



TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICE
AVONDALE EAST EDUCATION CENTER
455 GOLF PARK, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66605

November 10, 2016

Joint Committee on Kansas Security
Statehouse, Room 152-S

TESTIMONY ON SECURITY WITHIN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING

Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee:

On behalf of Topeka Public Schools I am honored to present information related to school safety and security. I have had the privilege of working for Topeka Public Schools for almost seven years and during that time I have seen tremendous progress as we work to enhance the safety and security of our school children and district staff, both locally and statewide. I have worked with Dr. Bob Hull as a member of the Safe and Prepared Schools Advisory Board and had the opportunity to present on school safety throughout the State. I would say that we are doing much better in safety training and school emergency preparation but continuing education in this area is essential. The fact that we have averted potential violence and mitigated disaster is testament to the outstanding work being done by security, emergency management and police personnel in Kansas. As I often say, "How do we measure prevention?" How do we quantify the things that do not happen as a result of the good work of our administration, staff and safety personnel?

As we all work to be good stewards of tax dollars and budget wisely, I am concerned that we will look at monies spent on prevention and ask if we need to continue to fund these programs or divert that money elsewhere? I would argue that prevention money is essential to sustain the good work that has already been done. As I often tell parents, "We can make your children



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safer, but we cannot make them safe." I think we would all agree that it would be near impossible to guarantee safety but we need to do all that we can to protect our kids and the staff that supports them. It is important to remember that many of the things we can do are at low or no cost, we simply need to be able to facilitate the training and provide opportunities to discuss safety. I am fortunate to work for an administration and school board who are focused on school safety. They have committed time and money help provide for the safety of our children. As a result I am convinced that we have averted potential harm in Topeka Public Schools. I would argue that in order to be a great school district you have to be a safe school district. I would like to thank the committee for your time as you work to create safer school districts throughout Kansas.

