



North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

March 6, 2018

NC State Emergency Response Commission

RE: State Emergency Response Committee on Mass School Shootings

Dear Colleagues:

Mass school shootings have tragically become a too common occurrence in this country. Recent school attacks, like the one in Parkland, Florida that left 17 students and faculty dead and more than a dozen others wounded, have shocked the conscience of communities across the nation. It is imperative that we utilize every resource available to us to examine and address this dangerous threat to our children and educational professionals. Therefore, I am instructing Vice Chairman Michael Sprayberry to convene a special committee to engage in what I am describing as a whole-of-community and whole-of-government approach, necessary to help find solutions to the threat of mass shootings in schools.

This standing committee should include Commission members representing law enforcement, medical services, public health, education, and emergency management. The committee will be tasked with identifying resources and developing recommendations to address potential threats before an incident occurs, as well as promoting best practices for incident response in accordance with the "White Paper for the Integrated Public Safety Response to the Active Shooter/Active Assailant." This document was authored by a multi-disciplinary team comprising the North Carolina Active Assailant and Mass Violence Work Group and provides best practice guidance for the development and implementation of comprehensive, interagency strategies to reduce potentially preventable mortality during active assailant incidents. The goal of the document is to provide guidance and recommendations to public safety officials regarding planning, training, and response to active assailant incidents.

Recognizing that multiagency planning, preparation and training are critical for a successful response to an active shooter incident, the State Emergency Response Commission passed a resolution recommending that state and local law enforcement, emergency management and first response agencies use the document in a manner complementary with their existing protocols.

It is my strongest desire this committee along with a newly established special committee within the Governor's Crime Commission should serve as a valuable resource to the Governor, the legislature, and to me as the Homeland Security Advisor on this important matter. Addressing the crisis of school violence requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving the

MAILING ADDRESS:
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
www.ncdps.gov



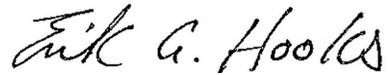
An Equal Opportunity Employer

OFFICE LOCATION:
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
Telephone: (919) 733-2126

State Emergency Response Commission
School Shootings
March 6, 2018
Page 2

community and public safety professionals. Our children deserve our full commitment to identify ways to disrupt any cycle of violence in our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik A. Hooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "H".

Erik A. Hooks
Secretary
Chairman