

**FORMER BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DEPUTY SCOT PETERSON'S RESPONSE AND
REBUTTAL TO THE MSD PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMISSION REPORT**

"ADDENDUM"

Mr. Scot R. Peterson

April 26th, 2019

"Our biggest fear is not expressing the truth, but that we will be attacked or belittled because of our truth." ---Kelli Wilson

ADDENDUM

FORMER BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTY SCOT PETERSON'S RESPONSE AND REBUTTAL TO THE MSD PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT

On January 2, 2019, the MSD Public Safety Commission presented its' report to the Florida Governor.

The following is my response as well as rebuttal to the MSD Public Safety Commission Report pertaining to "Chapter 4: ON-CAMPUS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER RESPONSE TO THE SHOOTING."

The findings contained in the MSD Commission Report regarding my response to the shooting on February 14, 2018 are "blatantly" false. The MSD Commission Report does not contain evidence to substantiate the findings regarding my law enforcement actions.

The MSD Public Safety Commission not only failed to provide sufficient evidence in its' report to support its findings, the Commission also withheld critical "exculpatory evidence" regarding my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018.

I submit to Governor Ron DeSantis and the citizens of the State of Florida, that my law enforcement actions during the horrific school shooting on February 14, 2018, were consistent with my training and based on my "real time intelligence" on the scene.

My law enforcement actions during the school shooting were in compliance with the Broward Sheriff's Office Active Shooter Policy.

RESPONSE

On February 14, 2018, Nikolas Cruz entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school and killed 17 victims and injured 17; Cruz was subsequently indicted for first degree murder.

I, Scot R. Peterson was the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018.

My actions on February 14, 2018 were consistent with the training I had received for the past 30 years. I assessed the situation and acted accordingly to the real time intelligence I assessed on the scene.

My actions on February 14, 2018 were consistent with the Broward Sheriff's Office ("BSO") Department of Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedure 4.37.2 Active Shooter policy regarding Response/Responsibilities. (Attached as Exhibit "A" BSO Standard Operating Procedures).

I was the initial "Incident Commander" on the scene. I was responsible not only for coordinating the initial BSO response, but to place Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in a Code Red lockdown to safeguard the 3,200 students and staff.

During the shooting incident, I was not given any information whatsoever by BSO communications regarding the location or description of the shooter(s) (subsequently identified as Nikolas Cruz) or that there were any victim(s) inside the 1200 building on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School campus.

I remained the Incident Commander during the events of February 14th. BSO Parkland Command Staff (sergeant, lieutenant, captain) never relieved me of my responsibility (transfer of command) as the Incident Commander on February 14th.

I initiated exterior perimeters to safeguard the public from entering the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School campus where an unknown active shooter(s) was in progress. My actions were consistent with BSO Standard Operating Procedure 4.37.2 (H)(4) "[c]oordinate the inner and outer perimeters." (Exhibit "A" at p.3) This action is delegated (per BSO Standard Operating Procedures 4.37.2(H) to the Patrol Sergeant); on February 14th, I had to immediately take action because no Command Staff (i.e., superior officer, to wit: sergeant, lieutenant, captain) took control/command of the scene.

I assessed the scene and immediately (over the school radio) ordered the 45-acre Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School into a "Code Red lockdown" to safeguard over 3,200 students and staff. **It is imperative to note that the MSD Commission makes the finding that I did not call a Code Red, but this finding is false and is proven to be false by testimony found within the MSD Commission report.**

I communicated (over the school radio) with the Douglas High School administration (Asst. Principal Morford) and directed him to the camera room to ascertain a description and direction of travel of the shooter(s). This action was instrumental in the quick apprehension of Cruz.

I observed a Coral Springs tactical team approach the east side of the 1200 building. I approached the team and identified myself as the SRO. I provided classroom keys to Coral Springs and continued to relay intel received from the school administration to the first responders on the scene.

I was successful in obtaining critical information regarding the identity and direction of travel of the shooter (Cruz). I had to "yell out" the description and direction of travel of the shooter (Cruz) to other first responders in the vicinity, due to BSO radio "throttling" failures, which prevented transmitting over the BSO radios.

I was approached by BSO SWAT and escorted to the BSO SWAT command post in the 1300 building. I was tasked with providing hand drawings of the school campus to aid in the evacuation of the school campus.

On February 16, 2018 (less than 48 hours after the shooting) I gave a sworn statement to BSO Homicide regarding the above stated actions. My statement to BSO Homicide was based on my real time intelligence on the scene; my law enforcement actions were based on my real time intelligence assessed on the scene (shots heard outside).

