



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Elizabeth Shavelson, Deputy City Manager

Approved by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: June 16, 2022 Meeting date: June 27, 2022

Subject: Program to Protect School Students from Gun Violence (Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein) (Continued from June 13, 2022)

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein: 1) Direct staff to research consultants with expertise and experience in the area of developing programs to protect school students from gun violence; and 2) Bring back a recommendation to City Council of a consultant with such expertise and experience, with the objective of developing a plan that can be implemented, at least on a temporary basis, prior to the commencement of the 2022-2023 school year, and a more permanent plan that can be implemented over the following year, to enhance the safety of our public school students. If staff deems it appropriate, they may consult with the Chair of the Public Safety Commission and request the assistance and input of one or two members of that Commission.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No additional appropriation is required at this time. If Council decides to hire a consultant to develop a plan to protect school students from gun violence and to start implementing the plan before the commencement of the 2022-2023 school year, additional appropriations will be required as funding for this project was not included in the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and it is not currently included in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The cost for this project is currently unknown.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and is not currently included in the Proposed Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. It will need to be added to the Work Plan at the direction of Council.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein is requesting Council support for this item. Gun violence, including mass shootings, in public schools (and elsewhere) poses a clear and present danger to students, teachers, administrators, and anyone else who happens to be on a school campus when such violence occurs. While Malibu has been fortunate that the tragedies suffered elsewhere in the country have not occurred in Malibu, the consequences of failing to take action to better protect our public schools could be devastating and compel the development of a program to ensure that that our schools are a safe haven going forward.

Fortunately, our public schools will soon be in summer recess, which provides a period of time to develop a program to better protect our students from gun violence before the next school year commences. Although it is impracticable to expect that a robust and permanent program can be developed and implemented prior to the commencement of the next school year, it is not unreasonable to expect that a temporary program of some sort can be developed that will increase the level of protection beyond the virtually non-existent protection that is currently in place. Moreover, the increasing level of gun violence throughout the country demands that Malibu do whatever is practicable before the next school year to accomplish that objective.

School safety is just one part of a larger discussion taking place in this country because of mass shootings in all sorts of other locations, including places of worship, shopping malls, grocery stores, concerts, public transportation facilities, places of employment, and nightclubs – to name just a few of the numerous places in which mass shootings have occurred. In short, virtually no place is immune from a mass shooting in the absence of appropriate security precautions.

Malibu's City staff lacks the training and expertise to develop plans to better protect our public-school students or other City residents (or visitors) for that matter. While we do pay many millions of dollars for law enforcement by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, law enforcement tends to respond to shootings and, for the most part, is not equipped to prevent them. As such, Malibu should consider hiring a consultant with the expertise and experience to help the city to develop a plan that can be implemented to provide enhanced protection to our public-school students. Thereafter, the consultancy might be expanded to the protection of other residents and visitors.

Mayor pro tem Silverstein is aware that a meeting recently occurred to discuss school safety and suggests that, as part of this effort, staff should confer with the participants of that meeting for ideas and guidance.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Examples of School Security Consultants
- 2) News Reports of Recent Local Initiatives to Address School Safety



## Experts you can trust



Ken Trump, MPA, is the President of National School Safety and Security Services. As a father and career preK-12 school security professional, school safety is his mission. Ken has been making schools safer for more than 30 years.

Ken speaks at conferences on school security, emergency planning, threat assessment, and communications strategies. He trains and consults with schools to assess security and crisis preparedness. Ken provides expert witness litigation services, and counsels state and federal lawmakers on school safety policies and crisis response.

Ken has authored 3 books, 5 book chapters, and more than 450 articles on school safety issues. He is a doctoral student at The Johns Hopkins University School of Education where he researches strategic crisis leadership and administrator school safety communications with parents in highly ambiguous and uncertain contexts. [[learn more](#)]

## We believe...

- School safety requires a **balanced and comprehensive approach**. It's about **heartware and hardware**, not just one or the other.
- High profile school safety incidents often raise questions of alleged failures of people, policies, procedures, and systems, not failures of security hardware and products. The **human side of school safety is critical**. It's about *mental* detectors more than *metal* detectors.
- Teachers and school staff should be armed with technology and textbooks, not firearms. An armed presence on campus, if desired, should be a trained professional police officer.
- **Age and developmentally-appropriate preparedness drills** are reasonable. We do **not** support teaching children and staff to attack gunmen or over-the-top, extreme drills and exercises.

