

Shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County

Chairman - MSD Public Safety Commission

MSDPSC

- SB7026 created the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission.
- The Commission's statutory mandate is to investigate and make recommendations regarding the February 14, 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

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- The Commission is comprised of 16 voting and 4 non-voting members.
- Members were appointed to the Commission by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, or their positions were established by law.
- Commission members come from multi-disciplinary backgrounds.

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- The Commission met 7 times between April and December 2018 and heard presentations and testimony from numerous witnesses. Commission investigators interviewed hundreds of people and reviewed a massive amount of evidence.
- The Commission has subpoena authority and used that authority to compel the production of documents and witness statements.
- The Commission submitted its initial report in January. The Commission does not sunset until 2023.

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- The initial report is 482 pages and contains the facts about what occurred leading up to and at MSDHS.
- The fact sections of the report resulted in findings by the Commission and the findings resulted in recommendations.
- Some of the recommendations will require action by the legislature to become effective.

Prevention and Harm Mitigation

- The goal is prevention
- Prevention is costly and complicated
- Reality = it will happen again
- When, where and what has been done to mitigate the harm are the only real questions

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- After ensuring the best **harm mitigation** measures are in place, we should then focus on implementing more sophisticated, and costly **prevention** measures.
- The recommendation to the legislature is that it should ensure current requirements are fully implemented before imposing new requirements or spending “new” money on more requirements.

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- Harm mitigation can be divided into three basic concepts:
 - Identify the Threat
 - Communicate the Threat
 - React to the Threat
- All Florida schools should be immediately required to:
 - Have an SSO On Campus at All Times That School is in Session
 - Comply With the Requirement to Conduct Monthly Drills
 - Have Written Active Assailant Response Procedures
 - Keep all Gates and Doors Locked or Staffed
 - Have An Effective Communication System
 - Identify “Hard Corners” or “Safe Areas” in Every Classroom

MSDPSC

- These harm mitigation recommendations will make a difference and are an opportunity to immediately enhance school safety.
- The recommendations cost little or nothing to implement, but they require decision-makers, or the legislature to mandate them and require compliance.

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- As these basic harm mitigation strategies are implemented, the State and the districts should be considering broader, and costly, prevention strategies.
- The Commission recommends a tiered approach to physical site security enhancements. The report contains some preliminary recommendations within various tiers.

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- To better understand the Commission's findings and recommendations it is necessary to have some knowledge of the facts and evidence considered by the Commission.
- Facts matter. Facts should drive school safety decision-making, not ideology.
- Perfect does not exist.

February 14, 2018

- Cruz shot 17 people and killed 17 others—total of 34 (14 students and 3 staff) (136 rounds fired)
- Cruz was in Building 12 a total of 6 minutes and 4 seconds
- Cruz shot/killed 23 on the first floor within 1 minute and 44 seconds
- Cruz shot Coach Feis as he tried to enter the building – 3 seconds
- Nobody shot on second floor—41 seconds
- Cruz shot/killed 10 on the third floor in 1 minute and 5 seconds
- Spent 2 minutes on third floor trying to set up sniper position

Background: K-12 Active Assailant Incidents



K-12 Targeted Attacks 1998 - 2018

- No profile of the next attacker
- 46 attacks in the last 20 years
- Details of prior attacks help inform best practices to prevent/mitigate harm
- 43 of the 46 were “insiders” (current/former students)
- Ages ranged from 11 to 56; 34 attackers were 14 – 19 years old
- Most involved handguns
- Most attacks ended in under 4 minutes
- School personnel, not LEO, were most frequently responsible for stopping attacks.

Background: Nikolas Cruz



Nikolas Cruz

19 years old at time of shooting

- Birth mother had criminal history; drug arrest during pregnancy
- Adopted immediately by Lynda and Roger Cruz; Roger died when Cruz was 5 years old and Lynda died in 2017
- Cruz received extensive mental health services since age 3
- No diagnosis of serious mental illness
- Significant history of disciplinary problems at school
- Lynda enabled Cruz's poor behavior including purchase of firearms
- Lynda expressed a fear of Cruz's behavior

Nikolas Cruz

History at MSDHS

- Cruz enrolled in BCPS at age 3. He was an ESE student; afforded additional accommodations.
- School records show 125 incidents or disciplinary situations involving Cruz. Records were not well documented by BCPS
- Threat assessment on Cruz, September 28, 2016
 - Mishandled by school administration
 - Resulted in minor restrictions on Cruz
 - Cruz remained a student at MSDHS
- Cruz transferred to adult learning center in February 2017



K-12 Targeted Attacks 1998 - 2018

- The USSS has coined the term “leakage” and it refers to information leaking out about the shooter and his plan, or suspected plan to engage in the violent act.
- USSS: In 81% of the prior K-12 attacks, someone had prior knowledge of the attacker’s plan. Friends/classmates more commonly than family.
- The key is getting people to report what they know, and then not having system failures so that when information is reported it is acted on.

Nikolas Cruz

History with local law enforcement

- 21 contacts with Broward SO, mostly minor needing no follow-up
- Two “warnings” to BSO which were not properly handled; deputies were disciplined following the shooting:
 - February 05, 2016: Family friend reported Instagram post by Cruz with a gun stating “I am going to get this gun when I turn 18 and shoot up the school.”
 - November 30, 2017: Family friend reported Cruz as “Columbine in the making” and a threat to himself.



Nikolas Cruz

History with FBI

- September 25, 2017:
 - Post on YouTube page of person in Mississippi, “I’m going to be the next school shooter.” Username: “nikolas cruz”
 - Complainant was interviewed; tip closed citing lack of information to ID subject.
- January 05, 2018:
 - Family friend reported detailed information on Cruz, history of disturbing behavior, and contact information for the family with whom Cruz was living.
 - Tip was closed as having no value.



