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SANDY HOOK ADVISORY COMMISSION

MARCH 1, 2013

9:30 AM

Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT

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SCOTT JACKSON, Committee Chair

ADDRIENNE BENTMAN

RON CHIVINSKI

ROBERT DUCIBELLA

TERRY EDELSTEIN

KATHLEEN FLAHERTY

ALICE FORRESTER

EZRA GRIFFITH

CHRIS LYDDY

PATRICIA KEANEY-MARUCA

DENIS McCARTHY

BARBARA O'CONNOR

WAYNE SANDFORD

HAROLD SCHWARTZ

CONNECTICUT COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 914

Canton, CT 06019

## AGENDA

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- I. Call to Order
- II. Connecticut State Police Presentation
  - Process of purchasing, transferring, or possessing a firearm
  - Regulations on storage and safeguarding weapons
  - Training and Qualifications for Certain Permits and Licenses
- III. Emergency Protocol by State and Local Police
  - Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
  - Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
- IV. Use of Firearms in Today's Society: Concerns and Suggestions
  - Presentation by Dr. Brendan Campbell, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
  - Panel Discussion with Dr. Brendan Campbell, State Police, and Local Police
- V. Other Business
- VI. Discussion
- VII. Adjournment

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ROBERT DUCIBELLA: I don't know how to start to thank you for being here and for what you did. I honestly don't know -- I don't have words for that as a commissioner, but thank you.

I heard you mention "precious seconds" and I know we've heard from previous testimony how important tabletop exercises are, and training, and what I call interagency interoperability, that fancy word for all of you who wear a uniform to work together.

Question: Newtown is a small town, it was a big school. It would seem to make sense that wherever one could, train specific to the locale. I mean there's many different incident command systems, but they are set up so that you use, arrange, communicate resources, and it's a tool chest. But then applying them to a specific location is where you pick up the necessary time.

So the question I have for all three of you: Would it make sense for there to be on a mandatory basis -- and I can't identify the schedule, whether it's once every six months or once every year -- a tabletop exercise where an active shooter scenario is -- I hate the term -- played out in a

1 school? Does that buy time? Does that -- are precious  
2 seconds saved by staging an event that simulates? We  
3 heard this from Colorado. You folks were in the thick  
4 of this. You actually were there. Does it make sense  
5 for that to be something that is legislated, i.e.,  
6 every school?

7 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: Well, here's what  
8 we had done before this for training. I should have  
9 maybe elaborated a little bit more on that.

10 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Please, I did not  
11 mean to impugn anything that you did that day. I'm  
12 looking for, as a commissioner, a process where we  
13 learn from that terrible experience and we then inform  
14 others that there is a requirement for schools and the  
15 responding communities to not only be aware of the  
16 incident command system and how you marshal resources,  
17 but to actually in the school environment conduct that  
18 exercise because the seconds are so important. And I'm  
19 sorry to repeat myself.

20 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: No, no, I  
21 understand your question, and I can give you just a  
22 little bit of a foundation for that.

23 My answer would be that we had trained  
24 similar -- you call it a tabletop exercise; I would say  
25 it's more realistic than that. We had what you call

1 Simunitions training. And that's really where we think  
2 about actually using our weapons, but it's Simunitions,  
3 so you're not really actually firing bullets, you're  
4 firing paintballs. And it gives you the real life, as  
5 much as real life as you can as a police officer to  
6 determine the stress levels that you're going to feel  
7 when this type of call comes in. This is an active  
8 shooter call. This could be an officer involved call.  
9 Okay? One of the highest stress level calls a police  
10 officer can have -- okay? -- when dealing with an  
11 incident. But we want to be able to create that for  
12 the officer so that the mistakes they make in training  
13 is not repeated when these incidents have to be dealt  
14 with. So we had practiced with our Simunitions and had  
15 actually gone to abandoned buildings in Newtown to do  
16 the training. And, again, that's where we all trained,  
17 everybody from the chief on down.

18                   So the only thing I would say that we  
19 didn't do was train in those facilities where we may  
20 have to go.

21                   ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Yeah, you're sort of  
22 referencing a fact situation, a firearms training  
23 simulation.

24                   CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: Right.

25                   ROBERT DUCIBELLA: And my real question

1 to you is: Since I hear about seconds, and there's  
2 some terrible statistics that one of you mentioned  
3 about a life every 15 seconds. That's just  
4 unacceptable.

5           As architects we can do things to design  
6 so that it takes time for people to get into buildings,  
7 and that might help, but there's no perfect security.  
8 So does it make sense for a recommendation to come out  
9 of this commission in your opinion for the simulation  
10 plan to be conducted less generically -- not that that  
11 doesn't have extraordinary value, as you mentioned --  
12 but perhaps in the actual environment in our schools?  
13 That's my question.

14           CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: I would like to  
15 suggest to you perhaps that you gear it more towards  
16 school personnel. Every year, multiple times a year,  
17 most school systems do fire drills. And they have  
18 gotten so good at fire drills that no student has died  
19 in a school-based fire I believe in 50 years.

20           How often do they drill for an active  
21 shooter? And in some jurisdictions, that's never.  
22 Those of you who may be old enough to remember, at one  
23 point in time we were taught to shelter under our desks  
24 for the fear of nuclear attack. Some of you may be old  
25 enough to remember that. And then we started doing

1 fire drills on a routine basis. And so that today the  
2 kids can do the fire drills in their sleep with their  
3 eyes closed. And that's good, it saves lives.

4 But now I think we need to start  
5 mandating that school systems drill for this kind of  
6 safety as well. I call it a good and a bad plan. The  
7 good plan is get out of Dodge, and the bad plan is  
8 bunker and defend. And there has to be ways to make  
9 sure that doors can be secured, kids can be sheltered.  
10 And they have to practice that I think in order to make  
11 it reality when something really does happen.

12 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Would you advocate --  
13 because I want to turn this over to Commissioner  
14 Chivinski -- would you advocate that those exercises  
15 take place in the presence of and with the support of  
16 law enforcement?

17 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: Yes, and --

18 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Thank you very much.

19 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: That's what  
20 happens in Manchester.

21 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Thank you.

22 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: If I could just add  
23 briefly that the statute within the last two years that  
24 deals with school fire drills was modified or amended  
25 to include as one of their fire drills a "crisis

1 drill." Obviously, the schools have to prepare for all  
2 hazards, not just shooters, but they have to prepare  
3 for all sorts of other weather-related hazards and  
4 other instances that could occur.

5           So there has been, I think the  
6 legislature has certainly been cognizant of that need  
7 and has set forth the replacement of at least one fire  
8 drill with one of these crisis drills, and that they  
9 are to work in cooperation with the local public safety  
10 organizations.

11           So I think you'll see there is some  
12 framework for that. That's not say it can't be made  
13 better, but there is some framework for that that's  
14 been contemplated.

15           ROBERT DUCIBELLA: That's really --  
16 thank you. And if there are recommendations which may  
17 come back -- and I like what you said -- things can  
18 always be improved. And if there are things that we  
19 learn from Newtown that can inform that legislation,  
20 I'd like to make a request of you gentlemen, if you  
21 wouldn't mind, to codify that and perhaps pass it on to  
22 the chair.

23           It's great to hear that it's out there.  
24 We just had a terrible event. We always need to learn  
25 from that. And if you have a sense that there's some



1 additions to that, and I realize you're in the public  
2 service domain, but so are we.

3 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Right.

4 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: If there were  
5 recommendations that we could hear from you through the  
6 chair on what you might see as making that better, I'd  
7 like to ask you to do that, please.

8 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Absolutely.

9 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Thank you very much.

10 RON CHIVINSKI: I actually conduct that  
11 nuclear training with my students every year, getting  
12 under the desk.

13 Seriously, concerning these Simunitions  
14 training and going into the facilities, just to  
15 reiterate: Do you think there would be benefit? We  
16 heard from John Barry, the Aurora superintendent in  
17 Colorado, that they conduct full-blown drills every  
18 year not necessarily with the students, but with all  
19 the players; the schools, law enforcement, emergency  
20 responders, leaving so much with the buses, sending  
21 them if they're in a certain vicinity one way, another  
22 vicinity another way.

23 Do you believe that would help, and is  
24 anyone currently doing that type of integration in the  
25 state currently?

1 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: To answer very  
2 generally, it does occur from place to place. In South  
3 Windsor we did a large-scale drill two years ago that  
4 included one of our elementary schools. We did the  
5 Simunitions training utilizing not only our local  
6 response officers, but also a Capitol Region Emergency  
7 Services Team, the CRES Team, which is an amalgam of  
8 emergency responders from around the capital region.  
9 And we used one of our schools. It was during the  
10 summer. We had some volunteer students that came in  
11 and acted as victims and helped us out. We integrated  
12 our fire department and our emergency medical service  
13 in that. I can't recall if we had school buses  
14 involved or not.

15 But I say that only to say that that's  
16 perhaps a fair representation of things that are  
17 happening in different locations around the state. Not  
18 everybody is able to do it. Simunitions are expensive.  
19 Not everybody is able to have that technology available  
20 to do it.

21 But I certainly think it is a viable way  
22 of training. It's a great way of getting your officers  
23 to know your facilities and getting them to work  
24 cooperatively with other officers from around the  
25 region. So we certainly support that concept.

1                   We as chiefs, at least I know up in the  
2 capital region and also the other regions around the  
3 state, look to train not just as their own in-agency,  
4 but with the surrounding agencies as often as possible.  
5 Because we all see the benefits of magnifying the size  
6 of our force and getting everybody to know and train  
7 together. So it is very beneficial and it is occurring  
8 from place to place throughout the state.

9                   MR. CHAIRMAN: If I can follow up on  
10 that just a moment. There are circumstances where  
11 local resources will be overwhelmed. Can you talk a  
12 little bit about deployment versus self-deployment and  
13 communications interoperability from your experience?

14                   CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: Yeah, I guess I'll  
15 start that off.

16                   Everybody's experience was slightly  
17 different, but as times goes by, I'm hoping it's  
18 getting better and better. And what happened in  
19 Manchester is initially the call went out for help from  
20 surrounding towns, and eventually the call went out for  
21 help from anybody. And what happened is we were  
22 inundated with personnel before we had an opportunity  
23 to set up logistics.

24                   And when I say that, I mean think about,  
25 for example, what happened in 9/11. We were prepared

1 to get 30 or 40 cops together and send them to New York  
2 City. And at some point New York said: Stop. Please  
3 don't. We have no place to put these guys, we have no  
4 place to feed them, we have no place to bed them down.  
5 Don't send them right now. We know that the support is  
6 available, we'll get a hold of you.

7 Well, what happens in a situation like  
8 Manchester went through, we put the call out for help  
9 and we got such a tremendous response, at some point we  
10 needed to stage certain resources and just have them  
11 stand by. At some point we might need dogs. At some  
12 point we might need a fire marshal. If you recall, the  
13 building was set on fire in addition to the act of  
14 shooting. There was going to be bomb squads needed.  
15 But we couldn't simply have everybody come right to the  
16 scene.

17 So one of my concerns after HDI is I  
18 went to the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police and said:  
19 Look, we kind of need a system so that everybody knows  
20 what is expected of them; they know where to go, they  
21 know on what channel to communicate, and so on and so  
22 forth.

23 And what we did is we learned our lesson  
24 from our brothers in fire. They have a fire ground  
25 channel, and they have a support channel, and they use

1 the incident command process on a much more frequent  
2 basis than we do. And we have to kind of develop these  
3 procedures. And that's what we did.

4           So now the Capitol Region has a plan in  
5 place called the Blue Plan. And the Blue Plan says if  
6 you're called to Bloomfield, here's what surrounding  
7 towns are going to be requested at Stage 1. If it  
8 turns into a Stage 2 event, these other towns are going  
9 to be expected to send this many, this many, this many.  
10 And a Stage 3 event, it even gets further and further.  
11 You're told what frequency to respond on and where you  
12 should stage, and things of that nature. Because we've  
13 had two situations, the hostage situation in South  
14 Windsor and the beer distributorship in Manchester were  
15 only separated by, what, 4 or 5 miles perhaps. And in  
16 both of those scenarios, there was tons and tons of  
17 responders that had to be managed. And so the result  
18 of that is we have this Blue Plan now that we're trying  
19 to make sure that everybody understands and follows.