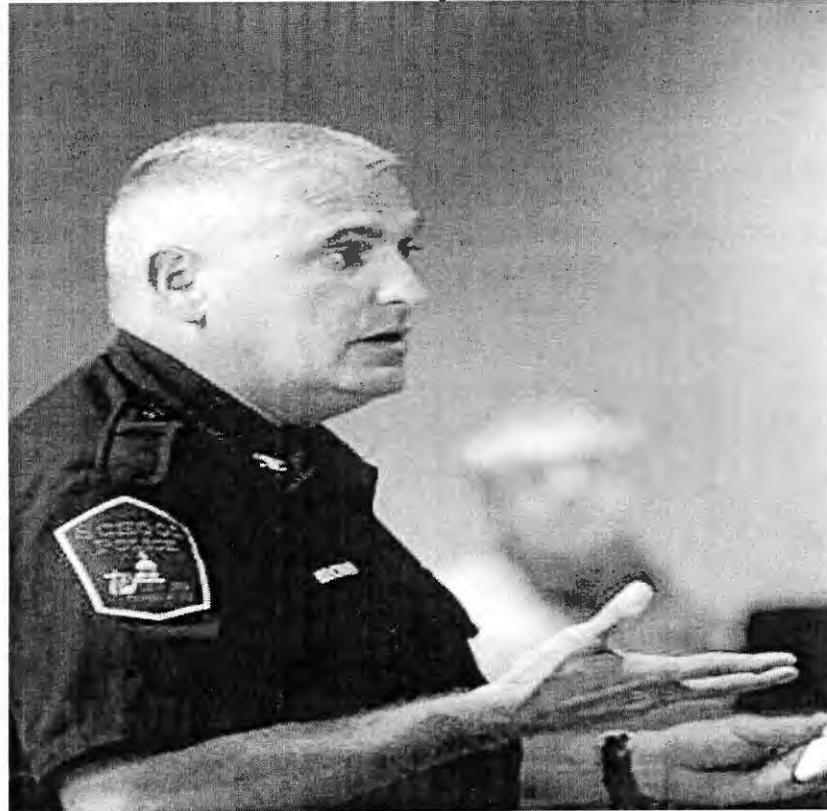
Respectfully submitted,

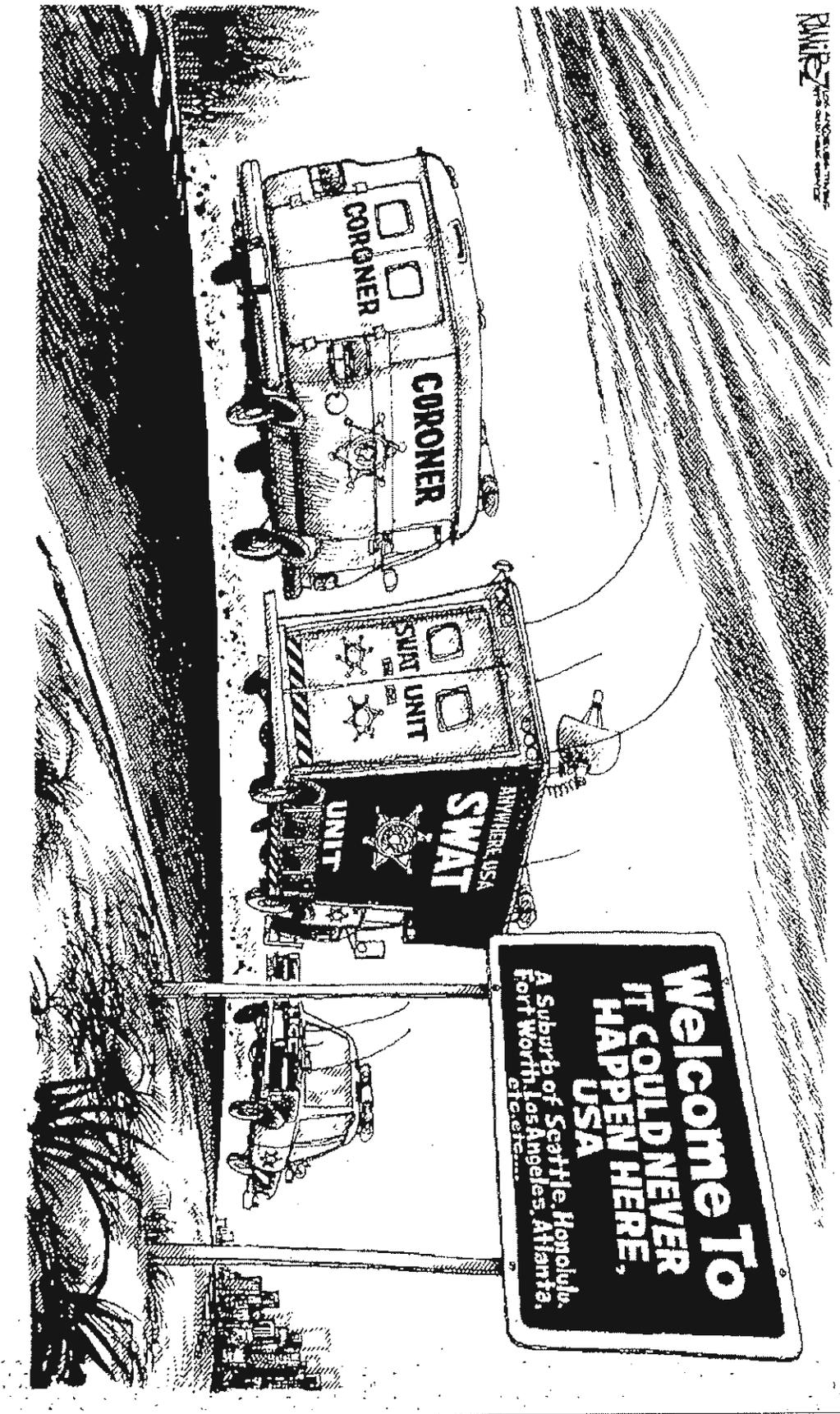
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Brown
Chief of Police, Topeka Public Schools

Are We Prepared? School Safety

Presented by Ron Brown





“ I never thought it would happen here.”

How do we measure prevention?

How do we measure what did not happen as a result of good work?

How do we measure what did not happen as a result of good training?

How do we measure the value of good relationships with students and staff?

How do we quantify positive interactions with police?

How do we show value to staff/student education and training?

THE PLAN

“The only thing tougher than planning for a disaster...
Is explaining why you didn’t.”

