Town of Fairfield

Superintendent David Title
Police Chief Gary MacNamara
First Selectman Mike Tetreau

December 12, 2013

Dear Fairfield Families:

We write this letter as the first anniversary of the tragedy in Sandy Hook approaches. December 14, 2012 was a watershed moment for school systems throughout the country, as security of students in suburban communities came sharply into focus. In addition, two recent events, (1) the verbal threat against Sherman Elementary School and (2) the UNH incident involving a Fairfield resident, have further reinforced our desire to address all Fairfield families.

We write to assure you that the Fairfield Public Schools, the Fairfield Police Department, and the Town of Fairfield Administration continue to work together to ensure the safety of our children, staff and residents every day. Since Sandy Hook, we have made a number of visible and not-so-visible changes to this end. We understand this is a community issue. We initially focused on the schools; however, we are committed to making all of our town facilities safer. You have our assurance that we will continue this work in the categories listed below.

Infrastructure

You may have noticed that we have made a number of upgrades to our security infrastructure. Among them are the installation of buzzers and camera systems at our elementary and middle schools, exterior door signage, the limitation of access to one exterior door at each school and other improvements. We will use a recently awarded state grant to continue this work. The Police Department has recently completed a survey of all of our schools and we will be using this information to plan future improvements.

Communication

We have dramatically increased the frequency and speed of communication between the Fairfield Police Department and the Fairfield Public Schools. The Police Department has designated a sergeant, stationed at the Board of Education offices, to facilitate communication from the schools to the police and vice versa. This improved communication means that potential threats are addressed quickly. The sergeant also provides the most accurate information that we are allowed to share with parents through Infinite Campus. The Fairfield Police Department is also coordinating efforts with the PTA for community discussions on

school-related safety matters. We will continue to work together communicating quickly and accurately to the community.

Training

The Police Department has worked with the school district's security staff to provide updated procedures for emergencies and preventative actions. All schools conduct at least two "lockdown drills" per year and the Police Department oversees and critiques them. Students are instructed by teachers and administrators on their roles in a lockdown situation.

Visibility

The Police Department has increased its visibility at the schools. The elementary DARE Officers and School Resource Officers are available at our middle schools. Regular visits to the elementary schools are planned by the Police Department. Most importantly, whenever there has been a need for an increased police presence at any school, the Police Department has been eager to provide it and will continue to do so.

What Parents Can Do

As parents, you can also help us keep our schools safe. The most important thing you can do is to tell your children that if they feel threatened in any way, by anyone, they need to report it to a responsible adult. The report may not result in police involvement, but it may alert school staff who can intervene before a relatively small problem suddenly becomes a big one.

Please be sure that your emergency contact information is updated in Infinite Campus. In the event of an emergency, Infinite Campus is the main vehicle by which we will be able to reach you. We can target messages to specific schools so that you will not get messages irrelevant to you. In the event of an emergency, please follow all the instructions of the police or school authorities and ask your children to do the same.

Improving school and town security is a high priority for the school system, town officials, and the Police Department. Thank you for your assistance in keeping Fairfield safe.

David Title Superintendent of Schools	Gary MacNamara Fairfield Police Chief	Mike Tetreau First Selectman