Nikolas Cruz

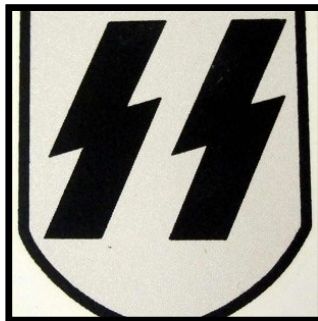
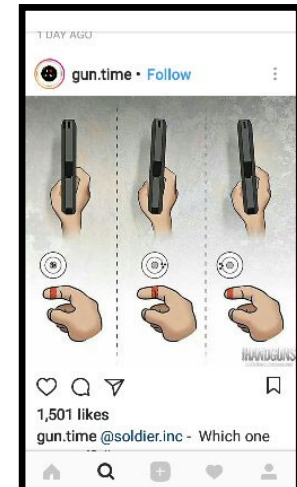
Internet history and cell phone content

- Researched prior school shootings
- Obsessive activity related to guns
- *Homicidal Thoughts and Urges* article
- Dead/tortured animals
- Pornography
- MSDHS schedule
- “How long does it take a cop to show up at a school shooting”
- “shooting people massacre”
- “is killing people easy”
- “rape caught on video”
- “basketball court full of targets still thinking of ways to kill people”
- “I want to kill people but I don't know how I can do it. Walk to a park, get someone to pick me up I just don't know anymore but it will happen soon”



Nikolas Cruz

Internet history and cell phone content



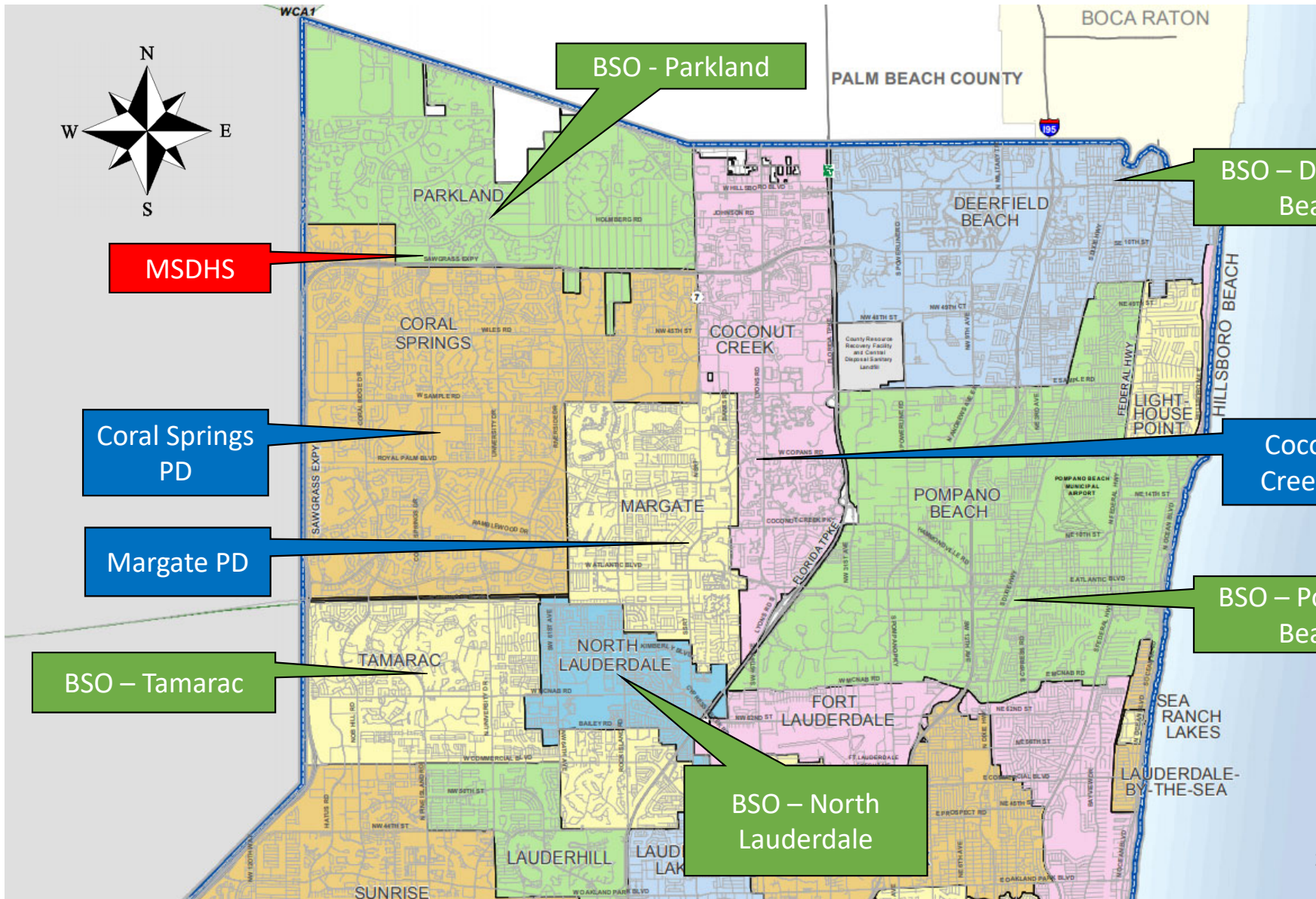
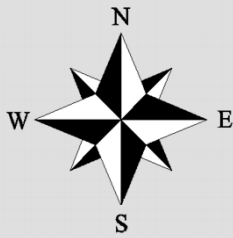
Nikolas Cruz

Persons with prior knowledge

- At least 30 people had knowledge of Cruz's troubling behavior but it was not reported:
 - Animal Cruelty/Killing: 7
 - Knife/bullet/firearm seen in Cruz's possession: 19
 - Statements of hatred toward a group or person: 8
 - Statements of desire to hurt or kill people: 11
 - Specific statement to shoot up a school: 3
- 2 students reported Cruz to MSD administration; they failed to act

Background: City of Parkland and MSDHS





911 Issues on February 14, 2017

- Because of the call transfer process, 1 minute and 24 seconds elapsed from first 911 call until BSO dispatched the call over the radio. By that point 24 people had been shot and/or killed on the first floor.
- CSPD received *at least* 130 911 calls
- BSO received approximately 81 911 calls
- Coral Springs treated the event as an Fire/EMS event
- CSPD did not dispatch one of their officers for 4 minutes and 22 seconds, which is after Cruz stopped shooting. The officer arrived at MSD about 19 seconds later.



