 National Association of Families for Safe Schools,  
15 taking the time to partner with Representative Daily  
16 and Senator Jones in order to introduce the Parents  
17 Need To Know Act.

18 The purpose of this act that we propose, is  
19 to compel schools to notify families within a 24-hour  
20 period of threats that they receive. It's important  
21 for the families to have the knowledge to help keep  
22 our kids safe.

23 We saw just a couple of weeks ago here in  
24 Broward, in the state court, that the school districts  
25 had no duty to warn the families. I can tell you all

1 of our families would have made different choices  
2 about where to send our children had we known there  
3 was a threat to shoot up their school. So we hope  
4 that your Committee will be able to join with our  
5 founding families as we push to close this vital gap  
6 in notifying families of problems. Again, thank you  
7 all.

8 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. Thank you,  
9 Mr. Montalto. Next speaker, Jennifer?

10 MS. MILLER: We have Thomas James on the  
11 line.

12 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. Mr. James, go  
13 ahead. You have three minutes.

14 MS. MILLER: Mr. James, are you muted? I  
15 unmuted you on my end.

16 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Mr. James, are you there?  
17 Do we have any other speakers?

18 MS. MILLER: No, sir, that's the last one.

19 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Are you connected to him?

20 MR. JAMES: Can you hear me?

21 MS. MILLER: There you are, now --

22 SHERIFF GUALTIERI: We can hear you now. Go  
23 ahead, you have three minutes.

24 MR. JAMES: Thomas James, I've spoken three  
25 times, retired teacher, Dade County Public Schools, I

1 also worked for the teachers union, I also worked at  
2 Department of Education when Columbine took place, as  
3 a senior policy aide. Basically I'm very interested  
4 in school safety. As you know, if kids aren't safe in  
5 school, then obviously, you know, everything else is  
6 irrelevant.

7 I applaud the work you've done and the  
8 positive changes that are making our schools safer;  
9 however, as you realize, you know, much work needs to  
10 be done. I specifically wanted to thank Max for all  
11 of his amazing work with regard to the school incident  
12 reports and school dashboard, and that's a fantastic  
13 tool, so kudos to him.

14 Now, however, your mission is to make this  
15 thing truly functional, accurate, and transparent, so  
16 you might ask well how do we do that?

17 Last session unfortunately some of the safety  
18 proposals were derailed by several factors that had  
19 nothing to do with school safety; one, I believe, had  
20 to do with the minimum age a student, you know, had to  
21 be in order to be arrested or put in handcuffs,  
22 dealing with some little girl up in north Florida who  
23 had allegedly attacked three teachers, and  
24 unfortunately I guess the Democrats in the state  
25 senate did not want to approve the safety package

1 based on that; and also I know that Senator Diaz had  
2 made a comment about our superintendents have been,  
3 you know, beat up enough, and we don't need to go  
4 forward with any kind of criminal sanctions.

5 In order to make this transparent, you must  
6 have criminal sanctions against superintendents,  
7 school board members, or school district  
8 administrators who fail to report campus crime, who  
9 cover up campus crime, who mis-report, mis-classify,  
10 doctor or manipulate school safety data on official  
11 documents that are sent to the Florida Department of  
12 Education, and U.S. Department of Education.

13 You as a Commission, to your benefit, have  
14 already identified three school districts guilty of  
15 this behavior: Broward County, Miami/Dade County and  
16 Duval County, and I can assure you this practice is  
17 widespread. So the failure to hold school district  
18 officials accountable is the biggest hurdle our state  
19 faces in implementing real changes that will truly  
20 make our kids safer.

21 The bottom line is, you know, this needs to  
22 be an integral part of any legislation going forward,  
23 and I would certainly hope that Mr. Montalto would  
24 include that with the package that's being prepared by  
25 Senator Jones from Fort Lauderdale.

1           Basically when there's no penalties or  
2 consequences for school district officials to do this  
3 stuff, their behavior will not change. And what's  
4 happened is they haven't really been punished, they've  
5 just been rewarded with lots more money from the  
6 federal government and state government.

7           So I just implore you to please pass this  
8 legislation that will hold school district officials  
9 liable, because you know, the data needs to be  
10 accurate, and if we're not getting accurate data in,  
11 then we're not getting accurate data out.

12           So thank you so much, and I appreciate it,  
13 and keep up the good work.

14           SHERIFF GUALTIERI: All right. Thank you,  
15 Mr. James. Just for the record, for anybody who  
16 listens, so everybody's clear, we don't pass any  
17 legislation, we don't pass anything; that's up to the  
18 legislature. So you're asking us to pass things, we  
19 don't have any authority to pass things, so just to  
20 make sure there's no miscommunication about that. All  
21 right. Jennifer, do we have anybody else?

22           MS. MILLER: No, sir, that was everyone.

23           SHERIFF GUALTIERI: Okay. All right, well  
24 unless any of the Commissioners have anything else,  
25 we'll stay in touch. We'll shoot for hopefully an

1 in-person meeting this year, and we'll get the draft  
2 bill out to you when we see it from the legislature,  
3 and of course when that grand jury report comes out,  
4 as soon as we have access to it, we'll make sure that  
5 gets out to everybody.

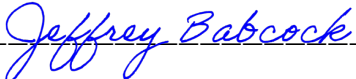
6 So with that, we will be adjourned.

7 (Proceedings were adjourned at 11:22 a.m.)  
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  
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5 I, JEFFREY R. BABCOCK, do hereby certify that I  
6 was authorized to and did report the foregoing  
7 proceedings, and that the transcript, pages 1 through 102,  
8 is a true and correct record of my stenographic notes.  
9

10 Dated this 10th day of March, 2021 at  
11 Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.  
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14 JEFFREY BABCOCK

15 Court Reporter  
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