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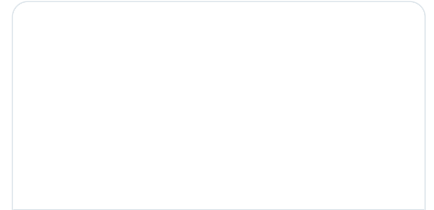


## Tweets by @safeschools



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@safeschools

Texas man makes custom caskets for Uvalde school shooting victims  
[goodmorningamerica.com/living/story/t...](https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/story/texas-man-makes-custom-caskets-for-uvalde-school-shooting-victims-11608888888)



**Texas man makes custom caskets for ...**  
Trey Ganem of Texas is making it his miss...  
[goodmorningamerica.com](https://www.goodmorningamerica.com)

16h



**Kenneth Trump**  
@safeschools

7-year-old with loaded handgun at SC school was 'not by accident,' investigators say  
[wtx.com/article/news/c...](https://www.wtx.com/article/news/c7-year-old-with-loaded-handgun-at-sc-school-was-not-by-accident-investigators-say)

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- [Special Topic Training](#)
- [Emergency Planning Evaluations](#)
- [...and more!](#)

## Ken Trump's Blog

- [School security expert witness says school safety civil lawsuits point to allegations of failures of human factors, not failures of security equipment and technology.](#)
- [Is remote learning the new crutch for school administrators when safety threats occur? School leaders are forcing students from in-person learning back to remote learning as fights, weapon confiscations, and other safety threats soar](#)
- [School administrators must revisit traditional school safety, security, and emergency crisis plans – not just COVID safety plans.](#)
- [Balancing school board meeting security and school administrator safety with parental engagement and First Amendment rights](#)
- [Swatting threats, with hoax reports of guns and shootings, target schools nationwide](#)



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School organizations can face challenges evaluating the quality of school safety consultants and firms. As schools and school districts can and have been successfully litigated for failure to conduct due diligence when selecting consultants, it is important to take the time to properly vet firms to see if they have the credentials and experience to not only hold up as experts in a court of law but more importantly to deliver high quality and effective services to help make schools safer and more productive learning environments.

Formed in 2000, Safe Havens International (Safe Havens) is the world’s largest and leading non-profit school safety center. With 8 full-time and 12 part time and adjunct personnel along with additional volunteers and interns, we have a staffing and experience level that allows us to perform work of high quality and considerable depth. We have K-12 experience that is unmatched in the private sector. The work experience of our full-time analysts in Mexico, the U.K, Canada, Israel, South Africa, Vietnam, Bolivia, the Congo, Honduras and in almost every state in the nation will provide a perspective unlike that of any for-profit firm, particularly firms who do not specialize in work with K-12 schools. Over the past three years, Safe Havens has served as a crisis management advisor for more than eighty clients representing more than one hundred different school districts and systems, including independent, private and charter schools.

Safe Havens offers a level of expertise, real-world work experience and credentials of analysts that is unparalleled in the private sector. Our analysts have worked in more countries, written more articles and books, authored more web courses and filmed, edited and produced more school safety training videos than all of the consultants currently working for any ten other firms in the world combined.

Our experienced analysts have unparalleled experience and expertise in the field of school safety consulting. Our experience working in 46 states and two dozen countries and in authoring 27 topically related books along with our work with thousands of public, private, charter, parochial and independent schools affords our clients an unmatched depth of expertise in school safety, security, climate, culture and emergency preparedness.