2:22:13 (+0m 35s)

- First 911 call
- Originated inside building 12
- Gunshots are audible in the background
- Coral Springs Communications Center received this call

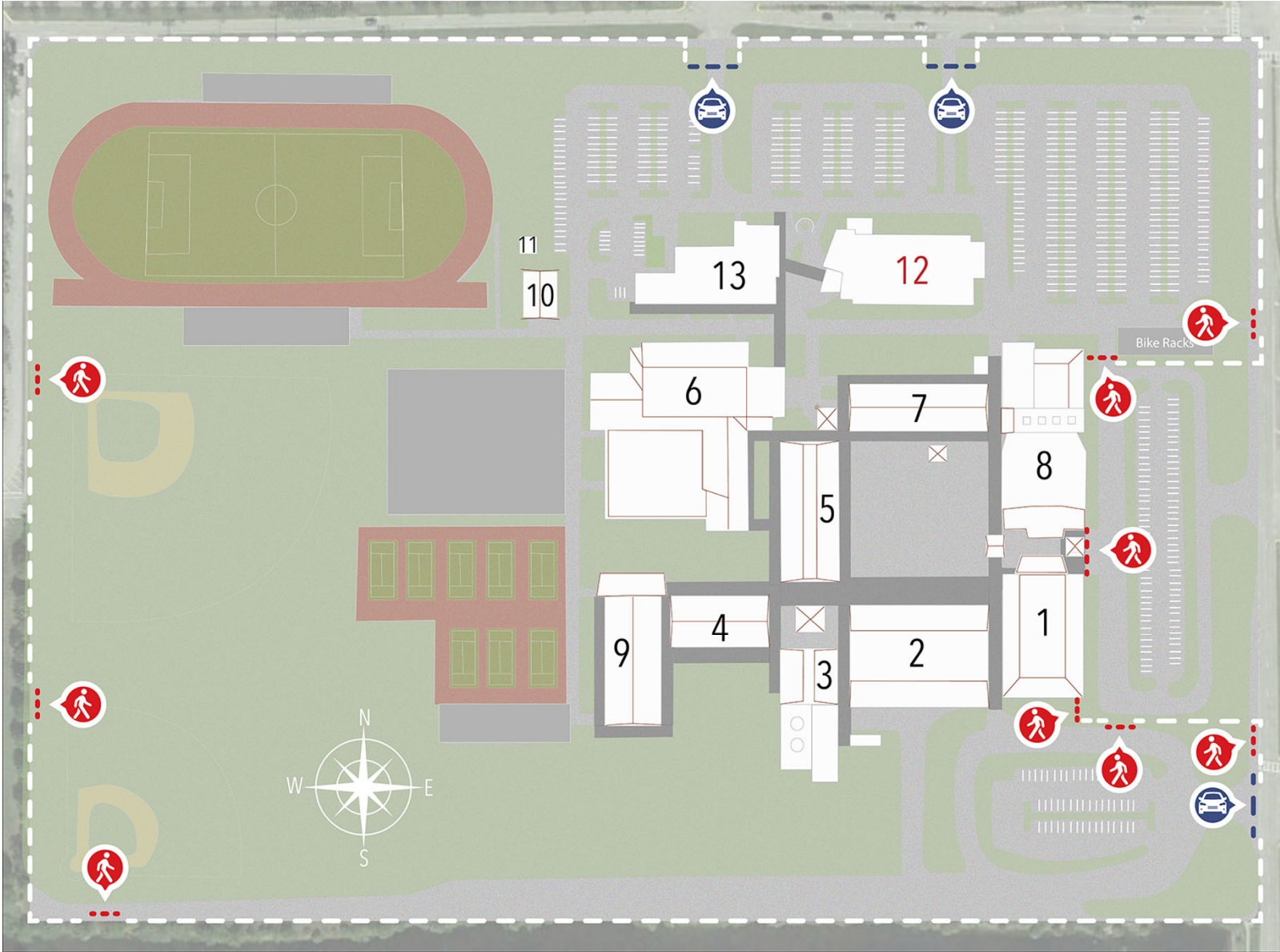


Radio and CAD Issues

- BSO and CSPD were on separate radio channels and separate CADs.
- Officers and deputies did not have each other's radio channels. They relied on radio patching for interoperability.
- The patch failed because BSO did not have CSPD's radio channel in its console.
- BSO radio system exceeded its capacity and experienced "throttling."
- Officer safety issues because of no interoperability and throttling.

