

Mr. Long:

On behalf of the City Council, I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email.

I appreciate your concerns about the incidents in Ferguson, MO and the community perceptions that can be created.

We live in an increasingly more complex world than ever before. The Active Shooter exercise at Roosevelt School this past summer, was a stark reminder about the potential realities we face everywhere. This exercise was to prepare our public safety organizations to respond in the event of a shooter on one of our school campuses – an all too real situation given the events seen across our country.

I emphasize “public safety organizations” as there were as many fire staff, if not more, than police staff. The reason for this is that our fire personnel provide medical response. The former strategy of keeping medical responders absolutely safe until the entire incident scene is secured is no longer applicable. Those that are injured may need immediate medical assistance, and waiting for an entire incident scene to be secured could result in loss of life. The new strategy is to secure a portion of the incident scene, protect medical responders, and to bring injured parties to this protected area for triage as soon as possible. In this case, if there were injuries on the playground, this vehicle could provide protection to public safety personnel as they seek to remove and to take care of those in medical need.

If you would also recall, in the days after this vehicle was in seen our 4th of July parade, two such vehicles secured the gunman in Houston who killed his ex-wife’s family, and was on his way to kill additional members of his extended family.

Incidents do happen in San Mateo County. It was only a couple of years ago that there was a shooting incident at Skyline College – on campus. This incident occurred immediately in front of the office housing my staff who were managing construction on campus. The entire college campus was immediately put in lock down, and due to their familiarity with the campus and access (they had keys to all campus buildings), my staff volunteered to go with SWAT Team members, building by building, and room by room, until the campus was cleared.

I hope and pray that we never have to see this vehicle deployed. However, if the violence of the world reaches Redwood City, I want our public safety organizations to have the tools that they feel they need to protect lives.

Regards,

Jeff

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