Despite the information given to BSO Homicide on February 16, 2018, former Sheriff Scott Israel (a mere eight days after the mass shooting AND WITHOUT ANY meaningful investigation), held a televised press conference on February 22, 2018, in which (it is my belief), he made me his "personal and political scapegoat," to take the "onus" off of himself and place the blame on me for the massacre at my school.

REBUTTAL

I submit that the findings in Chapter 4 of the MSD Commission Report are not supported by the evidence. The evidence presented to substantiate the MSD Commission's findings are based upon a few brief "snippets" of testimony without any context. These "snippets" do not contain evidence to support the findings regarding my law enforcement response to the MSD shooting on February 14, 2018.

The MSD Commission Report not only failed to provide direct evidence to support its findings, the Commission also withheld critical exculpatory evidence regarding my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018.

The following exculpatory evidence was withheld from the MSD Commission Report regarding my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018:

- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, that my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018 were in compliance with the Broward Sheriff's Office Active Shooter Policy. The MSD Commission Report excludes this critical evidence in its entirety.
- The above exculpatory evidence was corroborated by MSD Public Safety Commissioner Sheriff Grady Judd when he advised former Sheriff Scott Israel (during an MSD Commission meeting); that based on Israel's Active Shooter Policy, "words matter," Peterson did nothing wrong.
- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, regarding BSO Communications failure to provide any information to the BSO Deputies on the scene during the shooting on February 14, 2018. BSO Communications failed to provide any information regarding the location of any shooter(s) or victim(s) during the shooting.
- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, that I (former Deputy Peterson) did not receive any information during the shooting from BSO Communications; due to wireless 911 calls from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSDHS) being routed to the City of Coral Springs instead of my agency, the Broward Sheriff's Office.
- I was the School Resource Officer at MSDHS for eight years and was never informed by BSO or the City of Parkland that wireless 911 calls from MSDHS were routed to the City of Coral Springs instead of the Broward Sheriff's Office.
- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, regarding my actual real time intelligence on the scene which I provided in my sworn statement to BSO homicide on February 16, 2018.

The following is exculpatory evidence withheld from the MSD Commission Report regarding my real time intelligence:

- I testified that "I thought it was outside, It was so loud." (real-time intelligence) (BSO homicide statement, (Exhibit "B" p. 9). I testified to taking a "tactical position" at the 700 building (based on my real time intelligence) (Exhibit "B" p.10). I testified how my on-going real time intelligence was further reinforced by other deputies on the scene, advising "shots at the football field," and an injured student near Westglades Middle school. (Exhibit "B" p.12)

- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, that I (former Deputy Peterson), directed School Administration (J. Morford) to the camera room to ascertain the location and description of the shooter(s); this action provided first responders with a description and direction of travel of the shooter on the scene. (Exhibit "B" p.15)
- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, regarding my "on-going" real time intelligence during the scene on February 14, 2018.
- The MSD Commission had evidence corroborating my on-going real time intelligence with the testimony of Coral Springs Police Officer Tim Burton. Officer Burton testified that I told him to "watch-his-back" because the shooter could be in the parking lot. Burton's testimony corroborated my BSO sworn testimony as to my "on-going" real time intelligence that the shooter or shooters were located outside on the school campus. Burton's account of his communications with me were also reported by the media. (Exhibit "C")
- The MSD Commission in its' report, withheld exculpatory evidence, regarding my on-going real time intelligence on the scene. At 14:29:56 (6 minutes after my arrival on the scene), I transmitted over the BSO radio, "Perry, do you know where the shooter is?"
- This BSO radio transmission further corroborated my "on-going" real time intelligence on the scene; that I had **no** intel regarding the location of the shooter(s).

I submit to Governor DeSantis and the citizens of the State of Florida that the MSD Public Safety Commission's failure to include the above referenced exculpatory evidence regarding my law enforcement actions during the shooting on February 14, 2018, is reprehensible. The MSD Public Safety Commission had a duty to the Governor and the citizens of the State of Florida to provide **all of the evidence** regarding my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018.

The MSD Commission Report, Chapter 4 is titled "On-Campus School Resource Officer Response To The Shooting."

The following is my "Rebuttal" to the findings in Chapter 4 of the MSD Commission Report:

MSD Commission Statement: "Deputy Peterson said that he heard Campus Monitor Medina say that he thought he heard a firecracker in the Building 12. Deputy Peterson stated that he was in his office at the time he heard this but the video indicates he was on the north side of Building 1."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified that I first heard the school radio transmission regarding the firecracker call while inside my office. (Exhibit "B" p.7). The MSD Commission in its' report provides no evidence to support this finding. MSDHS radios are not recorded. The MSD Commission's reference to the "video" of me (Peterson) on the north side of Building 1, has no evidentiary value to determine and/or prove when I received the first school radio call.