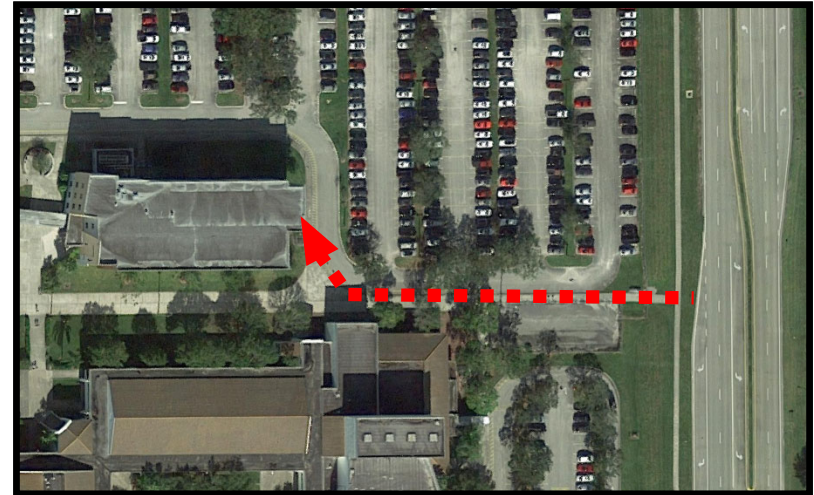






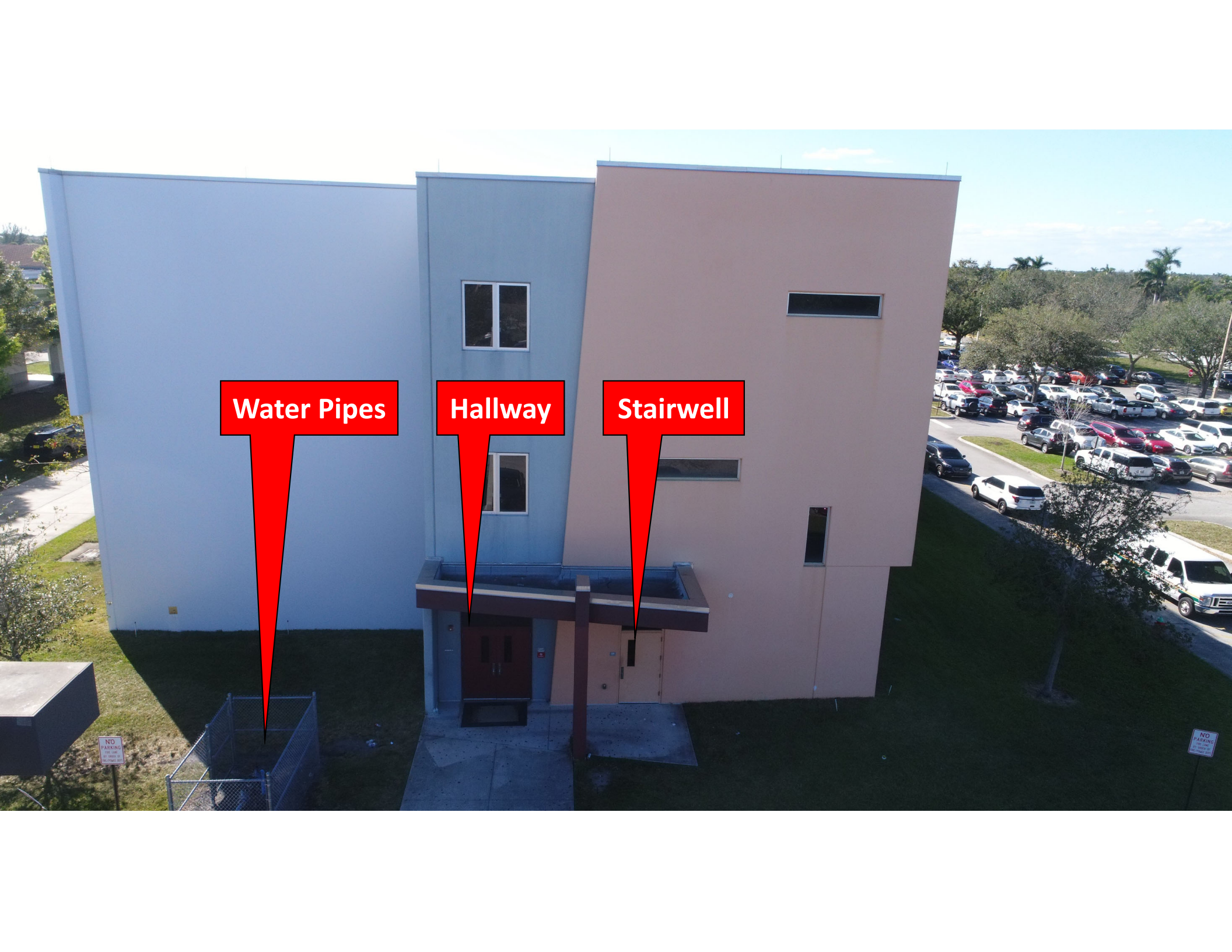
2:19 (-2m 38s)

- Nikolas Cruz arrived on Pine Island Rd in an Uber
- Distance from Pine Island Rd to the east doors of building 12 is approximately 120 yards.
- Walk: 1m 43s
- Jog: 1m 4s