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Proactive Measures and Upper Level Support of School Safety

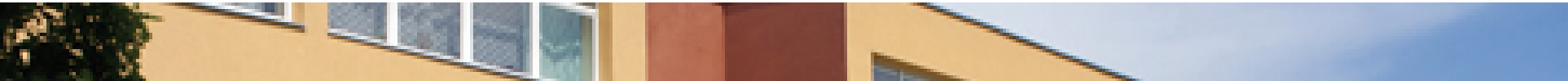
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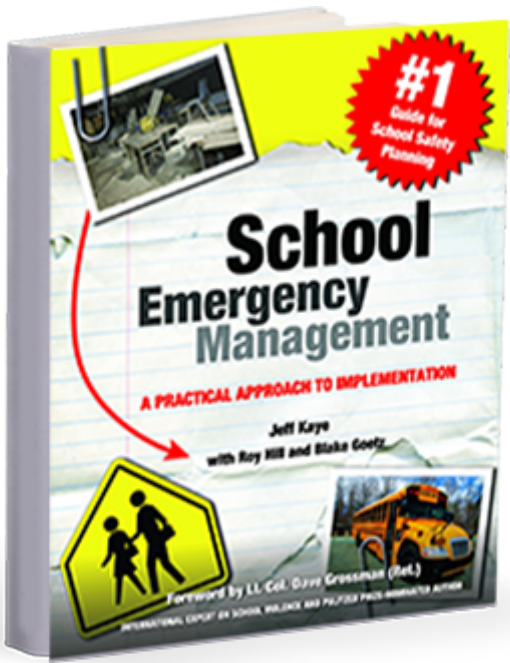
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*Author and International Expert on School Violence*

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programs&portal\_id=2936356&redirect\_url=APefjpF7eccooE4llgQRxEUxw6OloyErUdH7snwCrE8l2eAfJUeiZ

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## Meet Division Leader, Kerry Wrenick...

**Director of Strategy and Operations**



Kerry joins the Joffe team as a Licensed Social Worker with over 15 years of service within the educational setting. Her experience with school districts and as a state and national leader has prepared her to lead efforts focused on emergency planning and response, crisis intervention, professional development, and mental health support.

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## Critical Intervention Services

CIS school security consultants assist clients in managing risks of environments conducive to good education.

Our school security consultants assist clients throughout the nation in developing effective security and emergency readiness programs while fostering environments conducive to good education.

Following is an overview of the services provided by our school security consultant team.

### School Security Assessment and Improvement

CIS consultants specialize in assessing and improving security and readiness for active shooter violence. Our school security assessment projects typically entail an audit of the campus and facilities, school operations, climate and culture, threat assessment plans, physical security design, egress measures, security and emergency response procedures, and program implementation. Based on the findings of the assessment, our consultants assist school leaders in developing a custom improvement strategy prioritized according to cost-benefit factors, budget, branding, and other considerations.

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## School Emergency Response Planning & Preparation

Our school security consultants have assisted a diverse range of clients in improving emergency response plans and preparations. Our emergency planning projects typically commence with an assessment of the school and its existing preparations, followed by the development of a custom all-hazard Emergency Response Plan and quick reference media. After the new emergency response plan is ready for implementation, our consultants conduct live training sessions for faculty and emergency response team members to ensure all employees are knowledgeable in their actions.

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## School Threat Assessment Program Development & Training

Most acts of targeted violence in schools are preceded by a process of ideation, planning, and preparation. Correspondingly, students proceeding on the pathway to violence often exhibit behaviors that can serve as a warning. Considering the frequency of school shootings by students, implementing a system for recognizing, reporting, and assessing threatening behavior is a crucial first line of defense against active shooter violence.

Our consultants assist schools in adopting this important strategy for violence prevention by developing Student Threat Assessment System plans, awareness programs, and training school threat assessment teams.

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## On-Call Assistance during Student Threat Assessments

In addition to security assessment and planning, our school security experts frequently assist administrators in assessing potential threat situations and navigating sensitive decisions essential to managing risk.

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## School Security Training by Professional Consultants

CIS school security consultants have trained thousands of administrators, faculty members, and public safety professionals in school safety and emergency readiness topics through public seminars, special workshops, and certification courses. The depth and scope of our training

programs include short presentations for school employees, full-day seminars for school leaders, and multi-day certification courses for school protection and resource officers.

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## New School Design and Security Planning

When engaged as consultants in the early phases of new school design, our consultants assist architects and school planners in designing effective physical security while simultaneously creating an aesthetic environment that promotes positive school climate and public image.