20           And I would hope that as these scenarios  
21 happen, we're more logical in our response.  
22 Everybody's gut reaction is: If I can get there quick,  
23 I may be able to save lives. And that's something that  
24 all first responders I think share. And so the need to  
25 get there right away becomes paramount.

1           Typically, though, these active shooters  
2 end in ten or 15 minutes. They're over with almost as  
3 soon as they start. And that's why we talk about the  
4 immediate confrontation. The plan is to confront as  
5 quickly as humanly possible. So we do have a need for  
6 the immediate response, but by the same token, as the  
7 situation expands, we need to provide logistics to make  
8 sure that we have people, no one is unaccounted for,  
9 and everybody knows what resources they have.

10           And perhaps Chief Kehoe can comment.

11           CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: In the initial  
12 first few seconds of the 911 call to our center, the  
13 Newtown center, both of our communications officers  
14 were now detached to the job of answering to two calls  
15 that did come from inside the school. That meant they  
16 had to multitask, and that meant they couldn't take  
17 other calls. Okay? They are, you know, those calls  
18 that they could not answer would be rolled over to  
19 another 911 center.

20           We also know that landline calls come  
21 into the police department, cell phones go into the  
22 state police, which in this particular case helped us  
23 immensely because when you have to make that call to  
24 the state police, they knew what was going on, all  
25 right, so they could automatically dispatch from that

1 location.

2           Now you talk about what happened with  
3 the local law enforcement where we didn't have enough  
4 time to call them because, again, we were getting  
5 information directly from those callers inside the  
6 building to help us tactically with the call. They --  
7 some of those 911 calls will roll over to other local  
8 law enforcement, therefore, they're going to know  
9 what's going on or they have the radio frequencies in  
10 their cars.

11           So when it came to deployment, we hardly  
12 made any calls for deployment, for help. We didn't  
13 have the staffing to do that. That's what's going to  
14 happen in a small agency. That's what's going to  
15 happen when you only have two or possibly three  
16 communications officers on duty at one time and you  
17 know everyone is going to be calling in. Everyone  
18 calls in. And some of them are going to be critical  
19 callers, and others are going to be questioning  
20 callers: What's going on? Okay? Yet you still have  
21 to deal with those.

22           So the deployment part initially worked  
23 because of the interoperability that we have, the  
24 unique way law enforcement is set up in Connecticut,  
25 that we all know each other very well, we all work

1 together, and, you know, being on the scene, you know  
2 your partners a lot. You may not know who they are,  
3 but you recognize their patches; you recognize where  
4 they're from and that they've been trained similarly,  
5 certified very similarly, so we're all going to respond  
6 in an appropriate manner, in a professional manner.

7 ALICE FORRESTER: Thank you for  
8 everything that you've done.

9 You mentioned a couple of things. One  
10 is the Blue Plans. Is that across the state? You  
11 mentioned up in your area, but does each region have a  
12 Blue Plan in terms of connecting in these incident  
13 responses?

14 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: Yeah. The Blue  
15 Plan that I spoke of is a Capitol Region Chiefs  
16 Initiative and I believe it only is with departments of  
17 the Capitol Region. I'm unaware if other regions  
18 within Connecticut have implemented it.

19 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I can't speak for  
20 other regions beyond the Capitol Region. I know that  
21 the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs  
22 Association and many of the key players are part of the  
23 Capitol Region. And this may be a pilot project to see  
24 how this works out with all the agencies. We're  
25 literally going to adopt it officially within the next



1 few weeks now that we've gotten all the responses down.  
2 And I think if we see that effective, it will then move  
3 on to other regions in the state to see if it's  
4 applicable to the way they do business.

5 ALICE FORRESTER: Thank you. I have a  
6 second part of the question: You mentioned, I mean  
7 time, I'm hearing time is of the utmost essence. And  
8 in your recommendations you talk about panic alarms  
9 with caution. I wonder, you mentioned the barriers.  
10 Every single barrier, you know, takes seconds away,  
11 those precious seconds. I wonder if you could name  
12 some of the barriers that you wish were there or that  
13 you feel really were tremendously important or are  
14 important in any of these experiences.

15 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: One of the things  
16 that Sandy Hook School had, okay, and I know from  
17 firsthand experience because I was a youth officer in  
18 our community for many, many years and entered that  
19 school to teach D.A.R.E. classes, this is 20 years ago.  
20 And I will tell you that of all the schools that are in  
21 the community of Newtown, Sandy Hook was probably one  
22 of the safest based upon their principal's willingness  
23 to take that extra effort to make their kids as safe as  
24 possible, make their faculty as safe as possible. So  
25 even 20 years ago when I would enter into the school,

1 although I wasn't buzzed in at the time, I would enter  
2 school, I would go first and foremost, because of all  
3 the signs there were in place, to the front office. I  
4 would sign in, what I was doing, and actually even if I  
5 was in uniform, I would get a little name tag and I  
6 would put that on. I felt that was so important for  
7 them to administer that safety program at that time and  
8 that they felt that way.

9 Over the years, they increased their  
10 security by having a buzzer system that automatically  
11 locked doors, every door in the building, okay? That  
12 buzzer system took time to breach. Because it did, it  
13 saved lives. We talk about other, you know, the  
14 confronting, the principal confronting. Well, we all  
15 know, even back 20 years ago, the principal in that  
16 school at that time wanted all of his teachers to  
17 confront anybody in that school who did not belong, to  
18 say, "Can I help you?" You're confronting somebody.  
19 Even if they're walking around, okay, looking for their  
20 child. If they didn't have a name tag on, we know that  
21 they had no reason to be there. Of course, if they've  
22 got a name tag on and they were going to a classroom,  
23 they would be notifying that teacher, giving them  
24 directions, or maybe even giving them an escort.

25 So there's a lot of security measures

1 that are personnel based, and there's obviously  
2 security measures that can be let's say structurally  
3 based. And every one is important.

4 I'm not an expert in that to tell you  
5 that this is what I would like to see. But I know that  
6 each barrier, each thing that has to happen before you  
7 enter a school becomes time.

8 RON CHIVINSKI: This is to the  
9 Connecticut Police Chiefs Association:

10 Testimony, I was very happy to see  
11 testimony laid before me today to the subcommittee  
12 dated January 25th. And it's about barriers and,  
13 specifically, locks. And in here I just want to get on  
14 record, it says, "Interior locks are important in that  
15 they control access throughout the inside of the  
16 facility. Lock hardware on classroom doors should  
17 allow the classroom and other rooms to be locked from  
18 the inside. This allows the user to quickly lock the  
19 door during a crisis without exposing himself and  
20 students to hallway hazards."

21 As my fellow commissioners know, I feel  
22 very strongly about that. Could you speak any more to  
23 that, what led you to that recommendation?

24 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: It's a  
25 recommendation that's existed for some time. It

1 certainly wasn't novel when I wrote it into this  
2 document. Just some background on this document: This  
3 was to -- it wasn't actually to Sandy Hook Advisory  
4 Panel, it was the other school safety subcommittee.  
5 But we wanted to be uniform in our message that we've  
6 supported throughout the legislative process, and  
7 that's why both of these documents you'll see are to  
8 different committees and have different names on them.  
9 But I wanted you to be aware that the message is very  
10 much the same.

11           And I offered this particular document  
12 on the school security and it reflects very much what  
13 we've done with our Safe Schools Initiative in South  
14 Windsor since 2006.

15           The interior locking of doors I know I  
16 think from an educator's standpoint can be somewhat  
17 controversial. Certainly from a fire marshal's  
18 standpoint, it can be somewhat controversial. But it  
19 has been shown and I think when the report of what  
20 happened at the elementary school in Sandy Hook is  
21 revealed we perhaps will see that that was very  
22 instrumental in creating delays. That was the  
23 inability of the shooter to get into other rooms  
24 throughout the building.

25           So we feel very strongly that there

1 should be the capability of securing the room from the  
2 inside without exposing students or the teacher to any  
3 hallway hazard. But we are also very cognizant of the  
4 fact that should there suddenly be a fire hazard,  
5 people need to be able to get out of that room. So  
6 certainly any hardware needs to meet the recommendation  
7 of the fire marshal in that with a single action,  
8 you're able to release that lock and get people out of  
9 the room should they need to suddenly find themselves  
10 in a position where they can actually escape. So  
11 fleeing is certainly one of the options when faced with  
12 some sort of a hazard inside the school.

13                   RON CHIVINSKI: Agreed. But you would  
14 make that recommendation as the Connecticut Police  
15 Chiefs Association not just in Newtown, but to all  
16 schools in Connecticut; correct?

17                   CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Yes.

18                   RON CHIVINSKI: Thank you.

19                   One last question, and this goes to all  
20 of you: Again, it's been mentioned that there's been  
21 discussion of greater integration between various  
22 agencies, including the school districts, the  
23 municipalities, law enforcement, emergency responders  
24 for conducting these full-blown drills. Would it in  
25 your opinion benefit us, as we've heard prior

1 testimony, for, for example, law enforcement to have  
2 access in advance to school emergency procedures, as  
3 confidential as they need to be kept, and school floor  
4 plans, et cetera?

5 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I think it's  
6 beneficial. I can speak specifically for our  
7 community, and we do have access to that. We work very  
8 much in partnership with our superintendent and board  
9 of education. We've always had a very good working  
10 relationship. Like Chief Kehoe, I also was a D.A.R.E.  
11 instructor 23 years ago. He and I were trained  
12 together at the same time, as a matter of fact, and was  
13 in and out of our schools on a daily basis and had a  
14 very good working relationship.

15 And when you talk about barriers, I  
16 think that some of the barriers that exist, although  
17 they are beginning to come down, are people. And we  
18 can't legislate relationships. And the academic world  
19 and police world are two very different worlds that  
20 have to collide from time to time. And sometimes it is  
21 a collision that can be somewhat noisy. And I don't  
22 know how you change that. I think it is changing now  
23 with events that have occurred over the past decade in  
24 schools and schools are understanding that police want  
25 to be helpers and they want to get into the schools and

1 they want to help them with their planning. I know I  
2 learned a tremendous amount. I was surprised at how  
3 much they already knew and how many programs had  
4 already existed through the school community, not just  
5 in our community, but I mean schools, education in  
6 general, steps that are taken and how teachers and  
7 administrators are trained to protect their students,  
8 and I was comforted by that.

9           But I think one of the things that we  
10 all need to see going forward is more of an ongoing  
11 relationship; not just a once a year because we're  
12 going to do our mandated crisis drill, but an ongoing  
13 relationship. And I think part of that is having a key  
14 person from the police department who can work  
15 collaboratively with the leaders and decision-makers of  
16 the local board of education and school system in  
17 giving advice to their emergency plans. I'm not saying  
18 that the police have all of the absolute answers, but  
19 certainly should be consulted. Because it's important  
20 for the officers who are arriving at the school to know  
21 what kind of action is that school doing. When you  
22 arrive at a school that's in lockdown, guess what? You  
23 can't get in. So now your first responders, your  
24 medical crew, your fire crew, and your police officers  
25 have to go back to their car and get some kind of a

1 tool in order to break into the school.

2                   So how do you overcome that? You  
3 overcome that by working collaboratively and saying:  
4 Listen, we'll have key fobs that electronically can get  
5 us into the doors of the school. But you have to come  
6 up with solutions like that. But I think that's where  
7 the collaboration really is effective. Understanding  
8 what kind of security systems are in place and what is  
9 the expectation of the officer that shows up. And,  
10 conversely, what's the expectation of the school staff?  
11 I think the education of the staff is important, too.  
12 What can they expect when an officer shows up? The  
13 school staff should understand what our active shooter  
14 response is. That when the officer shows up, their  
15 first priority is not to render aid to those that are  
16 injured, but in fact to go towards the shooting or the  
17 sound wherever that crisis is occurring to make the  
18 crisis stop. The teachers and the staff need to know  
19 that so they're not later saying: Oh, the police  
20 officer was stepping over injured children and I just  
21 can't believe how heartless they were. But they need  
22 to understand that that's the way they're trained and  
23 that there's a reason for it.

24                   So I certainly think there's room for a  
25 lot more collaboration between police leaders and



1 educational leaders.