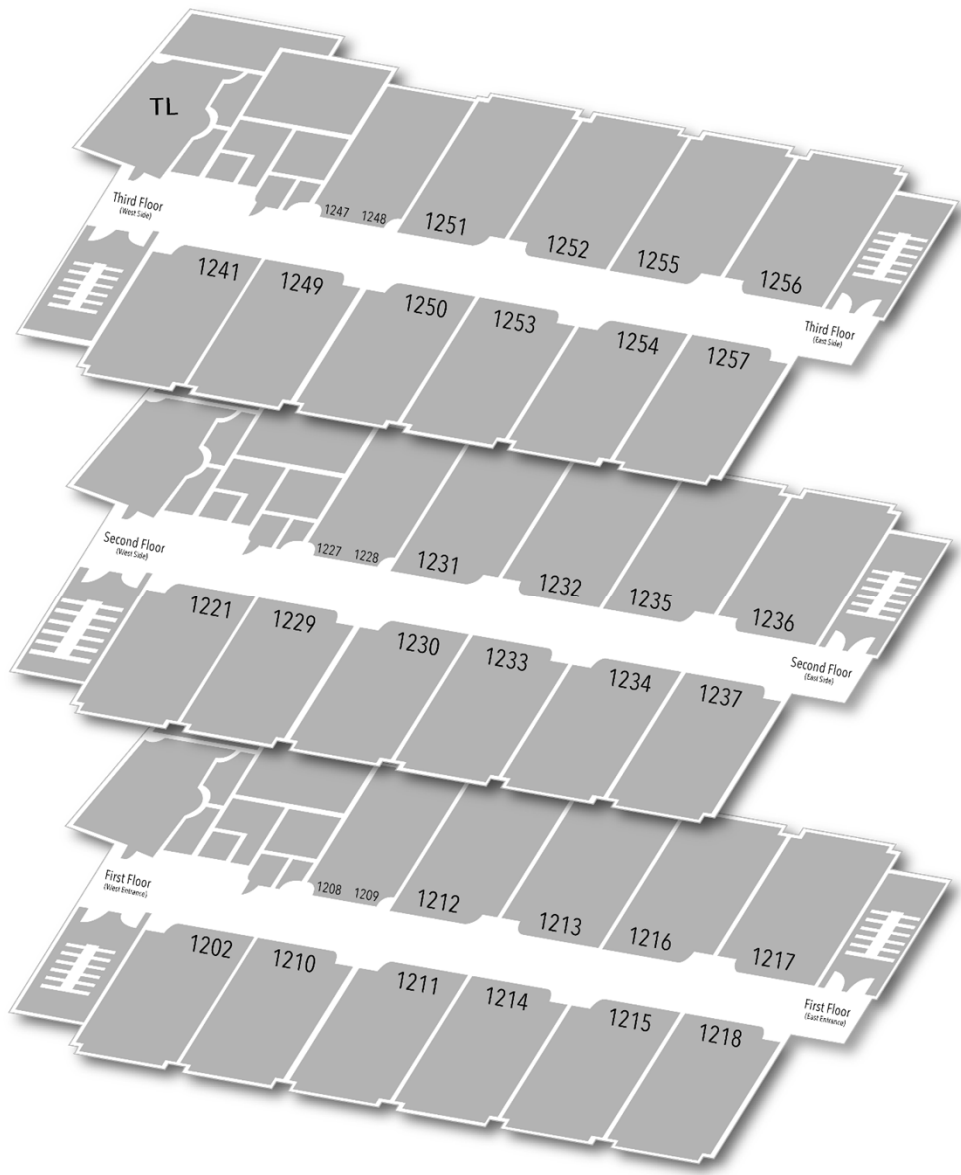




Water Pipes

Hallway

Stairwell



The Shooting and Law Enforcement Response



February 14, 2018

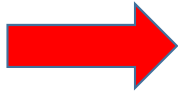
- At 2:19 p.m. Cruz arrived at MSDHS in an Uber.
- He walked through an open and unstaffed pedestrian gate carrying a rifle bag.
- Campus Monitor Medina did not call a Code Red.
- Cruz entered Building 12 through an unlocked door, loaded his AR15 and began shooting.
- The first floor was caught off-guard, second floor heard the shots and treated the incident as an active shooter event and third floor treated it as a fire drill.

MSDHS Security Failures

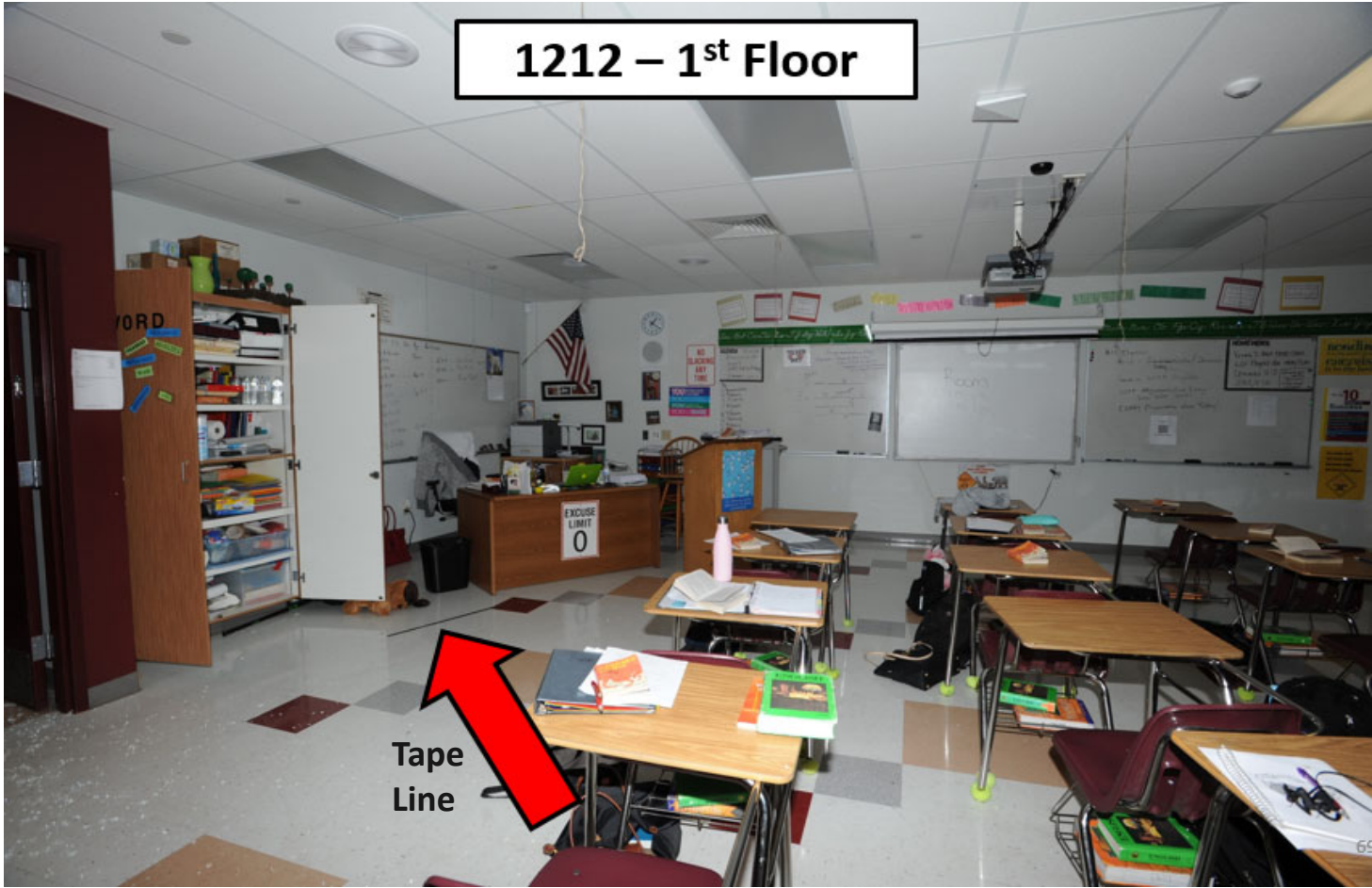
- No Code Red policy and no training (multiple people did not call a Code Red; no drills in prior year; one hour of training).
- Even if Medina had called a Code Red—very few people had school radios.
- If someone with a radio heard a Code Red and used the PA, no speakers in hallways or common areas.
- Unlocked doors/no window coverings.
- No classroom “hard corner” or safe area designation and no policy requiring safe areas (**Cruz entered no classrooms and only shot those in his line of sight** and kids died because no safe area designation).

1212 – 1st Floor

Classroom
Door



Tape
Line







SRO Response

- SRO Deputy Peterson learned there was a problem in Building 12 36 seconds after the first shot was fired.
- He arrived at the east end of building 12 1 minute and 3 seconds later. This was 1 minute and 39 seconds after the first shot. 23 people were already shot/killed at that point.
- Peterson heard shots fired from the east door (which was Coach Feis—the 24th first floor victim—being shot) and that was 1 minute and 44 seconds after Cruz's first shot.

SRO Response

- Peterson fled to a place of personal safety and 10 people were shot/killed after Peterson failed to engage Cruz.
- The first law enforcement officers did not enter Building 12 until 11 minutes and 4 seconds after the first shot, and 4 minutes and 48 seconds after Cruz left the building, despite deputies being on campus for over 5 minutes before Cruz departed building 12.