MSD Commission Statement: "Greenleaf said that Peterson did not approach the east doors, he did not look into the windows, and he did not access his keys or ask Greenleaf for his keys."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO Det. Cúrcio and Det. Curtis on February 16, 2018. I testified to being approximately 10 feet from the Building (1200) and "hear gunfire." Was then asked by Curcio, "Could you tell what floor it was coming from?" I testified, "I thought it was outside. It was so loud." (emphasis added) (Exhibit "B" p.9)

Greenleaf's testimony to the Commission regarding his assessment on the scene had no bearing regarding what my real time intelligence was on the scene. Greenleaf's testimony corroborated my real time intelligence that the shots I heard were outside.

MSD Commission Statement: "Deputy Peterson told BSO detectives that he was on his school radio "yelling lockdown, lockdown, Code Red, Code Red." There is no evidence that this took place. Based on numerous witness statements from those who heard a Code Red called on the school radio, the only person who called a Code Red was Campus Monitor Elliot Bonner."

Rebuttal: This finding in the MSD Commission Report is entirely false. Upon hearing gunfire, I immediately called a "Code Red." The MSD's finding that I did not call a Code Red is contradicted and proven false by witness testimony contained in the MSD Commission Report.

MSDHS School Campus Monitor Ana Ramos was interviewed and her testimony is in the MSD Commission Report. Ramos stated: "Shortly thereafter she heard Deputy Peterson announce "Code Red" over the radio." (Exhibit "D").

The MSD Commission **repeatedly** makes this "false" finding that I (former Deputy Peterson), did not call a Code Red on February 14, 2018.

MSD Commission Statement: "Peterson and Greenleaf spent approximately 27 seconds on the east side of Building 12 during which time Greenleaf heard 5 to 7 shots coming from within Building 12. Peterson never entered or attempted to enter."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified as to my real time intelligence (gunfire heard outside). My law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018 were based on my real time intelligence and my law enforcement training. Greenleaf's testimony to the Commission regarding his assessment on the scene had no bearing regarding my real time intelligence on the scene. Greenleaf's testimony further corroborated my real time intelligence that the shots I heard were outside.

MSD Commission Statement: "At 2:23:48, Deputy Peterson reached his hiding place at the base of a stairwell at the northeast corner of Building 7."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified to taking a "tactical position" of cover at the 700 Building. (Note: review audio of BSO statement where I stated "tactical;" this word was "conveniently" omitted from my written BSO statement) (Exhibit "B" p.10).

The MSD Commission's finding that "Deputy Peterson reached his hiding place..." is simply *biased conjecture* and not evidence. I provided sworn testimony to BSO on February 16, 2018 that I had taken a tactical position of cover based on my real time intelligence.

Another example of the bias by the MSD Commission against me is the following...

The MSD Commission characterized Coral Springs Police Officer Tim Burton and I very differently; this despite the fact that we were both taking a position of "cover." The MSD Commission characterized my (Peterson) actions as "**hiding**," but Coral Springs Police Officer Tim Burton (approximately 20 yards away from me behind a tree with his patrol rifle) was characterized as "**taking cover**" by the MSD Commission.

The MSD Commission Report (Chapter 4) then addressed some of the BSO radio transmissions...

2:24:32 – "Cruz made it to the east side of the third floor and began firing. Cruz went on to fire 61 rounds on the third floor."

Rebuttal: First and foremost, this is **not** a radio transmission. I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave **no** testimony regarding having any knowledge of Cruz's location or actions during the shooting.

The MSD Commission Report contains **no** evidence to support that I had **any** real time intelligence regarding the location or actions of shooter Cruz.

2:24:54 – Campus Monitor Bonner called the first Code Red over the school radio

Rebuttal: This finding in the MSD Commission Report is false. *See* MSD Commission Report and the testimony of School Security Monitor Ana Ramos which contradicts this finding in its entirety. (Exhibit "D")

2:25:08 – Deputy Kratz: "Tango 2, I hear shots fired by the football field, shots fired by the football field."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified regarding this radio transmission and its' impact on my real time intelligence on the scene: (Exhibit: "B" p.12) Dep. Kratz's testimony corroborated my on-going real time intelligence on the scene.