2 BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you, gentlemen.

3 Chief Reed, I have a question for you,  
4 and I think you're particularly well suited to answer  
5 this in that you're also an attorney, and I think the  
6 commission should know that. And I know you spent a  
7 lot of time studying the permitting issues, and we  
8 heard a lot of testimony earlier.

9 One of your recommendations is to  
10 eliminate the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. So  
11 can you explain that a little bit, and directly talk  
12 about your experience? And I know you've actually  
13 analyzed the law and are well aware of, you know, why  
14 this is happening. So I'm wondering if you could share  
15 that with us.

16 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Right. I know  
17 there were some questions asked of Detective Mattson  
18 from the state police earlier on this issue. And one  
19 of the concepts we as the Chiefs of Police have  
20 supported is some sort of reorganization of the Firearm  
21 Board of Permit Examiners.

22 We as local police chiefs are the  
23 issuing authorities for pistol permits. And, again, as  
24 we saw in the earlier presentation from the state  
25 police, you need permits for pistols and revolvers.

1 You do not under the existing law need permits for long  
2 guns, for shotguns, but only for pistols and revolvers.  
3 And those permits are channeled through a local issuing  
4 authority, which in communities where there's a police  
5 chief, it is the chief of police.

6           So we have been frustrated through the  
7 years of the results that we've seen from the Board of  
8 Firearm Permit Examiners. We don't know whether, from  
9 the discussions we've had, whether elimination is  
10 completely the appropriate step, because certainly  
11 people have the right to appeal of any governmental  
12 decision and there should be some tribunal they go to  
13 to explain why they think the issuing authority is  
14 wrong. But perhaps that could be reconstituted, and  
15 maybe there should be some folks a little more suited  
16 to help evaluate the suitability of an applicant.

17           You know, as the issuing authority, one  
18 of the standards in the law is, is the applicant a  
19 suitable person? And then there's no real definition  
20 of what "suitability" is. You saw from the slide the  
21 state police put up there are a number of things that  
22 you can consider. So one of our, one of the concepts  
23 that we have supported is expanding that suitability  
24 standard so that it's articulated in the statute. We  
25 all know that statutes are there to put people on

1 notice of what the expectations are, and it provides  
2 help for us as issuing authorities. What can we  
3 consider when we are considering if somebody is  
4 suitable to have a permit? We'd like to be able to  
5 consider things beyond what currently exist in the four  
6 corners of the statute. The statute, as you heard  
7 before, talks about are you convicted of a felony,  
8 convicted of any disqualifying misdemeanors, are you  
9 the subject of a protective order or a restraining  
10 order, have you been involved in a domestic -- crime of  
11 domestic violence.

12           We'd like to expand that a bit more so  
13 that we can consider anything that we think is  
14 reasonably necessary to consider when determining  
15 somebody's suitability. Who else lives in the home?  
16 Do you live in the home with somebody who would be  
17 disqualified from having a weapon? Can we disqualify  
18 you even though you may otherwise be qualified, but  
19 perhaps you live with somebody who is a convicted  
20 felon. Should we be able to disqualify you as a result  
21 of that relationship that you have? Maybe we should.  
22 We should at least be able to consider it. Should we  
23 be able to consider any other contacts that you've had  
24 with the police, even if they haven't resulted in  
25 arrest or a conviction? We want to broaden that idea

1 of suitability.

2           The other thing that I want to point out  
3 is that the only place in the statute where suitability  
4 is considered is the initial issue of a temporary  
5 permit to carry a pistol or revolver, that 60-day  
6 permit. After that, suitability is not included in the  
7 law. Here's what I mean: Five years later when you  
8 renew that pistol permit, suitability is not  
9 considered. They do what's called a background check,  
10 which is a computerized database search. They don't  
11 even positively identify you through fingerprints.  
12 They don't do a fingerprint search for criminal  
13 history. They just type in your name and your date of  
14 birth -- and I'm not saying that this is, they're  
15 wrong; they're just complying with the law. They put  
16 in your name and your date of birth and see if you have  
17 any criminal convictions, if you've been committed by  
18 order of the probate court within the past 12 months,  
19 and they look at some very specific database items to  
20 decide whether you qualify. The issue of suitability  
21 is not mentioned in the statute for renewal of your  
22 pistol permit.

23           The suitability standard is not  
24 mentioned for an eligibility certificate. You can get  
25 an eligibility certificate so that you can possess a

1    weapon in your house or possess a weapon in your place  
2    of work.  But the suitability standard doesn't exist  
3    there either.  Again, it's just a computerized check of  
4    the databases to see if you've been convicted of a  
5    felony, or any of the disqualifying misdemeanors, or  
6    any of those few other articulated things that are in  
7    the statute.

8                    So we as the Chiefs of Police have asked  
9    for some more uniformity when it comes to the  
10   permitting process.  One, shouldn't there be permits  
11   for all firearms, not just pistols and revolvers?  
12   Shouldn't you have to engage in the same process to get  
13   a shotgun or to get any of these sporting rifles?  And  
14   shouldn't that process include some check of your  
15   "suitability"?  When it's time to renew, should there  
16   be some level of suitability check that's done beyond  
17   just the computerized database check?

18                   So we've supported a number of these  
19   concepts because the permitting process is really  
20   something that we as local chiefs own.  It's the one  
21   thing that we can really have an impact on when it  
22   comes to who lawfully possesses a firearm.

23                   BARBARA O'CONNOR:  So, Chief, do you  
24   have those in writing anywhere, and would you be able  
25   to supply those to us for specific recommendations

1 beyond what we have here?

2 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: We do. And that  
3 may be what is in the -- you see one handout I have to  
4 the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention  
5 and Safety. That should show all the concepts that we  
6 supported when it came to the gun safety. I asked the  
7 clerk to distribute that to the members of the  
8 commission so you could reference that.

9 BARBARA O'CONNOR: Okay. Thanks.

10 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Chief, if you find  
11 there's something more that's beyond that that I spoke  
12 of, I can certainly put that in writing and get that to  
13 you and members of the commission.

14 BARBARA O'CONNOR: Okay. I was thinking  
15 specifically about your suitability. I scanned this  
16 real quick, I didn't see that in there. But if it's in  
17 there, great.

18 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Okay.

19 BARBARA O'CONNOR: I have two other  
20 questions, if the folks don't mind. This is for all  
21 three of the chiefs:

22 I'm wondering if you can talk about from  
23 your perspectives things that you feel we could pass in  
24 legislation that will, you know, be sort of force  
25 multipliers in terms of jurisdictional issues or any

1 concerns you have there.

2 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: One of the issues  
3 that's come before the legislature for many years is  
4 the idea of statewide authority for police officers.  
5 There's always a question of where does the authority  
6 of a police officer end. Well, there's really not a  
7 question. Really, the law says you're a police officer  
8 in your community and that's it. Except for  
9 Connecticut General Statute 54-1f, which says if you  
10 are a police officer in the state of Connecticut and  
11 you are anywhere in the state of Connecticut and  
12 somebody commits a felony in your presence or you have  
13 probable cause to believe somebody has committed a  
14 felony, you can make an arrest. But that's for a  
15 felony crime, which is our most serious crimes. That's  
16 been in existence from 1949, probably even before that.  
17 And that's been applied without any issues through the  
18 years.

19 What's come up in recent years when we  
20 deal with service sharing, sharing police resources  
21 across town borders, is the ability for police to act  
22 as police officers beyond felonies; misdemeanors,  
23 violations, infractions, or whatever other instances  
24 where there are for the police to take enforcement  
25 action. There's no statute that authorizes a police

1 officer to enforce those types of laws beyond their  
2 jurisdiction, which can be challenging.

3           Now I don't know whether this created  
4 any challenges in the Newtown situation or the Hartford  
5 Distributors situation. But certainly there are chiefs  
6 who question sending out an officer to another  
7 community to render aid, especially after the emergency  
8 passes. Where does the officer stand as far as their  
9 authority?

10           You know, I think as a resident, driving  
11 around the state, when you see a police officer,  
12 whether it says Monroe or Norwalk or Norwich or South  
13 Windsor or Manchester on the side, you probably figure  
14 that that police officer can do whatever they need to  
15 do as a police officer to uphold the law.  
16 Unfortunately, our statutory structure doesn't allow  
17 that. They only allow the police officer to take  
18 action outside of their geographical jurisdiction if  
19 they see a felony being committed. So if you witness  
20 some sort of a larceny or a crime of domestic violence,  
21 you can't take action if you are outside of your  
22 jurisdiction, which is frustrating and kind of ties the  
23 hand of law enforcement.

24           Connecticut, I don't want to say we're  
25 unique, but because we don't have any kind of a county



1 system, really the only ones who have broad power  
2 across town borders are the state police, state capitol  
3 police actually have statewide powers for all police  
4 powers throughout the state, and really that's it. The  
5 Department of Environmental Protection has some.  
6 They're even battling now to have our motor vehicle  
7 inspectors have statewide arrest powers because  
8 although they are police officers, they're only allowed  
9 to enforce motor vehicle statutes. They pull over  
10 somebody for speeding and they have marijuana in the  
11 car, guess what? The motor vehicle inspector can  
12 arrest them; they've got to call a trooper, which is  
13 fine, the trooper is great, does a great job, but now  
14 we have two people who really have equal training and  
15 one can make the arrest and the other can't.

16           So, from a law enforcement standpoint,  
17 it becomes kind of frustrating for a local law  
18 enforcement, that if I need to go to the Newtown or I  
19 need to go to Manchester, or I need to go to Vernon, it  
20 would be nice to know that because I wear this badge  
21 that says you're a police officer in the state of  
22 Connecticut, shouldn't I have all of the authority that  
23 you would expect a police officer to have throughout  
24 the state? So that certainly has been a challenge  
25 through the years for Connecticut municipal police

1 officers.

2 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: And if I could  
3 just follow up on that, because that became an issue  
4 here in Newtown. Because after the critical event was  
5 over, we needed to have a lot of law enforcement in our  
6 town because we were dealing with so many different  
7 things; daily threats to our community, we had multiple  
8 funerals, wakes and internments to handle. And we  
9 wanted to make sure that each one of those was given  
10 the dignity and the respect that they deserved. We  
11 also had memorials being set up all over town. Traffic  
12 was a nightmare that, you know, we could not handle.  
13 Yet we were still dealing with an investigation, and we  
14 still had to secure two crime scenes. We had three  
15 commands posts. You can imagine the amount of law  
16 enforcement that was, you know, situated in the town of  
17 Newtown from those two weeks thereafter. And one of  
18 the command posts was just operational, just to get  
19 through the things that we needed to do. And that  
20 meant we needed to have or deploy 60 to 120 officers on  
21 a given day for a given shift to handle all the things  
22 that we were going to handle that day. We deploy in  
23 Newtown anywhere from four to ten officers a day. So  
24 you can see that we were taxed. And we were bringing  
25 in officers from as far away as Stonington, Greenwich,

1 UConn -- thank you -- and other communities that were  
2 just, they were coming. And I know at one point the  
3 question came to me, one of the hundreds of questions  
4 that came to me during that week was: Are they covered  
5 from a liability standpoint? Our mutual aid compact  
6 was Fairfield County. But we knew we needed more than  
7 Fairfield County to handle this incident. And that  
8 became an issue.

9 I think we just did it and we knew we  
10 had to do it because that's what law enforcement does.  
11 And we were going to worry about it later on and pick  
12 up the pieces later.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I want to  
14 take a quick time check. We have a few more minutes.

15 BARBARA O'CONNOR: Chief Reed, do you  
16 have specific recommendations for legislation and can  
17 you get that to us?

18 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I can get it to you  
19 in writing, the legislation that we've supported in the  
20 past that would provide statewide arrest powers for not  
21 just felonies, but also misdemeanors and other  
22 violations throughout the state that would assist in  
23 extending the authority of municipal police officers.

24 BARBARA O'CONNOR: Thank you. Police  
25 officers in general. I just want to make sure you

1 don't leave us out.

2 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: We always include  
3 the universities. Yes, absolutely important.

4 DENIS McCARTHY: Thank you very much for  
5 coming. I want to just take a second to recognize and  
6 honor the police officers who responded to your  
7 incidents. The scars that they bear they bear for the  
8 rest of their lives. And speaking for the fire  
9 service, I can say that we appreciate the opportunity  
10 to work with you collaboratively under unified command,  
11 to support and maybe multiply your effectiveness from a  
12 rear position during events like these. I think that  
13 we as public safety have come a long way to support  
14 each other very effectively.

