

Eileen J. Marum
Marion Planning Board
Report of the SRPEDD Board of Commissioners
May 22, 2019

RE: SRPEDD 63rd Annual Meeting and Keynote Speaker

The Sixty-Third Annual Business Meeting of the SRPEDD Board of Commissioners was held at Barrett's Fireside Grille, 30 Bedford Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts. After the election of officers and Executive Committee members and At-Large Commissioners for 2019-2020 and various committee reports, keynote speaker, Fire Chief Michael Winn of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department in Barnstable, Massachusetts and a current member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Homeland Security Council gave a presentation with a focus on shootings, particularly, school related shootings across the nation citing statistics for this year: May 20, 2019-Alexandria, LA- One teenager was killed and five were injured in a shooting; May 18, 2019-Atmore, AL- One person was killed and eight were wounded at a high school graduation party when a gunman opened fire during a fight; May 7, 2019-Highlands Ranch, CO—STEM School Highlands Ranch-One student was fatally shot, and eight others were injured. From January 1, 2019—May 20, 2019, 135 shooting incidents were reported across the nation.

Chief Winn said active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve quickly. In the midst of the chaos, anyone can play an integral role in mitigating the impacts of an active shooter incident. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aims to enhance preparedness through a “whole community” approach by providing products, tools, and resources to help cities and towns prepare for and respond to an active shooter incident, he said.

Since segments of our society are inherently open to the general public, and by nature of their purpose do not incorporate strict security measures, and given the increased emphasis by terrorists and other extremist actors to inflict harm in public areas, it is vital that the public and private sectors collaborate to enhance security of schools, parks, special events and more.

These locations, especially those associated with large crowds, could be attractive targets for terrorism and other crimes. Chief Winn talked about everyone—police—fire—security officers—emergency medical personnel—playing their part in a coordinated effort to keep schools, neighborhoods, communities and events safe against the threats we face today.

To stay safe, he suggested taking notice of your surroundings and identifying potential emergency exit routes, and to be aware of unusual behaviors, unattended objects, unexplained odors, or vehicles traveling at abnormal speeds or patterns.

Should an attack occur, he said to run to the nearest exit, making use of available concealment while moving away from the source of hazard. If no secure areas are available, protect yourself from harm by seeking cover behind any available natural or artificial objects that eliminate direct line of sight from the source of the hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen J. Marum, Marion Planning Board