

## RESOLUTION 2019-114

### RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY BILL NO. A-5242

**WHEREAS**, following the February 14, 2018, school shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida, Sheriff James M. Gannon convened a meeting with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, the Morris County Police Chief's Association, the Morris County Department of Law and Public Safety, and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management.; and

**WHEREAS**, at that meeting it was collectively decided that there was a need to create a scientifically based threat assessment measurement guide and accompanying training to better prepare law enforcement officers, mental health experts, and education professionals to become adept at effectively weighing exhibited and reported behavioral indicators, so as to methodically predict the likelihood of an identified person carrying out a planned attack; and

**WHEREAS**, this endeavor has come to be known as the Responsible School Violence Prevention, Preparation and Protection Program (RSVP-3); and

**WHEREAS**, the seminal and guiding document in this discipline to date was the Safe School Initiative (SSI) which was a study published by the United States Secret Service in 2002, following the School Shooting in Columbine, Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, a follow-up report entitled the Safe School Initiative, A Final Report, was published in 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the Morris County Sheriff's Office sought out the expertise of Dr. Marisa Reddy Randazzo, Principal at SIGMA Threat Management Associates, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Randazzo is an international expert on threat assessment, targeted violence, and violence prevention, and was the Chief Research Psychologist on the Safe School Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Morris Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) saw the need to act swiftly and decided to jointly fund the creation of a guide entitled: Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management: A Guide for Schools, Colleges, Universities and Law Enforcement Agencies in Morris County, New Jersey and in the Jersey City/Newark Urban Area Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, so far, Sigma has come to Morris, Middlesex and Bergen Counties and instructed over two hundred (200) members of law enforcement, mental health and education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Morris County created RSVP-3 program effectively and thoroughly reaches each of the eight (8) stated tenets of creating a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan, as recommended again by the United States Secret Service in their most recent July 2108 publication entitled; Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model; An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier today, May 22, 2019, SIGMA, LLC, completed a “Train the Trainer” follow-up of their original course designed to create instructors and material to educate students, teachers, parents, police and mental health workers on behaviors to look for and how to report it; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco has introduced legislation to create a pilot program to be funded with the Morris County and Jersey City Urban Area Security Initiative to continue the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Program known as RSVP-3, to be studied as a model and reported to the New Jersey Attorney General over a three year period; and

**WHEREAS**, that legislation calls on the New Jersey Attorney General to work in collaboration with the state Commissioners of Health and Education to accomplish the goals of the pilot program, which shall include:

- Creation of a threat assessment tool for use by law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, teachers and other school employees and students to evaluate a potential threat of school violence;
- Development of a scientifically based school violence threat assessment and management training curriculum concerning the identification of behaviors that indicate a potential risk of school violence and the need to report those behaviors;
- Delivery of the school violence threat assessment and management training curriculum to law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, teachers and other school employees and students;
- Development of an effective mechanism to immediately report any identified threat of school violence;
- Establishment of procedures for addressing and eliminating an identified threat of school violence;

**WHEREAS**, Assemblyman Bucco's bill – A-5242 – was announced at a news conference Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the Morris County Office of Emergency Management in Parsippany, with Sheriff Gannon, Morris County Prosecutor Fredric M. Knapp, Morris County Police Chiefs Association President, Butler Police Chief Ciro Chimento, and other law enforcement, education and mental health professional stakeholders present.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, being the governing body thereof, hereby supports the passage of New Jersey A- 5242 as a way to finance, study and forward RSVP-3 as a model to curtail and prevent violence in schools before any violent incidents occur.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington and adopted on July 9, 2019.



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L. Dwyer  
Acting Borough Clerk