15 I'm concerned about the long-term impact  
16 on first responders and am curious if you have any  
17 insight on what we need to consider so that first  
18 responders who bear the brunt of some of these  
19 incidents in the response community, how we care for  
20 them long term so they can be effective first  
21 responders for a long career post-incident.

22 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: I can handle that.  
23 I mean I'm living it right now with my staff. And  
24 certainly I would think that the other responding  
25 people from the agencies, whether it be law

1 enforcement, EMS, or fire service, because we all were  
2 there, we all have different roles, but we all kind of  
3 understood what was going on and knew that it was a  
4 catastrophic event. So there's going to be an impact  
5 on multiple levels. That's not even talking about the  
6 impact on the teachers and students in that school.

7           So you can see that clearly we need to  
8 start thinking along those lines, that if this type of  
9 event should ever happen -- and I wish it doesn't --  
10 however, history will show us and experience will show  
11 us and if you do the numbers, active shooter situations  
12 in the United States of America are increasing every  
13 year. We're going to have these over and over and over  
14 again. And make no mistake about it; unless we do  
15 something about it, we're going to continue to have  
16 them. And they may get worse before they get better.  
17 And that scares me as a law enforcement officer, it  
18 scares me as a first responder because now we're going  
19 to be thinking about this.

20           So, you know, our action is so important  
21 now that not only to prevent it, but if it does happen,  
22 we're situated to handle that mental health aspect.

23           And, again, I don't have an answer for  
24 you, other than maybe we should set up a fund that just  
25 talks to that mental health. And we know that, and I'm

1 sure you've gotten a lot of information from previous  
2 days that you've had these hearings, the mental health  
3 physicians that you've heard from, the experts in those  
4 fields, it's something you can't put your hand around,  
5 but you know it's there, you know you need to do work  
6 on it, and you know you need to some have something,  
7 some systems in place to deal with that. And I don't  
8 have all those answers for you, but I know that we have  
9 to do something for that specifically too, in addition  
10 to some of the other things, important things that we  
11 talked about today.

12 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I think I would  
13 simply say that from a statutory perspective, as far as  
14 recommendations, and we've seen a number of  
15 recommendations already proposed, when it comes to  
16 workers' compensation and being able to cover those who  
17 are somewhat disabled as a result of witnessing these  
18 types of traumatic events, we support that. We support  
19 some sort of legislation that would provide some safety  
20 net, some ongoing compensation so that those who are  
21 devastated by this type of an event can continue to be  
22 compensated in some form, perhaps rehabilitated, and  
23 hopefully returned to their job at some point, if  
24 that's appropriate.

25 KATHLEEN FLAHERTY: And, Chief Montminy,

1 I'm wondering -- and thank you all for the information  
2 you've given us so far today. And I'd just like to  
3 echo what the Chief said, knowing the impact of these  
4 kind of events on our first responders. But also I  
5 know we've been talking a lot today, focusing on the  
6 active shooter events. But also the interaction that  
7 police departments have with folks who are experiencing  
8 mental health crises, which sometimes are a different  
9 kind of active event.

10                   What kind of training have you  
11 instituted in your department in Manchester for dealing  
12 with those kind of events? If I can just indulge a  
13 moment of the commission's time, because we often  
14 deal -- we've been asked to focus on that, too, and the  
15 impact on people who are dealing with the mental health  
16 system because -- would you recommend that other  
17 departments institute that kind of training, too?

18                   CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: Yes. We call  
19 these EDP calls, emotional disturbed person calls. And  
20 we have done a statistical trend and noticed that over  
21 the last several years, our number of calls for EDPs  
22 has continued to climb and climb and climb. 2012  
23 Manchester police responded to 1,025 EDP calls. Just  
24 in the one year, over a thousand EDP calls.

25                   And several years ago I came to the

1 realization that this is a growing trend and that this  
2 is a situation that law enforcement is typically  
3 untrained or unprepared for. So what I did is I  
4 brought in the CIT model training that originated in  
5 New London, I believe, and we have I believe 38  
6 officers now who are trained CIT officers. And what  
7 they do is they receive specific training in how to  
8 deal with people in emotional crisis. And I suggest  
9 that that training should be given to every police  
10 officer. It's a self-preservation thing. The better  
11 trained you are in how to determine who is emotionally  
12 disturbed and how to best deal with them, it's really,  
13 not only is it beneficial to the individual, but it's  
14 an officer safety issue.

15                   How many times have we heard about  
16 people either forcing police officers to shoot them or  
17 getting involved in some kind of a suicide-by-cop  
18 ordeal where had the proper tactics been used, they  
19 could have been defused.

20                   And so we did, in Manchester, we did it  
21 out of necessity. Our numbers were simply so high that  
22 we felt that we had to get our officers trained in how  
23 to better deal with the emotionally disturbed  
24 population. And so we did it out of necessity. But it  
25 has been tremendous. And now we've got many of our



1 street patrol officers are trained and we get kudos  
2 from other agencies on how we dealt with emotional  
3 disturbed people and now we're getting to the point now  
4 we're getting phone calls from other agencies wanting  
5 to know how to implement the same system under their  
6 municipality. So it's been very productive.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We've got one  
8 final question.

9 RON CHIVINSKI: We as a commission kind  
10 of went round and round with the last presenter. It  
11 could have been all the weapons up on the counter that  
12 got us excited. But we were trying to pin down, you  
13 know, did they feel -- I was trying to pin down -- did  
14 they feel the definition for assault weapons was  
15 adequate. And I see here in -- again, you had  
16 referenced Connecticut Police Chiefs Association  
17 Bipartisan Task Force Testimony on Gun Violence and  
18 Prevention and Children's Safety. There's a lot of I  
19 guess you'd call them recommendations. And it says,  
20 "Review state statutes to either expand or ban the sale  
21 of assault-type weapons."

22 Again, we had many different weapons  
23 here up on the counter, many -- I was raised around  
24 guns in Pennsylvania, many I have handled when I was  
25 young, when I was a teenager. But there seems to be a

1 fine line between does it have this feature or two of  
2 those features and how do you get around that. There  
3 was also a Glock on the counter. And it could have a  
4 ten-magazine clip, 15, all the way up to 40.

5 So my question to all of you is: Where  
6 do you see the line and how would you in your  
7 professional opinion expand that definition? Thank  
8 you.

9 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: This is what I was  
10 talking to you about before. You know, I don't want to  
11 speak for the Connecticut Police Chiefs, but I sense  
12 that some common sense needs to be added to this  
13 equation. Right now we're in a situation where if you  
14 add this or subtract that from seemingly identical  
15 weapons, it makes it legal or illegal. We're quickly  
16 approaching the point where as long as it's painted  
17 green, we're good and if it's not, then it's not an  
18 assault weapon.

19 We need a better working definition of  
20 what an assault rifle is. But also I think that there  
21 are certain common-sense things that need to be put in  
22 place. I'm speaking just for myself, not for  
23 Connecticut Chiefs of Police. But I don't believe that  
24 any purchase of firearm should be had without the  
25 benefit of a background check. And I think we should

1 move to ban certain things that nobody would ever need  
2 under normal circumstances. Why are incendiary bullets  
3 legal? Why are armor-piercing bullets legal? Why are  
4 bullets designed to pierce police officers'  
5 bullet-proof vests legal? Why are they commonly  
6 available?

7           Do you realize -- maybe you don't  
8 realize. You can order 1,000 rounds of ammunition for  
9 an assault rifle and have it drop-shipped to your front  
10 door via Internet. You don't need to sign, you don't  
11 need to prove that you're 21, you don't need to prove  
12 that you have a permit. You can go onto the Internet  
13 and have 1,000 rounds delivered by UPS two days later  
14 at your front door. So I think there's certain  
15 common-sense things that could be done.

16           I personally agree with the Connecticut  
17 Chiefs of Police that the Board of Firearms Permit  
18 Examiners I think puts, reverses chiefs of polices'  
19 decisions that they have to make on a day-to-day basis  
20 of who is suitable to possess a firearm. And I don't  
21 understand what additional qualifications that somebody  
22 who sits on that committee possesses to overrule a  
23 chief of police. But that's what happens. So we've  
24 got representatives on that commission from the Ye Old  
25 Gun Guild and other entities and they determine that

1 the chief of police was wrong when he denied a person  
2 based on suitability and they order the chief to  
3 instate the person's pistol permit. To me that is  
4 shocking to the sense and I think these are the kind of  
5 things that could be instituted without terrible public  
6 outcry. I mean I don't believe that the public would  
7 object to the fact of having to go through a background  
8 check to buy a weapon. I don't think they would.  
9 These are the kind of things that I think are  
10 common-sense approaches. But Chief Reed I'm sure will  
11 have more comment.

12 CHIEF MICHAEL KEHOE: If I may make one  
13 comment on that, I'll make it brief.

14 I guess I would look at it if you talk  
15 about an assault weapon and military assault weapon, it  
16 would be similar to what I guess the Supreme Court  
17 Justice says, "I know what pornography is when I see  
18 it." I'll know what an assault weapon is when I see  
19 it. And if you just add some common sense to that, you  
20 would know that it's a killing machine and it has no  
21 purpose in my mind in our society other than to kill,  
22 okay? And I don't see the sportsman having access to  
23 that. That's just my feeling. But certainly that's  
24 kind of how I would look at it.

25 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I think that really

1 sums it up because I was going to go along with the  
2 pornography definition; you know it when you see it.

3           So it's very -- it's hard to articulate  
4 and say this is the way it should be written. Because  
5 I think for years they've been chasing this idea of an  
6 assault weapon as being a bad thing and how do we  
7 outlaw it. I mean just like certain pharmaceuticals.  
8 You know, you change one chemical mixture and suddenly  
9 that pharmaceutical which does the same thing as the  
10 one that's already banned is no longer banned because  
11 the chemical composition changes. So I don't know how  
12 you chase this idea of what an assault weapon is and  
13 write a statute that is going to outlaw everything that  
14 looks like, smells like, tastes like, sounds like an  
15 assault weapon. I think that's very challenging to do.

16           But as Detective Mattson pointed out  
17 from the state police, you can own a fully automatic  
18 machine gun in the state of Connecticut. And until  
19 you're going to make that stop, what difference does it  
20 make? I mean really. You can own a fully automatic  
21 machine gun. As long as you have an FFL and you pay  
22 the fee, you can own a fully automatic machine gun in  
23 the state of Connecticut.

24           So we chase around the idea of what is  
25 an assault weapon, what isn't an assault weapon. You

1 know, I'm not saying that it should be okay to have all  
2 of these things. But my point is I don't know the  
3 answer to that without looking to the manufacturer and  
4 trying to figure out exactly what, you know, how can  
5 you write a law that says: Okay, you can limit the  
6 magazine capacity, how many rounds you can shoot; you  
7 can say you can't shoot it fully automatic or with a  
8 three-round burst, you can only shoot one round with  
9 every pull of the trigger. But now you get it to the  
10 point where you don't want -- are you going to start to  
11 outlaw the semiautomatic pistols that the police carry?

12 Because that's the same thing; one round with one pull  
13 of the trigger, a magazine greater than ten. So I  
14 think that's why they came up with these standards and  
15 talked about the detachable magazine and talked about  
16 the lug for the bayonet and talked about the way the  
17 grips are. Because they tried to put together  
18 something where you could add these things up and say:  
19 Okay, that's what we're going to call an assault  
20 weapon.

21 So the shorter answer is: I'm not sure  
22 how you specify it so that you're going to eliminate  
23 all of these weapons. But, you know, the most popular  
24 weapon used in crime in the state of Connecticut is a  
25 .38 caliber pistol. And I don't think anyone has an

1 appetite to ban .38 caliber pistols.

2           We just saw another terrible tragedy  
3 unfold the other day that dealt with mental health and  
4 a .38 caliber pistol. It's a bad mix regardless of  
5 what kind of gun it is.

6           So, to Chief Montminy's point, I think  
7 the permitting process -- and I don't know what the  
8 status of that most recent incident over by the Lake of  
9 the Isles Golf Course, if there were any permits  
10 involved in that situation, or I don't know if all that  
11 information is out yet. But I think we can control the  
12 things we can control. And we can control the  
13 permitting process and the examination of applicants  
14 and people who want to have permits. And I think  
15 that's where perhaps our strongest defense is going to  
16 be.