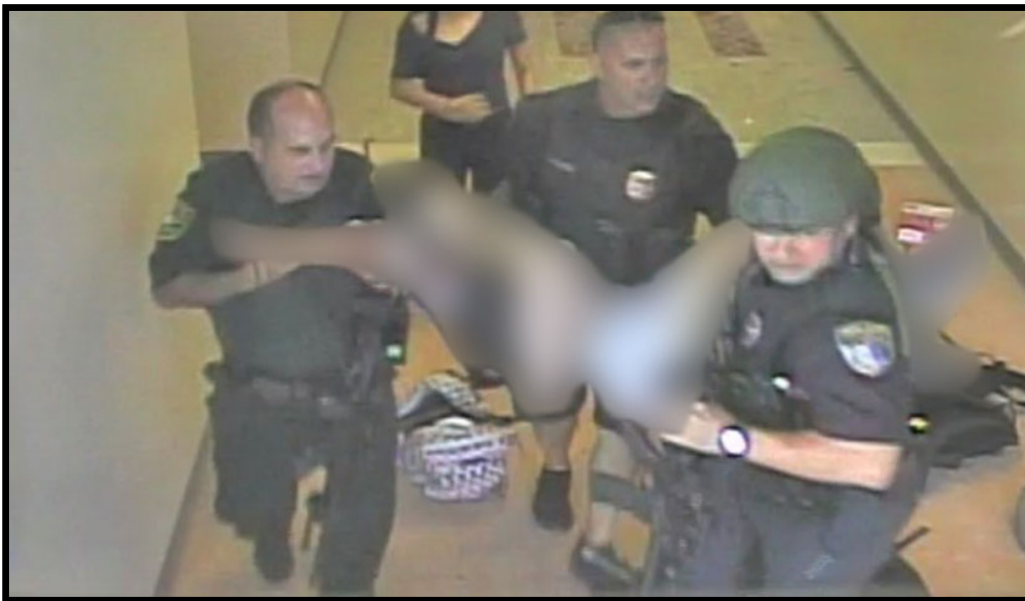


Deputy Peterson's location



Deputy Peterson's location
Looking northwest

“As we set forth the failures and opportunities for improvement in this report, we must also recognize the many people who acted appropriately...and the heroes of February 14th who performed admirably, risked their own lives and saved the lives of others.” - MSDPSC Report

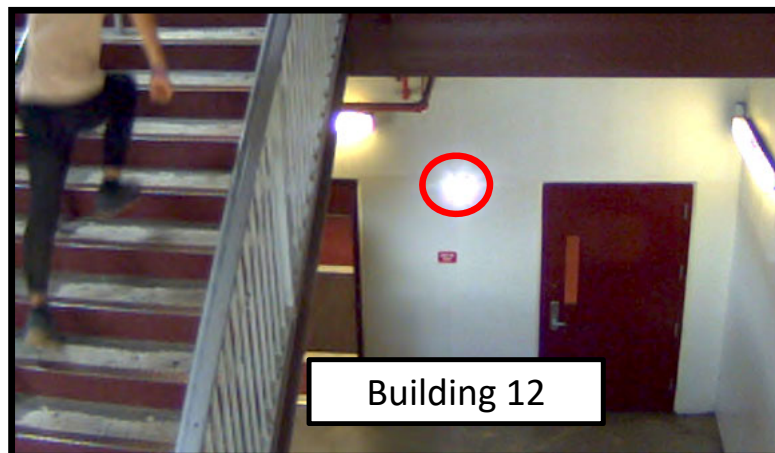
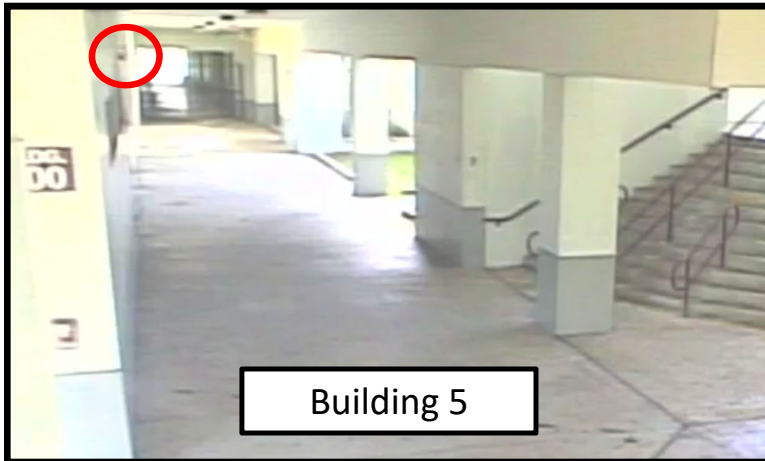






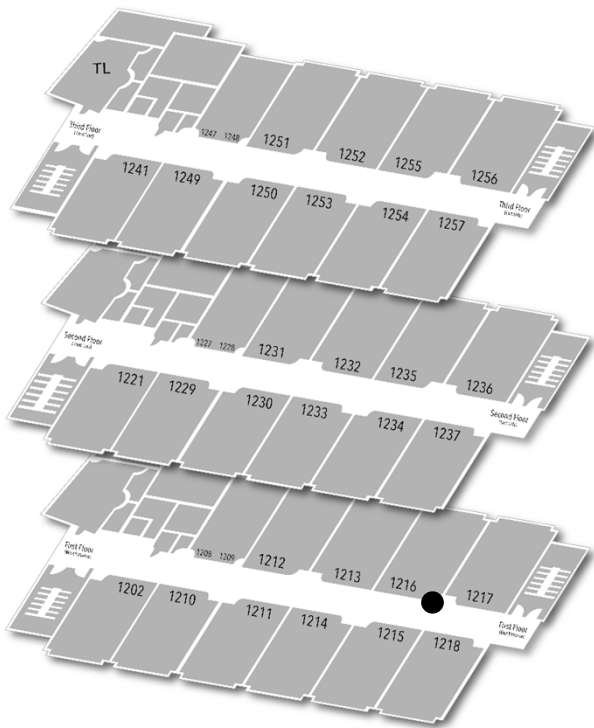
2:22:39 (+ 1m 1s)

- Fire alarms became active at various locations on campus.