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## The CIS Guardian SafeSchool Program®

In response to the public need for an effective strategy for reducing the risk of school violence, Critical Intervention Services launched the Guardian SafeSchool Program® in 2013 as a comprehensive and integrated school safety program model for protecting students against targeted aggression. The uniquely integrated and comprehensive nature of the program has drawn national-level recognition from the criminal justice and school safety community.

Since its inception, the Guardian SafeSchool Program® has been adopted in its full format at a diverse range of schools. CIS consultants have also aided schools and universities around the nation in improving their security and emergency readiness in alignment with the Guardian SafeSchool Program® standards

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*Preserving, projecting, and protecting our clients' image and interests is our business.*



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# Duval Schools bolster security in response to mass shootings

WJCT News | By [Raymon Troncoso](#)

Published June 1, 2022 at 5:57 PM EDT



Duval School Superintendent Diana Greene discusses security during a news conference Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

*Raymon Troncoso / WJCT News*

First Coast Connect ...  
WJCT NEWS 89.9

Attachment 2

in hiring a security firm to enhance school safety in response to mass shootings.

Curry said the partnership with New York-based Armoured One had been in the works for months, with the announcement coincidentally landing soon after the Uvalde, Texas, school shooting that left dozens dead or wounded.

While the mayor didn't offer specifics as to what the partnership would bring, he said the cost of using Armoured One's services would be under \$100,000 as part of next fiscal year's budget, which could come from City Council or the mayor's discretionary funds.

School Superintendent Diana Greene and School Police Chief Greg Burton both said they welcome the support of Armoured One, while reiterating what they called the district's current robust security measures, implemented in the wake of the 2018 Parkland school shooting as the result of state and local mandates.

"Every one of our schools is staffed with an armed police officer or an armed school guardian. Each of these individuals has continually received advanced law enforcement training with rapid response training," Burton said. "We are vigilant about compliance with the state laws regarding drills, security plans and security plan review. Entrances to school buildings are locked and controlled with electronic access systems. All external access to schools is to remain locked during the day. All classrooms are locked during instruction."

According to Burton, the district is halfway through a three-year plan to harden schools against active shooters using the recently passed half-cent sales tax that's currently netted over \$100 million. Those projects include security renovations to old buildings and developing new campuses with safety measures already in place. Progress on the program is available on the

**Tags**[First Coast](#)[Featured](#)[app](#)[school safety](#)

## Raymon Troncoso

Reporter Raymon Troncoso joined WJCT News in June of 2021 after concluding his fellowship with Report For America, where he was embedded with Capitol News Illinois covering Illinois state government with a focus on policy and equity. You can reach him at (904) 358-6319 or [Rtroncoso@wjct.org](mailto:Rtroncoso@wjct.org) and follow him on Twitter [@RayTroncoso](https://twitter.com/RayTroncoso).

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# THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair



The archbishop of San Antonio, Gustavo Garcia-Siller, comforts families following a deadly school shooting at a school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022. AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills

## What we know about mass school shootings in the US – and the gunmen who carry them out

Published: May 25, 2022 8.52am EDT • Updated: May 25, 2022 1.52pm EDT

**James Densley**

Professor of Criminal Justice, Metropolitan State University

**Jillian Peterson**

Professor of Criminal Justice, Hamline University



### Languages

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Français

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When the Columbine High School massacre took place in 1999 it was seen as a watershed moment in the United States – the worst mass shooting at a school in the country's history.

Now, it ranks fourth. The three school shootings to surpass its death toll of 13 – 12 students, one teacher – have all taken place within the last decade: 2012's Sandy Hook Elementary attack, in which a gunman killed 26 children and school staff; the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which claimed the lives of 17 people; and now the Robb Elementary School assault in Uvalde, Texas, where on May 24, 2022, at least 19 children and two adults were murdered.

We are criminologists who study the life histories of public mass shooters in the U.S. As part of that research, we built a comprehensive database of mass public shootings using public data, with the shooters coded on over 200 different variables, including location and racial profile. For the purposes of our database, mass public shootings are defined as incidents in which four or more victims are murdered with at least one of those homicides taking place in a public location and with no connection to underlying criminal activity, such as gangs or drugs.

## 13 mass school shootings – 146 children and adults killed

An additional 182 students and adults – including teachers – have been injured in these attacks

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Our database shows that since 1966, when our database timeline begins, there have been 13 such shootings at schools across the U.S – the first in Stockton, California, in 1989.