17           MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
18 Chiefs. In fact, Chief, you just highlighted something  
19 that I was going to say to close, and it's actually a  
20 request.

21           We have spent a lot of time talking  
22 about assault weapons or assault-style weapons. But  
23 the charge of the commission is broad. And addressing  
24 issues of gun violence at all levels was one of the  
25 items issued to us by the Governor. So if there are

1 additional, from an association standpoint, if there  
2 are additional handgun-specific recommendations, if you  
3 could forward those to the commission via the  
4 Governor's Office, that would certainly be helpful.

5 Thank you again for your time. Thank  
6 you for sharing your experience with us. And thank  
7 you, commission members, for your questions.

8 We will take a break for lunch now,  
9 reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

10 (Lunch Recess)

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let's  
12 reconvene here. Our afternoon session will start with  
13 Dr. Brandon Campbell from the Connecticut Children's  
14 Medical Center with a presentation on gun violence.  
15 The floor is yours.

16 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: I'd like to thank  
17 the Commission for the invitation and the opportunity  
18 to talk to you on gun violence. Hopefully what I cover  
19 will not be too redundant with what I know you've  
20 already heard, but hopefully I'll be able to provide  
21 some unique perspective on the topic.

22 If you only take away two things from  
23 what I say to you, the first is that you have to  
24 recognize that guns are more dangerous than they are  
25 protective in American society. We know that full



1 well. But the good news is firearm injuries and deaths  
2 can be prevented. And hopefully I'll give you a little  
3 bit of insight as to why I think that's the case.

4           So I come at the issue of firearm  
5 violence from a fairly unique perspective. As a  
6 pediatric general and thoracic surgeon, I take care of  
7 the victims of gun violence and other types of  
8 injuries, as well as other childhood conditions  
9 requiring surgery. I am a gun owner, I'm an avid  
10 sportsman, and I'm also the parent of a four and  
11 8-year-old girls, elementary school-aged girls.

12           So the overview of what I'd like to talk  
13 to you about today is just a little bit about the  
14 basics of the epidemiology of how gun injuries occur,  
15 with a special emphasis on childhood injuries, talk a  
16 little bit about lessons that we've learned looking at  
17 motor vehicle crashes and how those lessons can be  
18 applied to gun injuries, and, finally, I want to tell  
19 you from my perspective why I think that sensible  
20 regulation of firearms makes good sense. And then I  
21 will leave you with some evidence-based recommendations  
22 which came out of a firearm policy forum that the  
23 Children's Hospital sponsored at the end of January and  
24 also with the recommendations which have been endorsed  
25 by many medical societies, including the American

1 Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of  
2 Surgeons.

3           So what I'm not going to cover today is  
4 the real details of the science of gun violence  
5 research. It can be pretty boring and uninteresting on  
6 a Friday afternoon, and I don't think it's really that  
7 germane to our discussion. And I'm not going to talk  
8 specifically about the gun buy-back program that we've  
9 held here in Hartford for the last four years, but I'd  
10 be happy to answer questions about that later in the  
11 discussion portion.

12           So people have been doing foolish things  
13 with guns in the United States for a long time. This  
14 is Annie Oakley with her intrepid dog, I forget the  
15 name, with an apple on the head that she used to shoot  
16 the apple off as a sort of a circus-type event. And  
17 when the bullet goes through the apple, it is not that  
18 big a deal. But it is a very big deal when a bullet  
19 goes through human tissue. This is not a human  
20 specimen, but what it illustrates is what the bullet  
21 from a high-velocity gun, like a handgun or an assault  
22 rifle, will do to human tissue when it goes through it.

23           Once an injury like this has occurred,  
24 there is nothing as a surgeon that I can do to rectify  
25 what has happened. And I think that is a very, very

1 important thing. And in my discussions with my friend  
2 Susan Williams, who is one of the associate medical  
3 examiners here, these are exactly the types of injuries  
4 that were observed in the children at Sandy Hook  
5 Elementary School.

6                   So these are my patients.  
7 Unfortunately, they make the headlines of the Hartford  
8 Courant. This is a toddler who found his dad's loaded  
9 handgun in the nightstand and inadvertently shot  
10 himself in the head. This is a boy who was at the West  
11 Indian Day parade here in Hartford not that long ago  
12 that caught a stray bullet when some gang members got  
13 in an altercation.

14                   I'm not the first surgeon who's, by any  
15 stretch of the imagination, who's been concerned about  
16 gun injuries. C. Everett Koop, pediatric surgeon, was  
17 talking about this a long time ago in his role as the  
18 U.S. Surgeon General.

19                   When I was a surgical resident at the  
20 University of North Carolina, we were looking at the  
21 source of guns that were killing kids in that state,  
22 and what we concluded is that many gun-owning parents  
23 substantially underestimate the risk of injury firearms  
24 pose to their children and do not realize that a gun in  
25 the home is more dangerous than protective. And I'm

1 going to spend a little bit of time talking about guns  
2 in the home during my presentation.

3           So, interestingly enough, before the  
4 whole thing happened in Newtown at Sandy Hook  
5 Elementary School, the American Academy of Pediatrics  
6 this past fall put forth recommendations on what can be  
7 done to prevent firearm injuries. And it fell largely  
8 on deaf ears. I sit on the Injury Prevention Committee  
9 of the American College of Surgeons Committee on  
10 Trauma. When we talked about it last March, they  
11 didn't even want to talk about the issue. They said  
12 it's not going to go anywhere, it's not worth devoting  
13 any time or resources to. But things have changed.

14           So I'm sure someone probably has put a  
15 slide like this up and the only important thing that  
16 you take away from this is that from a child's first  
17 birthday right up through their mid-40s, the leading  
18 cause of injury and death is injury -- the leading  
19 cause of death is injury. It's not a cancer, it's not  
20 infections, it's not cardiovascular disease; it's  
21 injury.

22           And this slide illustrates how in  
23 persons from their first birthday to their 24th, that  
24 injuries are the leading cause of death, and a third of  
25 those injuries are due to guns.

1                   When you look at my patients  
2 specifically, and this is a little bit different than  
3 adults, the injuries are mostly homicides, with a  
4 significant portion of suicides, and a much smaller  
5 portion of accidental-type shootings.

6                   In 1977 they published in the New  
7 England Journal of Medicine for the first time when  
8 they really started looking at the presence of guns in  
9 the home and its association with both accidental  
10 injuries from an accidental discharge of a weapon as  
11 well as suicides and homicides, and they found that if  
12 you have more guns in the home, you're more likely to  
13 have these types of injuries. And I'll spend a little  
14 bit more time covering that.

15                   If you look at a map of the United  
16 States, and this came out of the New England Journal of  
17 Medicine in 2008, you can see that those states that  
18 have more lax gun laws and higher rates of ownership  
19 are more likely to have a higher rate of both suicide,  
20 homicide, and accidental shootings.

21                   This is a paper that came out of the New  
22 England Journal of Medicine when I was I think a  
23 freshman in college, and it was intriguing to me as a  
24 gun owner and a then member of the National Rifle  
25 Association, for the first time I really started to

1 look at guns differently and I said: You know what?  
2 Maybe these guns, which were part of my life growing  
3 up, may not be as great as I thought they are and there  
4 may be dangers associated with them that you have to  
5 pay attention to. And what Art Kellerman did is he  
6 looked at in the state of Washington all of the  
7 homicides that were occurring in homes, and he was  
8 looking at all of the injuries sustained by intruders  
9 in homes, and was able to recognize that having a gun  
10 in your home was much more likely to be used in a  
11 homicide or suicide of a family member than it was to  
12 shoot someone who was breaking into your home to harm  
13 you. And this is important because this has been borne  
14 out in the medical literature over and over and over  
15 again.

16                   Just a little bit more firearm facts. I  
17 apologize if these are things that you've seen before.

18                   More than 30,000 people in the United  
19 States die every year as a result of gun injuries.  
20 There are about 70,000 nonfatal injuries which  
21 significantly impact the quality of life of people in  
22 this country. The case fatality rate from gun  
23 injury -- so if you get, you're shot by a gun, you've  
24 got about a 30 percent chance of dying, which is not  
25 insignificant. And I think the other important point

1 is that half of gun deaths in the United States are due  
2 to suicide. You're certainly more likely to make the  
3 newspaper if you're killed in a homicide or an  
4 accidental shooting, but suicide is an important issue  
5 as well. And I know others have covered that.

6           So a little bit -- my practice is almost  
7 exclusively in children. So I want to spend a little  
8 bit of time talking about the types of injuries that we  
9 see in children and, more importantly, why those types  
10 of injuries occur.

11           So studies that have been done have  
12 shown that about a third of American, a third of homes  
13 where there are children in the United States have  
14 guns. And the alarming thing is that about 13 percent  
15 of those homes have guns that are stored in a way that  
16 they're loaded and accessible to children. And that's  
17 why we see accidental shootings, that's why we see  
18 teenagers who kill themselves with a gun. And this  
19 isn't a unique problem. We see suicide attempts at the  
20 Children's Hospital on a monthly basis and we see  
21 suicide by gun that don't make it to the Children's  
22 Hospital because they're found dead on the scene,  
23 unfortunately, all too often.

24           So this is too many words on this slide,  
25 but I think there were some research surgeons at Johns

1 Hopkins who interviewed parents, gun-owning parents who  
2 were coming into their pediatric practice to try and  
3 get a sense for what the understanding of these parents  
4 were as far as their developmental capabilities of  
5 their children and the real risk that having a gun in  
6 the home posed to their children. And the interesting  
7 take-home message was twofold: One, that parents have  
8 a very unrealistic perception of their children's  
9 capabilities and tendencies with respect to guns. For  
10 example, there are a lot of parents, and we see this in  
11 practice, who have a 6-year-old at home and will say,  
12 "You know what? I've talked to my 6-year-old about the  
13 loaded gun that we keep in case someone breaks into our  
14 house and they know not to touch it." We know as  
15 physicians who take care of children that a 6-year-old  
16 does not have the developmental and cognitive abilities  
17 to be able to discern a toy gun from a real gun and a  
18 real gun that's loaded and a real gun that's not  
19 loaded. So that's something that's important to  
20 consider.

21                   And the second point is that a lot of  
22 people feel that the best way to prevent gun injuries  
23 is just through education. And what we know as public  
24 health scientists is that that is the worst way to  
25 prevent injuries. You know, you can talk and you can



1 educate, but it's not as effective as legislation and  
2 laws that regulate gun ownership and practices around  
3 firearms.

4           So I just want to digress briefly for  
5 about four slides and talk a little bit about my  
6 experience on the Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving  
7 Safety and how that may be relevant to some of the  
8 things that you guys are doing.

9           So the good news with motor vehicle  
10 crashes and teenage motor vehicle crashes as is  
11 illustrated in this graph is that for the last 30  
12 years, the number of teenagers dying in motor vehicle  
13 crashes has been declining. And that just hasn't  
14 happened by magic; it's happened through sensible  
15 legislation.

16           So we've identified that teenagers from  
17 the time they turn 16 and start driving a car, they're  
18 at dramatically increased risk of being involved in a  
19 motor vehicle crash for that 18 months until they gain  
20 the experience to operate a motor vehicle more safely.  
21 We also learned that the more passengers they had in a  
22 car, the more likely they were to be involved in a  
23 motor vehicle crash. And that all -- that happens with  
24 boys, that happens with girls, that happens in  
25 Connecticut, California, Alaska. It's a universal

1 phenomenon.

2                   So graduated driver licensing is one way  
3 that we found that you can combat that. GDL systems  
4 allow novice drivers to gain experience under  
5 conditions of minimal risk. And lo and behold,  
6 research in both the United States, Canada, Europe, New  
7 Zealand has found that when you implement these GDL  
8 laws, the number of crashes and fatalities decreases  
9 substantially. And the stronger you make GDL systems,  
10 the greater the observed reduction in the number of  
11 crashes and deaths that you see.

12                   There's nothing that tells us as public  
13 health scientists and physicians that these types of  
14 sensible regulation would not work with guns the same  
15 way it's worked for motor vehicle crashes.