Simultaneous to prior slide

2:22:39 (+ 1m 1s)

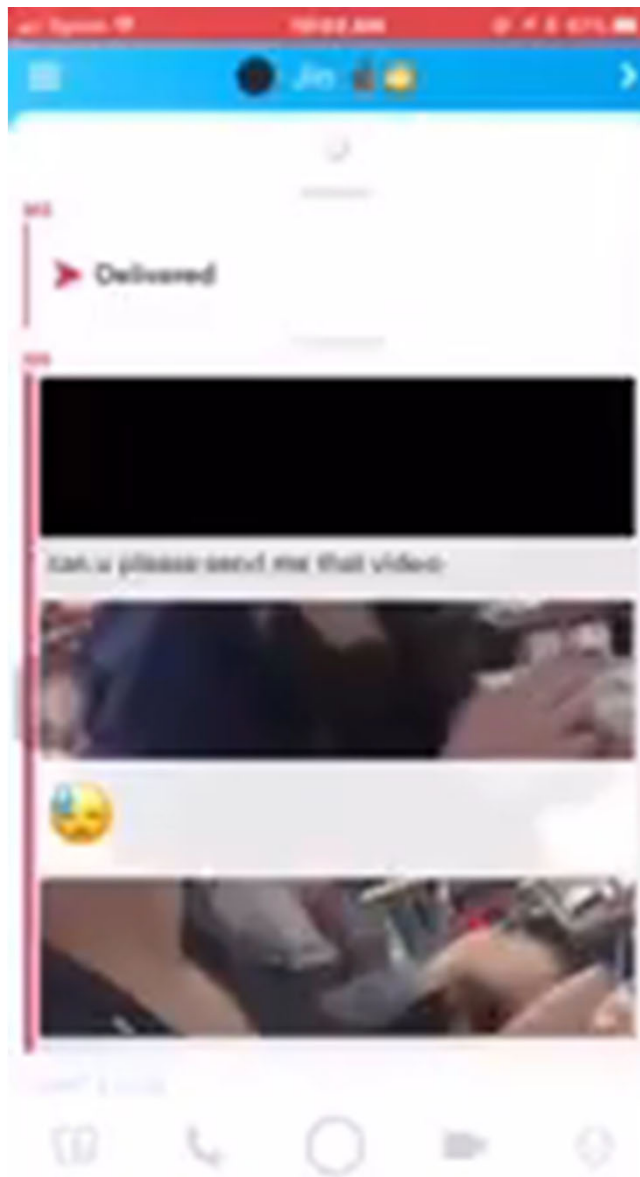


- As the fire alarms began, Cruz was on the first floor.
- The following video is from a classroom near where Cruz was shooting.
- Peterson/Greenleaf began running north from building 1.
- Feis was still with McKenna on the north end of building 13.

Simultaneous to prior slide

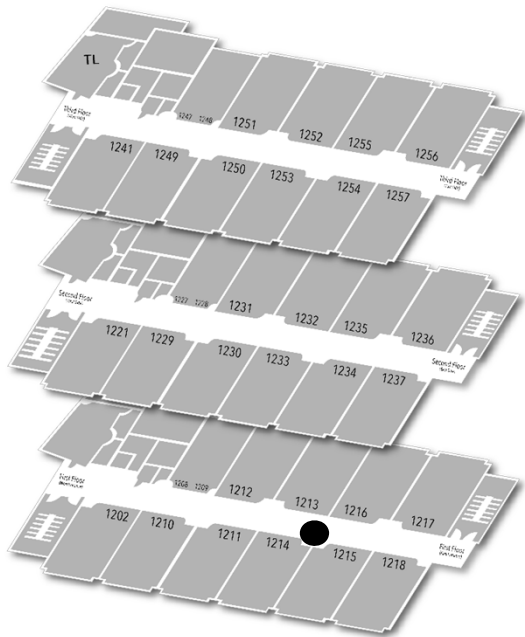


Simultaneous to prior slide



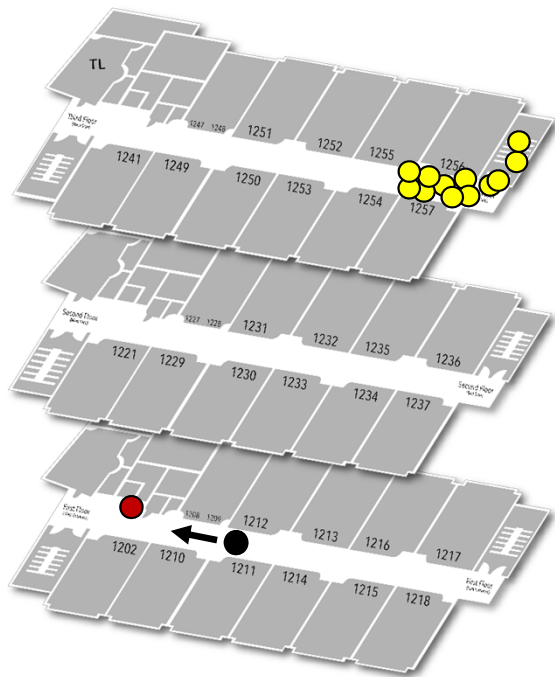
**Classroom 1255
3rd Floor**

Cell phone video recorded as Cruz was shooting on the first floor



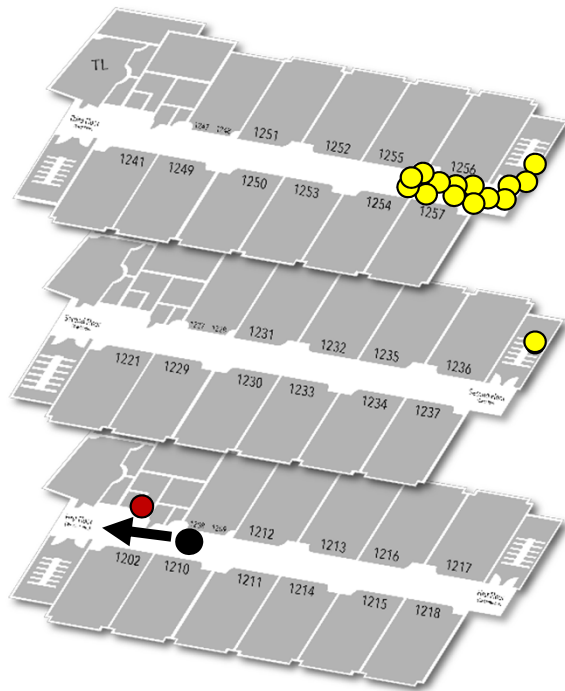
2:23:17 (+ 1m 39s)

- Campus Monitor Medina, Deputy Peterson and Security Specialist Greenleaf reached the southeast corner of building 12.
- 23 victims (10 fatalities) had already been shot.