Four of those shootings – including the one at Robb Elementary School – involved a killing at another location, always a family member at a residence. The most recent perpetrator shot his grandmother prior to going to the school in Uvalde.

The majority of mass school shootings were carried out by a lone gunman, with just two – Columbine and the 1998 shooting at Westside School in Jonesboro, Arkansas – carried out by two gunmen. In all, some 146 people were killed in the attacks and at least 182 victims injured.

The choice of “gunmen” to describe the perpetrators is accurate – all of the mass school shootings in our database were carried out by men or boys. And the average age of those involved in carrying out the attacks was 18.

This fits with the picture that has emerged of the shooter in the Robb Elementary School attack. He turned 18 just days ago and reportedly purchased two military-style weapons. It is believed that the shooter used one military-style weapon in the attack, authorities said May 25, 2022.

Police have yet to release key information on the shooter, including what motivated him to kill the children and adults at Robb Elementary School. The picture of the shooter that has emerged conforms to the profile we have built up from past perpetrators in some ways, but diverges in others.

We know that most school shooters have a connection to the school they target. Twelve of the 14 school shooters in our database prior to the most recent attack in Texas were either current or former students of the school. Any prior connection between the latest shooter and Robb Elementary School has not been released to the public.

Our research and dozens of interviews with incarcerated perpetrators of mass shootings suggests that for most perpetrators, the mass shooting event is intended to be a final act. The majority of school mass shooters die in the attack. Of the 15 mass school shooters in our database, just seven were apprehended. The rest died on the scene, nearly all by suicide – the lone exception being the Robb Elementary shooter, who was shot dead by police.

And school shooters tend to preempt their attacks by leaving posts, messages or videos warning of their intent.

Inspired by past school shooters, some perpetrators are seeking fame and notoriety. However, most school shooters are motivated by a generalized anger. Their path to violence involves self-hate and despair turned outward at the world, and our research finds they often communicate their intent to do harm in advance as a final, desperate cry for help. The key to stopping these tragedies is for society to be alert to these warning signs and act on them immediately.

*Editor’s note: This article has been updated to correct the year of the 1998 shooting at Westside School in Jonesboro, Arkansas*

LOCAL NEWS >

# Mass. schools use drills, tech and consultants to increase security



BY BRANDON TRUITT  
MAY 25, 2022 / 6:44 PM / CBS BOSTON



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ATTLEBORO - Tuesday's tragedy in Texas is bringing renewed focus on the debates about gun reform, mental health and school safety.

As school shootings seemingly become more and more frequent, school districts around the country have been pumping more money into security improvements.

The new \$259 million high school in Attleboro is nearing completion after three years of construction.

The new facility features state-of-the-art security systems, including the most recent addition of a gun detection system, one of nine in the school system.

"We are doing the best we can," said Attleboro Mayor Paul Heroux, "We cannot make any promises, unfortunately, but what we can say is that we are being proactive and pursuing all active technology and also the culture inside the

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Heroux said the new school has simple infrastructure changes to improve safety.

"This current high school, the one that is going to be torn down this year, has about 50 entrances in it. The new high school has about a dozen," Heroux said.

In nearby Franklin, police were practicing an active shooter drill just as the tragedy in Texas unfolded Tuesday.

Police used an old charter school to practice tactical responses and rescues.



"It's very important," said Franklin Police Chief Thomas Lynch. "It's one of those things you hope you never have to use it, but if something was to happen, we would be able to respond and protect the citizens of the town."

The Edward Davis Company specializes in security threat and assessments and consults area school districts on how to strengthen their security systems.

Joseph Lawless has more than 40 years of experience in security, including heading up security for MassPort for more than two decades.

"Things have really picked up in light of recent events around the country," Lawless said. "We look at what they have in place for security including locks, doors, technology closed circuit television. And then we move on from there to look at their processes and procedures to make sure they are lined up with the technology they have in place."

Lawless said they are currently in talks with roughly half a dozen school districts and colleges in our area.



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as a reporter and fill-in anchor at WPRI in Providence, RI. Before  
an his career in broadcast journalism.



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First published on May 25, 2022 / 6:44 PM

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