16                   So involvement of people like you, much  
17 as we got involved with Governor Rell and the  
18 Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Bob  
19 Ward at the time, and Ray LaHood at the federal level  
20 were able to make recommendations to the legislature in  
21 these same buildings to implement sensible changes  
22 which have strengthened the GDL systems in Connecticut  
23 and prevented teenagers from dying on the roads of our  
24 state.

25                   So what prevents motor vehicle crash

1 deaths? Seat belt laws, we know that, proven; GDL  
2 systems; zero tolerance laws with alcohol and other  
3 drugs; childhood restraint laws; and safer cars, air  
4 bags and antilock brake systems. So we know this works  
5 with motor vehicle crashes. It's up to you guys to  
6 determine what makes the most sense from a regulatory  
7 standpoint to prevent gun deaths in Connecticut.

8           So the case for sensible firearm policy  
9 reforms, I'm going to give you a couple of examples.  
10 So this is a paper that I can promise you haven't seen,  
11 and it's pretty darn old. But it makes an important  
12 point. Those of you who were around in the mid- to  
13 late 80s and early 90s know, especially the police  
14 officers in the room I'm sure, that the crack epidemic  
15 was at its heyday. The other thing that was happening  
16 is that the number of -- the guns that were being used  
17 in crimes were going from revolvers that carry six  
18 bullets to high-capacity handguns like the Beretta 92  
19 and others that have a magazine capacity of 15. What  
20 the police in Washington, D.C. observed is that in  
21 1987, about 30 percent of the crime guns that they were  
22 getting were these high-capacity handguns, pistols.  
23 But over the ensuing six years, that ratio changed, and  
24 70 percent of the handguns that were being collected  
25 were the higher capacity magazines. So that's what the

1 police were observing.

2                   Here's what the trauma surgeons were  
3 observing. Over that period of time, the number of  
4 bullet holes in the people presenting to the trauma  
5 center went up. Makes sense. You've got guns on the  
6 street with a higher capacity, can fire more bullets,  
7 you're going to see more bullet holes in the patients  
8 showing up in the trauma centers. And that's exactly  
9 what they saw in Washington, D.C.

10                   A little bit about hunters. I know some  
11 gun owners are very much opposed to any regulation of  
12 firearms. I'm not one of them. And I'll try and  
13 explain to you why.

14                   If you decide you want to hunt  
15 waterfowl, ducks, and geese in Connecticut, you've got  
16 to abide by a lot of rules. You have to buy a duck  
17 stamp for \$15 that goes to the federal government to  
18 pay for conservation, you have to buy a hunting license  
19 in the state of Connecticut, and follow all of the  
20 rules that are put forth both by the federal government  
21 and by the state. And the point I want to make that I  
22 want to emphasize here is that you have to use a  
23 shotgun that only holds three shells. So gun owners,  
24 especially hunters, are used to these sorts of  
25 regulations.

1                   Same thing if you want to hunt white  
2 tail deer in Connecticut. You can't hunt with a gun  
3 that holds more than three shells. Not that big a  
4 deal. Most of the time you only need one bullet  
5 anyway. And these are the sorts of regulations that  
6 hunters like myself and others in the state live with  
7 and don't complain about.

8                   So I'm going to shift from my  
9 sportsman's hat to my public health pediatric surgeon  
10 hat and tell you a little bit about a Firearm Policy  
11 Forum that we held just a couple of blocks from here at  
12 the Lyceum where we brought some national experts on  
13 gun policy and firearm injury in and talked about the  
14 issue for about three hours and came up with what we  
15 think are some sensible recommendations that I want to  
16 share with you.

17                   So one of the experts there when asked  
18 the question do violent video games contribute to the  
19 gun violence problem that we have in the United States?  
20 So the honest answer to that question is that they may  
21 contribute to violent behavior. But if you look at  
22 other developed countries like Japan and western Europe  
23 and Canada, they have the same violent video games that  
24 the teenagers and others in the United States have, but  
25 they don't have the same rates of firearm injury in

1 those countries. So you can't say that it is those  
2 video games which are exclusively responsible. I'm not  
3 saying that they don't contribute, but you can't say  
4 that they're primarily responsible.

5           So these are the four recommendations  
6 that came out of the Policy Forum that we sponsored.  
7 So first, we need to improve universal background  
8 checks. We actually have pretty good background checks  
9 in Connecticut, but we don't throughout the United  
10 States. And I think there's room -- but I do think  
11 that there is some room for improvement in Connecticut.  
12 They didn't think that it was unreasonable to require  
13 showing of an ID if you're going to purchase  
14 ammunition. They thought it would be reasonable to  
15 limit gun purchases to one per month to avoid straw  
16 purchases, which we actually have very good data that  
17 this worked in the state of Virginia, preventing a lot  
18 of the gunrunning that we saw about a decade ago. And,  
19 finally, the recommendation that they had was requiring  
20 a permit for all gun owners, not just those who want to  
21 have a concealed weapons permit.

22           And I would like to conclude my  
23 presentation by talking about the recommendations that  
24 have come out of the medical organizations that I  
25 belong to. These are not shooting from the hip, pun

1 intended, types of recommendations; these were  
2 recommendations that came from experts on public  
3 health, experts on gun violence that put these  
4 together. And I'm going to emphasize the organizations  
5 that I belong to, not many of the others that came out.

6                   So one was the American Academy of  
7 Pediatrics, the other, the American College of  
8 Surgeons, and the other a position statement that we  
9 put together at the Connecticut Children's Medical  
10 Center that was endorsed by the medical staff, the  
11 Injury Prevention Center and the Pediatric Trauma  
12 Program.

13                   So Recommendation No. 1, and I'm going  
14 to read them:

15                   "Federal regulation of gun purchases  
16 that would include mandatory waiting periods, closure  
17 of the gun show and Internet sales loopholes, mental  
18 health restrictions for gun purchases, and more  
19 comprehensive background checks.

20                   "Renew the federal assault weapons ban  
21 and close the loopholes in Connecticut's assault weapon  
22 ban.

23                   "Ban high-capacity magazines.

24                   "Allow federal public health agencies to  
25 study firearm violence and make recommendations on

1 evidence-based ways to prevent firearm violence."

2                   So I'm back to where I started. If you  
3 want to forget everything that I've told you, you can,  
4 but I do hope that you take these two points home:  
5 One, guns are more dangerous than protective. And two,  
6 firearm injuries and deaths are preventible.

7                   And I'll just conclude with a picture of  
8 my two daughters. And I want to thank you on behalf of  
9 the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, the American  
10 Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of  
11 Surgeons for the work that you are doing to help make  
12 Connecticut a safer place.

13                   Thanks very much.

14                   MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your time.  
15 Questions?

16                   EZRA GRIFFITH: Doctor, I'd like you to  
17 expand on the idea of the mental health requirements  
18 restrictions that you mentioned at the end.

19                   DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Well, there's no  
20 question that this is one of the most difficult  
21 elements of trying to restrict access to handguns. I  
22 think there almost certainly has to be a better way  
23 that we can, with all of the information technology  
24 that we now have, to integrate databases where  
25 information is stored without impacting an individual's



1 privacy so that we can prevent people with known mental  
2 illness from buying firearms. So that's one point.

3           The second point is that gun owners need  
4 to be more responsible for the guns that they have. If  
5 Adam Lanza's mother had stored her guns in a safe that  
6 only she had a combination to, those guns would not  
7 have caused the misery that they did. But it's not  
8 just Adam Lanza's mother. We know, just the police in  
9 the room can tell you better than I can, that those  
10 guns that are turning up in the Hartford Shooting Task  
11 Force that they're collecting are guns that are coming  
12 out of people's homes that are stored in attics,  
13 garages, unlocked, and available to criminals and  
14 anyone else.

15           One point -- I know I said I wasn't  
16 going to talk about the gun buy-back, but this is a  
17 relevant point. A lot of people are critical of gun  
18 buy-backs because you're just getting these junk guns  
19 that nobody wants. What the Hartford police will tell  
20 you is that the guns that we're collecting from  
21 people's attics and garages and they don't want are  
22 exactly the same types of weapons that are turning up  
23 on the streets of Hartford and being used to commit  
24 crimes.

25           So responsible storage of guns by gun

1 owners is another critical piece. And I don't know how  
2 you regulate that or you make that happen, but it's a  
3 real problem.

4 EZRA GRIFFITH: But if you're going to  
5 talk about the restrictions with respect to behavioral  
6 health problems, you are asserting that there's some  
7 connection between behavior of health potential for the  
8 use of the weapon to cause violence. And I'm not sure  
9 where you got that premise from. But I'm actually, I'm  
10 saying that not in a criticizing way; I'm actually  
11 asking for amplification so I can understand better how  
12 the medical organizations, what the basis was in the  
13 medical organizations to make that a connection.

14 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Well, I think  
15 there are a couple of things here. One is -- and this  
16 may not be what you're getting at, but I think it's  
17 worth pointing out. One of the most effective ways  
18 that we have to prevent people from committing suicide  
19 is lethal means restriction. So when a patient  
20 presents to the emergency department at Connecticut  
21 Children's Medical Center, or anywhere, and someone is  
22 expressing suicidal ideation, the most effective way to  
23 prevent them from going home and acting out on that is  
24 to make sure that they don't have access to a gun,  
25 which is the most effective way of killing yourself,

1 making sure that they don't have access to medications  
2 from Tylenol to some of the psychiatric medications  
3 that they can overdose on. So it's restricting access  
4 to them.

5 I don't know what the best way to  
6 identify patients with psychiatric illnesses who are  
7 attempting to purchase firearms. What I was suggesting  
8 is that there's probably got to be some way with some  
9 of the data systems that we have to potentially prevent  
10 those types of purchases from happening.

11 KATHLEEN FLAHERTY: Is there a specific  
12 protocol at your hospital for inquiring of parents  
13 whether or not they have guns in the home?

14 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: There is not.  
15 One of the challenges of providing care, whether at the  
16 Children's Hospital or in a pediatrician or family  
17 practitioner's practice, is it's up to the individual  
18 provider to decide what types of anticipatory guidance  
19 they wish to provide and what types screening questions  
20 they wish to ask. There are a whole lot of things  
21 which have the potential to harm your kids, whether  
22 it's having safety plugs in outlets, to having  
23 chemicals stored safely, to making sure that they're  
24 wearing seat belts.

25 But to answer your question, there is

1 not a specific policy in place to ask those screening  
2 types of questions.

3 DENNIS McCARTHY: You gave us an  
4 excellent presentation, and I appreciate that.

5 Obviously, you've been involved in this  
6 for quite some time. And I think that our concern is  
7 that we have a changing public perception that may give  
8 us an opportunity to make some of the changes that  
9 you've been advocating for for a long time.

10 Is there any advice that you would give  
11 us regarding your past efforts that did not result in  
12 change in legislation that we might want to consider as  
13 tactics or strategies to be more successful this time  
14 around?

15 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Well, there's a  
16 lot of advice, but I'll try and give you the most  
17 salient points. I think, one, you have to be  
18 inclusive, and I think this commission is very  
19 inclusive in who you're involving. I think there are a  
20 lot of physicians, a lot of gun owners, a lot of  
21 physician gun owners who support these types of things.  
22 And I think the more inclusive you can be in getting  
23 support behind this, the more effective that you're  
24 going to be, is one point.

25 The other is you have to accept, be

1 willing to accept compromise. I think there are  
2 changes that people on the fringes of issues want that  
3 are never going to come into being. You have to take  
4 the best available evidence, see what you think is  
5 going to be palatable to the general public, and put  
6 forward the best recommendations you can that you think  
7 have a realistic chance of passing.

8 ALICE FORRESTER: Thank you, Doctor. It  
9 was a great presentation.

10 I have a question on victims of gun  
11 violence. The Times had a pretty big piece on it this  
12 weekend. And I understand there's a program in Ohio  
13 that is actually, I guess the stats are that a kid  
14 who's been shot might actually have a higher likelihood  
15 of going out and shooting again, you know, and so in  
16 Ohio they're doing this sort of mental health  
17 intervention for the shooters.

18 Do you know much about that? And I'm  
19 wondering if you see any value in any kind of mental  
20 health follow-up after the shooting.

21 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Well, there  
22 certainly has been a lot of attention paid to  
23 post-traumatic stress disorder in a variety of  
24 settings. And I think this is a piece that's -- the  
25 mental health piece of what you're trying to accomplish

1 is very difficult. You know, we're at difficult fiscal  
2 times, we don't have a lot of money to create  
3 additional programs. But I think you have to pay  
4 attention to that piece of the puzzle.