Bob Fields, Santa Clara, CA EMA

Must be simple

Must be practiced

Must be reviewed

Must be current

THE PLAN

The plan is created and often practiced in a:

- Safe environment

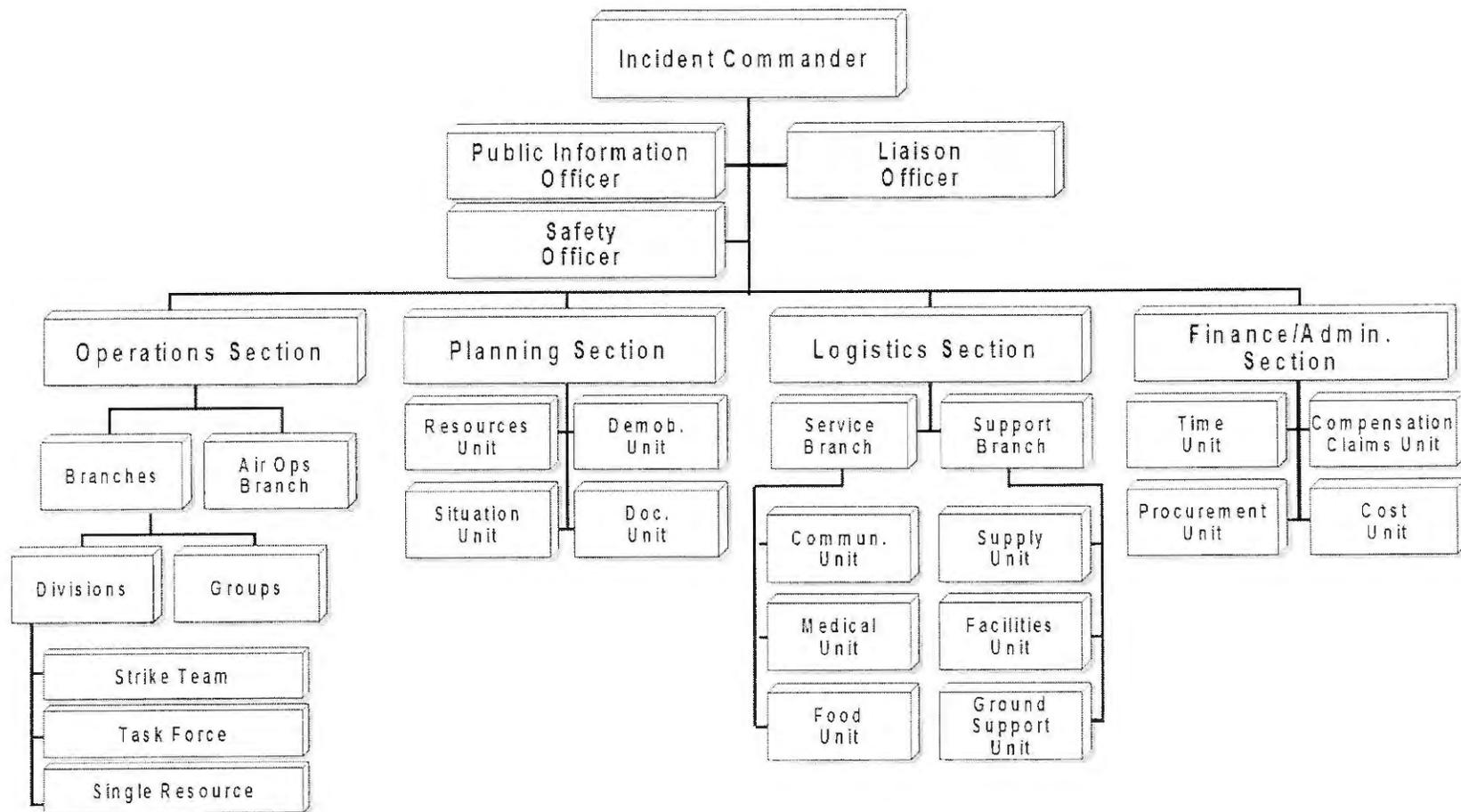
- Calm surroundings

- Reasonable people

The plan is carried out in a:

- Chaotic, rapidly changing environment with a lot of human emotion.

Training to NIMS Standards



Remember the BIG 4

Life safety

Incident stabilization

Property preservation

Environmental concerns

SECURITY AUDITS

Good policy and do we enforce them?

Do we have a written plan?

How do we control who comes in and out?

Does our staff utilize, “situational awareness”?

What does our building look like from the outside?

What does our building look like at night?

How do we monitor activity?

How do we communicate?

Decisive Action

Would you rather follow him... Or him?????



Recommendations

Provide or allocate funding to KDEM to restore Statewide Safe and Prepared Schools Training.

Restore the Safe and Prepared Schools Advisory Board.

Mandate Emergency Operations Plans for all schools.

Consider mandatory earthquake drills/training.

Host an annual School Safety Conference in Topeka during the legislative session.

Helping kids

Juvenile Justice Bill

Youth/police encounters

Relationships



Questions?

“It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”

Howard Ruff

And my favorite.....

“We are not preparing for the world we live in
- we are preparing for the world we find
ourselves in.”

Michael Mabee