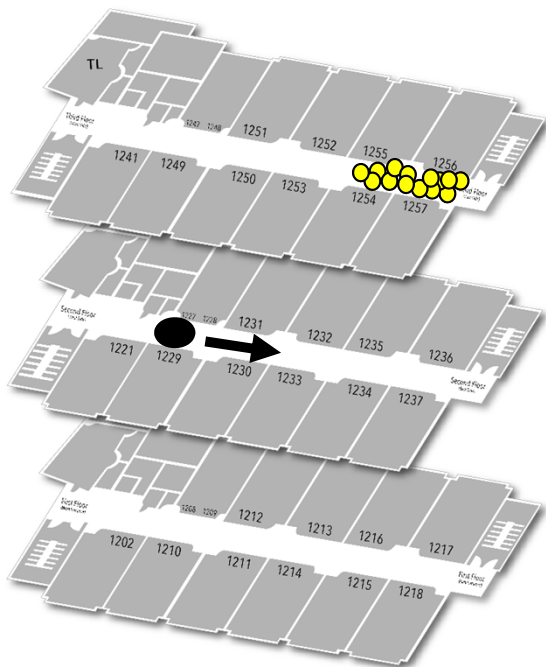
2:23:20 (+ 1m 42s)

- Cruz began to run toward the west stairs.
- Students between the 3rd and 2nd floors in the east stairs seemed cautious about continuing down stairs.



2:23:40 (+ 2m 2s)

- The east end of the third floor was still full of students as Cruz moved toward the east stairs.
- Some of them began moving away from the stairs.



**5 reloads inside
building 12**



3rd Floor – Window at west end of hall



2:27:03

(+5m, 25s)

Begins the last volley of shots

Eason

Kratz

Stambaugh
← Holmberg Road

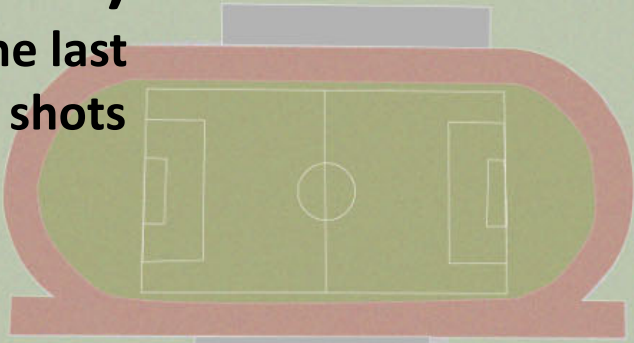
Miller

Seward

Perry
Goolsby

Peterson

Pine Island Road
Coral Springs Drive



11
10

13

12

6

7

8

5

9

4

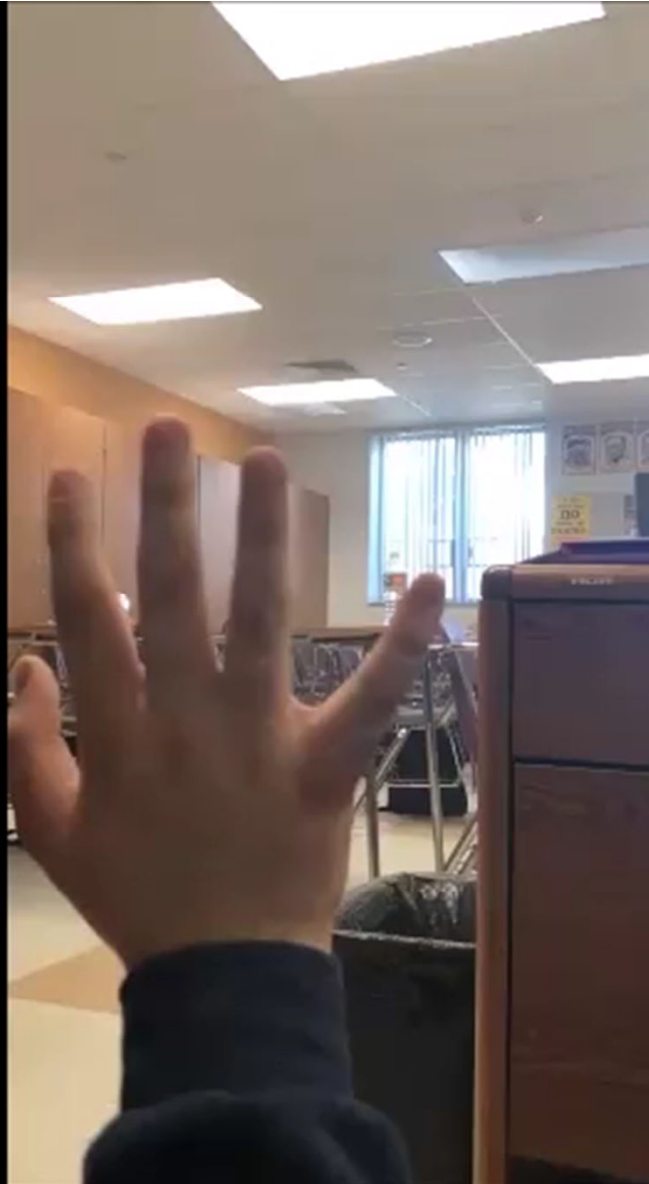
3

2

1



2:43:00
(+21 m 22s)



Room 1213

SB7026 Compliance and Moving Forward

- The legislature enhanced school safety by enacting SB7026
- There is not full compliance across Florida
- There must be a sense of urgency regarding school safety
- There must be a culture of accountability

SB7026 Compliance and Moving Forward

- Harm mitigation immediately implemented
- Physical site security enhancement (prevention measures)
- Revise and improve FSSAT
- Standardize and enhance behavioral threat assessment teams and process
- Accurate SESIR reporting

SB7026 Compliance and Moving Forward

- Improve mental health care coordination and information sharing among all stakeholders
- Sustained funding for the Guardian program
- Better information sharing among law enforcement entities

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