5           And I think if you look at prisoners who  
6 come out of prison and, you know, recidivism is high,  
7 they're likely to commit more crimes, they're likely to  
8 do many of the same things they did before they went  
9 in. So I think the important thing that you need to do  
10 is you need to look at programs which have been proven  
11 to work through rigorous scientific evaluation and  
12 identify those programs, and then invest the limited  
13 resources that we have into those types of programs.

14           But your point is valid and important,  
15 that you want to do everything you can to prevent the  
16 types of behaviors from occurring that lead to violent  
17 crimes.

18           But the point, one important point is  
19 that it is the gun that is the vector of injury in  
20 firearm deaths, the same way the influenza virus causes  
21 the flu. If you can restrict the vector, you can  
22 prevent the disease downstream.

23           MR. CHAIRMAN: If I might at this point  
24 ask Chiefs Reed and Salvatore, as well as Trooper  
25 Delehanty, to join the panel. We've gotten a lot of

1 recommendations today and to be able to inquire of  
2 multiple sources is probably going to be helpful to us  
3 over the next hour or so.

4 KATHLEEN FLAHERTY: I have a question  
5 for Dr. Campbell specifically.

6 One of the recommendations or proposals  
7 by the Governor that he submitted last week was whether  
8 physicians might be included as mandatory reporters on  
9 gun safety issues. And especially, you mentioned that  
10 Children's Medical Center doesn't routinely ask about  
11 gun safety in the home. Do you think perhaps hospitals  
12 should or doctors should? And, you know, what do you  
13 think about a proposal that physicians, other  
14 healthcare providers be mandatory reporters on gun  
15 safety issues? Thanks.

16 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Right. That's a  
17 good question. So let me clarify a little bit: We are  
18 mandatory -- if someone presents to the Children's  
19 Hospital with a gunshot wound, we have to report that,  
20 and that happens. So that does happen.

21 What does not happen is every single  
22 patient that comes in is not screened for whether they  
23 have guns in their home. That doesn't mean that it  
24 does not happen; it just means that it's up to the  
25 individual provider.

1           I think there are exciting opportunities  
2 to teach gun safety and to screen. You know, we  
3 currently are trialing a tablet-based technology where  
4 when teenagers come into our surgical practice at the  
5 Children's Hospital, while they're waiting for us to  
6 come in and see them, they go through a presentation on  
7 a tablet about teen driving and about graduated  
8 drivers' licensing. We haven't yet proven that it  
9 works, but it's an opportunity. And there's nothing  
10 that says we couldn't develop a similar application on  
11 firearm safety; one for parents who have toddlers or  
12 younger kids at home, and another for teenagers that  
13 covers the risk of suicide and the risk of accessible  
14 firearms in the home.

15           ROBERT DUCIBELLA: If I didn't buy a  
16 handgun, I wouldn't buy one after what I saw. The  
17 point being that we have an addiction for cigarettes in  
18 this country and firearms. And you can't buy a package  
19 of cigarettes now or watch a football game on  
20 television without being educated about how bad it can  
21 be for your health.

22           You've created a presentation,  
23 obviously, to create a very particular point and to  
24 put, if not fear, trepidation in the mind of someone  
25 who might otherwise own a gun to understand what



1 happens when you use it.

2                   Is it worth considering, in your  
3 opinion, a broader reach education program? What  
4 you've put together for the commission would be  
5 convincing to an awful lot of parents. And short of  
6 you having less intelligence than you'd like, and you  
7 shouldn't if you don't have that much, have a handgun.

8                   Is there a way that we might think about  
9 creating a better public forum about what it means to  
10 own a handgun? The basic points, which are you're more  
11 likely to create an injury in your own home than you  
12 are to protect yourself from an aggressor, or the more  
13 graphic representation of what happens to biomass when  
14 a bullet passes through that? Is it worth considering  
15 the benefit of that? I mean there are a number of ways  
16 that that could happen. If you're a firearms dealer,  
17 you pay a one-dollar-a-month tax to support a public  
18 education program. If you sell ammunition in the state  
19 of Connecticut, and you end up needing a license, a  
20 certain contribution would be made.

21                   There was -- you remember when we used  
22 to get a license to drive in high school, we watched  
23 movies that made us vomit, and that was a way to  
24 convince us that we didn't drive quickly. We've had  
25 that in driving, we've had that for cigarettes. Is

1 there, in your opinion, a value in instilling the  
2 notion of concern by education, convincing as you did  
3 today, so that there is a better forum for people to  
4 understand what it really means to own a handgun? What  
5 is your opinion about that?

6 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Well, absolutely.  
7 You're asking a leading question almost.

8 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: I know.

9 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: Absolutely there  
10 is value and I think opportunity to do that and there  
11 is precedent to do that. You know, one of the things  
12 that came out of the legislative changes that Governor  
13 Rell signed into law when I was on the Governor's Task  
14 Force on Teen Driving was all parents had to  
15 participate in a two-hour educational component on  
16 driving and GDLs as part of their child getting a  
17 license.

18 If you were going to implement some sort  
19 of permit process for gun owners or pistol, when you  
20 renew your pistol permit, you know, maybe taking,  
21 having to see some sort of presentation such as this  
22 that emphasized safety, that's the good news.

23 You know, the bad news is that there is  
24 some great examples of failure with this sort of thing.  
25 The National Rifle Association put forward Eddie the

1 Eagle, which was an educational campaign very different  
2 than something that I and some of the public health  
3 experts would design, but nonetheless, it showed that  
4 it had no effect on gun owners' beliefs.

5 But I certainly think there is  
6 opportunity to educate gun owners on the hazards of  
7 having a gun in your home for sure.

8 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Thank you.

9 RON CHIVINSKI: Hi, Dr. Campbell.

10 Dr. Campbell, you had mentioned at the  
11 beginning of your presentation that you yourself  
12 personally are a gun owner and a sportsman. You also  
13 alluded during the presentation that it seems to me  
14 your beliefs changed or have changed over time a little  
15 bit towards your attitudes looking at gun ownership.  
16 But I assume, not to be overly personal, but you still  
17 have guns stored in your home.

18 When I look over the recommendations  
19 from the Connecticut Firearm Policy Forum and the  
20 recommendations you shared with us through the medical  
21 organizations you belong to, you know, just my short  
22 end, I didn't see any specific recommendations about  
23 gun storage or, you know, how you would keep these in  
24 your home.

25 And I ask you: What have you done or

1 what would you recommend to be added to this list in  
2 that area? And I ask you that as someone whose views  
3 also have changed over the years and was raised around  
4 guns and the father of young children.

5 DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: I'll give you a  
6 twofold answer to that question. So the guns that I  
7 have in my home, and I'm perfectly comfortable saying  
8 this in an open forum, are stored in a safe that only I  
9 know the combination to and my children, as long as  
10 they're in the home, are not going to know that  
11 combination. You know, to me, I think the chances, as  
12 I said in my presentation, of one of my children or my  
13 wife or myself being harmed by one of these guns are  
14 greater than the risk of someone breaking into my home.  
15 So that's Point No. 1.

16 The reason why I didn't spend a whole  
17 lot of time on emphasizing safe storage is it's an  
18 uphill battle getting people to changing behavior. We  
19 know this from campaigns on smoking, we know it from  
20 campaigns in trying to get people to drive the speed  
21 limit. By just telling people to do something, it  
22 doesn't work. You know, that's why the recommendations  
23 that the medical organizations and the Connecticut  
24 Children's Medical Center have put forth deal more with  
25 the vector, the firearm, the magazines, assault

1 weapons.

2 I certainly think there is a role for  
3 emphasizing education and responsible firearm  
4 ownership. One of the things that we've thought about  
5 putting in our policy statement was having every gun  
6 owner in the state sign a responsible firearm ownership  
7 pledge, which say all these common-sense things that  
8 many firearm owners do; keeping their guns stored  
9 safely, making sure that their children don't have  
10 access to them, and those things. Is there a role for  
11 that? Yes. But from a science and public health  
12 standpoint, we know that those have been less  
13 effective.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a question for  
15 the panel: What are some areas where you see, again,  
16 rational, common-sense solutions that everyone, no  
17 matter what side of the debate you may fall on, these  
18 are some things that we should look at. Where do you  
19 see common ground?

20 CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: One of our  
21 suggestions back in January when we testified before  
22 the legislature was on safe storage, that you do have a  
23 sufficient gun cabinet to store your weapons in. And  
24 I'm not just talking about a wood cabinet with a glass  
25 front. And that everybody be required to have such a

1 safe. If there's anyone in the house that would not be  
2 permitted to own or possess a firearm under state and  
3 federal law, not just a child under the age of 16, you  
4 have somebody in the home with some mental health  
5 issues or some type of person that was arrested for a  
6 felony, that then you would have to have your weapons  
7 locked up securely in such a facility.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Were there standards? I  
9 mean you said not a wooden case with a glass front.

10 CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: Right.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: That's one exclusion.

12 CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: A sufficient  
13 type of device that if an individual was looking to  
14 gain access, would not, in essence, be able to.

15 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Or be able to  
16 remove that device from the home. If you have a small  
17 almost like cash box and you put a pistol in there,  
18 that's fine, but what happens if someone just takes the  
19 whole unit and walks out the door?

20 CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: Takes it out  
21 to the garage and cuts it open.

22 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: So perhaps not only  
23 should it be secured, but the device it's secured in  
24 must be anchored or somehow secured in that storage  
25 area.

1                   And as I review the statute on safe  
2 storage of firearms, it deals with the mandate only if  
3 you have somebody under 16 in the house. I think  
4 someone could read that and construe it to mean that's  
5 how you store a loaded firearm. It's interesting. The  
6 first line in the statute talks in safe storage of a  
7 loaded firearm. So if you have a firearm that's  
8 unloaded, does that mean that doesn't apply if you keep  
9 your ammunition somewhere else?

10                   So I wonder if there should be an  
11 examination of that statute to see if that wasn't the  
12 intention of the legislature to apply to all firearms  
13 regardless of whether they're loaded or not.

14                   MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other areas of  
15 perceived common ground?

16                   CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Well, I thought it  
17 was interesting looking at the doctor's slide. You saw  
18 the recommendations. There were four recommendations,  
19 and one of those dealt with universal background checks  
20 and talked about firearm permits in general. In other  
21 words, right now, the only permit that's needed, as I  
22 testified earlier, we talked about the permit for  
23 pistols and revolvers. And there is not a permitting  
24 process in existence for any other firearms. And I  
25 thought that was some interesting common ground, those

1 two specific points; one, the universal background  
2 checks and, two, the permitting of all firearms as  
3 opposed to just the permit to carry for pistols or  
4 revolvers as it exists under our current statutory  
5 framework.

6 CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: And we also  
7 proposed the elimination of eligibility certificates  
8 because there is no suitability for those.

9 DENNIS McCARTHY: Doctor, your testimony  
10 regarding the changed behavior through GDLs makes me  
11 think of the change of other epidemics that have  
12 affected our society. Fire deaths were epidemic in  
13 both homes and in places of assembly. And pervasive  
14 and invasive laws and regulations have changed that  
15 epidemic. There is no longer -- it's been 25 years  
16 since a student died in a school fire because of very  
17 pervasive and invasive regulations that are enforced.

18 Smoking as a habit, as a cultural habit,  
19 has changed over the past quarter century because of  
20 daily reminders. Drinking and driving -- or drinking,  
21 let alone drinking and driving. The cultural norm has  
22 changed because we as a society have said: No longer  
23 will we accept some of the carnage that was resulting  
24 from that. And there are very large organizations that  
25 have the almost sole responsibility and authority to



1 develop some of those regulations and make those  
2 changes or help us make those changes in our society.

3           Can we do the same things with gun  
4 violence and gun deaths and the epidemic that we are  
5 faced with? Is there the opportunity right now to  
6 create that shift that 25 years from now we can claim  
7 the same kind of success that we have claimed over  
8 these other epidemics in our society?

9           DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: The answer is  
10 simply yes and absolutely. But it will require  
11 comprehensive changes at many different levels. You  
12 know, gun violence isn't easily solvable. We would  
13 have solved it already if it was easy.

14           But just simple examples of things that  
15 worked in the past, to illustrate the point: You know,  
16 No. 1, Bill Clinton when he was president made it more  
17 difficult to get a federal firearms license. So rather  
18 than paying, you know, \$35 and, you know, having very  
19 simple hurdles to cross, you know, they upped the cost  
20 and said you have to be a legitimate, more legitimate  
21 entity to have a federal firearms license.

22           By implementing one restricting handgun  
23 purchases to one a month in Virginia, they cut down the  
24 number of handguns that were showing up in New York  
25 City and Hartford and in Boston.

1                   So, you know, those are onerous, they're  
2 regulations. Nobody likes regulation. But if we have  
3 the political will to implement common-sense  
4 evidence-based changes, we can lower the number of  
5 people dying and being injured by guns, the same way  
6 we've done for alcohol, motor vehicle crashes, and  
7 tobacco.

8                   KATHLEEN FLAHERTY: Thank you. I just  
9 wanted to know, in one of the slides you had children  
10 shot, one every 17 minutes, and died and shot within  
11 the one in five minutes. I'm just wondering is there  
12 any data, or maybe you shared it, of how many of those  
13 are registered guns or permit owners versus non-,  
14 illegal guns? Is there any data on that?

15                   DR. BRANDON CAMPBELL: There's no data  
16 I'm aware of. There may be, but, you know,  
17 fortunately, pediatric gun injuries and deaths are much  
18 less frequent than adult gun injuries and deaths, and I  
19 don't know if that data is available. And I'm actually  
20 inclined, as I think about this, that it's probably  
21 unknown. And one important thing, I don't know if  
22 anyone has brought up to the commission yet, is that  
23 there's something called the Tiahrt Amendment which  
24 prevents public health researchers such as our Injury  
25 Prevention Center at the Children's Hospital and

1 everyone, for that matter, from being able to study gun  
2 violence. We can't collaborate with the Bureau of  
3 Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms and track guns; you know,  
4 where did they come from, how long did it, you know,  
5 the so-called time-to-crime, time from purchase to time  
6 being used in a crime. We can't do that. The federal  
7 government forbids us from doing that. And that was  
8 all NRA gun lobby supported amendment at the federal  
9 level.

10 ROBERT DUCIBELLA: I'm going to direct  
11 this to our law enforcement partners in the room.  
12 There are a lot of forms that are filled out whether  
13 you're buying a long gun in a sports shop, whether  
14 you're coming for a pistol permit, and a lot of the  
15 information that's filled out by the applicant, you  
16 know, you're somewhat dependent upon that. Is the name  
17 spelled right, is the social security number right, or  
18 am I checking off all the boxes that really represent  
19 the truth or not the truth.

20 Is there really the dedication and  
21 allocation of resources out there in terms of people  
22 and funding for that to be done accurately? I'm not  
23 questioning the job you have done, but I know you get a  
24 lot of applications and I know there's an awful lot of  
25 people who don't fill things out necessarily

1 truthfully, and there's always in the computer system  
2 opportunities for things to get missed. Do you feel  
3 confident that with all the paperwork that's filled out  
4 that -- we've emphasized a lot on the permitting  
5 process because it has some benefit in eliminating guns  
6 to getting into the wrong hands. Do we really today --  
7 today -- do we really have the resources in terms of  
8 manpower and technology to do that well,  
9 extraordinarily well, or not? What would be your  
10 opinion about that?

11 CHIEF MATTHEW REED: I would say from a  
12 municipal law enforcement standpoint, we're the initial  
13 issuing authority for that 60-day temporary permit and  
14 we're charged with doing the suitability check, in some  
15 departments the answer is yes, they have the resources.  
16 In some of the larger departments where they get  
17 hundreds of applications in a year, I would testify  
18 that perhaps they do not have the resources to be able  
19 to go out and knock on doors, to talk to employers, to  
20 talk to colleagues, to talk to other people who can  
21 help that issuing authority determine if a person is  
22 suitable. There is certainly a challenge there.  
23 Because this is an administrative function, but, of  
24 course, we're charged with the real-life day-to-day  
25 detection and prevention of crime and investigation of

1 crime, and that takes up a tremendous amount of our  
2 resources.

3           One of the challenges we've had through  
4 the years is trying to get the permit issued in that  
5 eight-week period. And applicants, of course, think  
6 eight weeks is a tremendously long time. And we hear  
7 about these instant background checks, that you can get  
8 your background check done in a minute if you have a  
9 common name. You're going to have the results of the  
10 background check, why can't I have my permit in a week?

11           But there has to be an understanding  
12 that when we do our suitability check, it's more than  
13 just that automated computer database check, that we  
14 are going out and trying to assess a person's  
15 character. So that takes a long period of time.

16           I signed 43 permits yesterday on my desk  
17 that had been submitted since the end of December.  
18 Those were the ones that were completed. And that's  
19 South Windsor, a town of 25,000 people. Where last  
20 year I only issued 169 permits in all. And already as  
21 of January 1st we had 89 applications pending for this  
22 current year. That's a lot of work. And I'm a  
23 department that has gone from 43 people down to 39  
24 people. So that is challenging.

25           So do I feel that we have all of the

1 resources? No. Could we do more? We could do more.  
2 I think we do an adequate job checking the applicants  
3 that we have. Could we spend more time? I know in our  
4 agency we could.

5           You know, Chief Sullivan could certainly  
6 talk about what had happened in Hartford through the  
7 years. I mean there's a huge department with a huge  
8 population. I don't know if they have the resources to  
9 be able to do everything that they need to do  
10 adequately. The same as some of the other large city  
11 departments through the state.

12           ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Well, I've heard two  
13 things, just to make sure, because I still take notes.

14           The notion of suitability is what you  
15 use to assess a character that no computer is going to  
16 tell you.

17           CHIEF MATTHEW REED: Correct.

18           ROBERT DUCIBELLA: The computer is going  
19 to identify a whole series of statistical issues that  
20 may or may not be appropriate based on whatever the  
21 history of the individual is. That's what happened in  
22 the past.

23           Predictive crime prevention is  
24 identifying opportunities to take a look at legacy,  
25 experiences, and say in the future: This is probably a

1 bad risk. So that suitability check at least seems to  
2 be an opportunity for a human being to engage another  
3 human being in something other than a background fact  
4 check.

5           And I've heard several of the  
6 testimonies today come back and say: I think we can do  
7 a better job of defining what suitability is, A, and  
8 that does no good unless you have the resources to  
9 address it, two.

10           So I'm walking away with those two  
11 conclusions; one, improving through an appropriate  
12 process the definition of suitability, and, two, once  
13 you have that, engaging individuals in the  
14 determination of that above and beyond what is simply a  
15 statistical background check done on a computer so that  
16 there is a human opportunity to evaluate human behavior  
17 and make a determination about whether someone is  
18 entitled to buy something that could take someone  
19 else's life. Okay.

20           CHIEF ANTHONY SALVATORE: You're  
21 probably correct, but I think what you're hearing is  
22 that when it comes down to the suitability, we have the  
23 ability to do those things today. However, I as a  
24 police chief, my definition of "suitability" may not be  
25 the same as yours. And when a police chief goes before

1 the Examiner Board, they may feel that I denying an  
2 individual for a permit based on my determination of  
3 not being suitable is not sufficient. And I think some  
4 of the things that we testified before in the past was  
5 looking for some kind of common ground on determination  
6 definition of "suitability."

7           But it's not only a matter of a computer  
8 check or suitability. It's the fact that we may have  
9 had a number of calls to an individual's residence for  
10 incidences that in and of themselves would not make them  
11 suitable to carry a pistol or revolver. But you're not  
12 going to find that if you run that person's name with  
13 that kind of check. Or you're not going to find that  
14 if I got a hunting license and I'm out buying a long  
15 gun. Those are the types of things that we testified  
16 before that you're not going to find that you will get.

17           As Chief Reed pointed out, I mean we can  
18 always do more. But I happen to think -- I've been  
19 doing, I've been a police chief 21 years -- and I think  
20 the system that we have here in this state is pretty  
21 good. You're going to find chiefs on both sides of  
22 this based on their experiences, based on the workloads  
23 that they have. The larger departments, they actually  
24 may have even more individuals reporting back to the  
25 chief on a determination of whether or not the person



1 is suitable or should be allowed to have a pistol  
2 permit or not. But I think what we do here in the  
3 state and some of our laws -- and I've been legislative  
4 co-chair since 1995 -- and some of these laws we've  
5 testified here in Connecticut very favorable for on  
6 behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs.

7           So I happen to think that, you know, in  
8 a lot of aspects, we're ahead of the curve compared to  
9 other parts of the country. Can we do it better? Can  
10 we make it better? I think we can, and I think that's  
11 why you're charged by the Governor to be here to see if  
12 there are things that we can come up with. And I think  
13 we testified to some of the things that we think would  
14 make it better and safer here in Connecticut.

15           ROBERT DUCIBELLA: Thank you. You've  
16 confirmed and elucidated on my a little bit improperly  
17 worded issue on suitability, that there is a process  
18 where it's individually done, but can be overridden by  
19 another body that may not own the fidelity of  
20 information that you have as a local community  
21 representative: We know that neighborhood, we know  
22 those people, we've had complaints, we have an  
23 instinctive knowledge that this is probably not a good  
24 situation, that someone else can say: Well, you don't  
25 meet the rules, so guess what, we're going to overrule

1 you. I hear that and I hear that you can do better.  
2 Everybody wants to do better. And that may be resource  
3 allocation. And what I've heard is additional resource  
4 allocation would help the process. That's what I  
5 heard.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make one  
8 point: Not every community in Connecticut has a police  
9 department. It is not always police officials who are  
10 signing the permits. In many cases it is actually  
11 first selectmen who sign the permits who may not and  
12 usually do not have any experience in this area. So it  
13 is certainly something to keep in mind. And I would on  
14 that point actually ask the Connecticut State Police  
15 for some indication of your experience in dealing with  
16 towns that do not have a police force but rather a  
17 resident state trooper.

18 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: When I was the  
19 resident trooper in the town of Haddam, the first  
20 selectman, Mark Lundgren, if he got any pistol permit  
21 requests would go to my desk and I would do the  
22 background checks and do everything that would need to  
23 be done. And then I would type up a memo as to whether  
24 this person was suitable or not. He was the issuing  
25 authority, but he left that up to me to do the

1 investigation basically. And I'm sure the other chiefs  
2 have like footwork because you're talking with  
3 neighbors. You may not have stuff that come up on a  
4 computer, but when you talk to the neighbors and say  
5 there's always parties going on or, you know, the kids  
6 are always drinking in the backyard, or whatever, that  
7 kind of stuff doesn't come out on a computer. You  
8 actually have to have footwork to go talk to these  
9 people. And that could come under a suitability  
10 question.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: But that footwork is  
12 still done in those communities?

13 CHIEF MARC MONTMINY: Oh, yes.

14 RON CHIVINSKI: This is more of a  
15 comment than a question, and it was the second time  
16 it's come up in our proceedings, it came up twice today  
17 it was just mentioned about violent video games. And I  
18 believe at that Connecticut Firearm Policy Forum, the  
19 statement was, Doctor, that you presented that video  
20 games may cause violent behavior, but do not cause gun  
21 violence. And there was a mentioning of Japanese  
22 teenagers and the data there.

23 And I just speak as a parent. And these  
24 kids aren't playing Ms. Pac-Man and Donkey Kong  
25 anymore. And I think the hardest core gamer amongst us

1 would agree that you shouldn't have kids under the age  
2 of ten, let's say, six, seven and eight-year-olds  
3 playing first-person shooter games that were designed  
4 originally I believe through the military to enhance  
5 killing.

6                   So I think there's a whole lot of data  
7 that needs to be collected. I also think that a whole  
8 of lot of discussion needs to be had in our country of  
9 ours about what we're doing. Because I do believe we  
10 have a problem. And if that sounds a little strong or  
11 a little off topic, I didn't mean to take us off topic.  
12 But I really believe there's many of us out there that  
13 feel there's an issue brewing, and I know it's a  
14 political topic, but it's not right. So I just wanted  
15 a chance to express that.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing 92 pages are a complete and accurate transcription to the best of my ability of the electronic sound recording of the March 1, 2013, Sandy Hook Advisory Commission hearing.

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Melanie G. Collard, LSR RDR-CRR                      Date