2:26:00 – Peterson: "We're locking down the school right now. Make sure there no pedestrian traffic anywhere on Holmberg Road."

Rebuttal: This radio transmission was based on my real time intelligence on the scene. This radio transmission corroborates my sworn testimony as to my real time intelligence on the scene. I was the Incident Commander on the scene and never relieved of said command.

2:28:00 – Peterson: "Broward, do not approach the 12 or 1300 buildings. Stay at least 500 feet away at this point.

Rebuttal: This radio transmission was based on my on-going real time intelligence on the scene. I was the Incident Commander and never relieved of said command.

MSD Commission Statement: "Officer Burton stated that when he arrived, he took a position among some cars and a tree. He saw Peterson had his firearm drawn and that Peterson was looking east and west. **Peterson told him that the shooter may be in the parking lot.**" (Emphasis added)

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified to communicating with Officer Burton on the scene. (Exhibit "B" p. 11-12)

Officer Tim Burton's testimony is direct evidence that corroborates my sworn testimony as to my on-going real time intelligence on the scene.

Officer Burton's testimony and observation that I was looking east and west (which is not in the direction of the 1200 Building (North)) corroborates my ongoing real time intelligence on the scene.

Coral Springs Police Officer Tim Burton provided no information/intel to me while he was in a position of cover in the north parking lot.

MSD Commission Statement: "Officer Best said that Deputy Peterson responded, "shots fired.

The shooter is on the second or third floor."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave no testimony regarding any communication with an Officer Best.

However, information that the shooter is on the second or third floor was **not based on "my" real time intelligence**. This information was given to me (via school radio) by Assistant Principal Jeff Morford who, upon my direction, went to the camera room and was reviewing school video surveillance; which in turn, I was relaying to the first responders on the scene.

The MSD Commission in its' report provides no context or timeline regarding this alleged communication between Officer Best and myself.

MSD Commission Statement: "At approximately 2:36, a group of approximately 18 law enforcement officers - many of whom were carrying rifles - entered the east end of building 12. Deputy Peterson had a clear view of this group entering building 12; however, he remained at his position near the northeast corner of building 7."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn testimony to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave **no** testimony that I *witnessed* 18 law enforcement officers enter the east side of the 1200 Building. The MSD Commission Report contains **no** evidence to support this finding.

MSD Commission Statement: "At 2:41:46, a group of CSPD officers and Lieutenant M. DeVita (BSO) approached Deputy Peterson's location from the south. Lt. DeVita stated that Deputy Peterson was on his school radio talking with someone who had been watching the cameras and was in the process of trying to track the suspect on camera. Sergeant Rossman's body camera captured audio from a nearby school radio that confirmed Peterson was in communication with Assistant Principal Morford as he and Greenleaf were reviewing the surveillance video."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified making contact with BSO Lieutenant M. DeVita, as well as to my actions regarding my communications with school personnel (Asst. Principal Morford), to ascertain the location and description of shooter(s) on campus.

It is critical to note (which the MSD Commission failed to disclose), that BSO Lt. Michael DeVita was my **Commanding Officer** in Parkland on February 14, 2018. Lt. DeVita was positioned next to me at the 700 building. BSO Lieutenant M. DeVita gave me **no** orders OR commands while on the scene.

MSD Commission Statement: "He said that at some point he recalled seeing Deputy Peterson on the east side of Building 12. Captain Gallagher recalled hearing radio traffic on Peterson's school radio from persons inside the camera room monitoring the cameras."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave **no** testimony of communicating with a Captain Gallagher. I testified to BSO that I was in communication with school personnel. Captain Gallagher's testimony corroborates my BSO testimony that I was communicating with school administration to ascertain information regarding the location and description of the shooter(s).

MSD Commission Statement: "Had Peterson truly believed there was a sniper, when he was dropped off at the doors to building 12 he was an ideal position to enter the building and confront the sniper, as the sniper would have been facing the windows."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave **no** testimony that I believed there was a sniper when I *arrived* at the 1200 Building. The MSD Commission Report provides no evidence to support this conclusion or finding.

The MSD Commission finding that I was an “ideal position to enter the building and confront the sniper, as the sniper would have been facing the windows;” is conjecture and not supported by any evidence in the MSD Commission Report.

MSD Commission Statement: “... What I was trained is you contain the area.” A review of BSO’s training plans reveal this is inconsistent with what is trained to do in response to an active shooter...”

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. My law enforcement actions to seek “cover” were based on my real time intelligence on the scene and my BSO training.

MSD Commission Statement: “The Sheriff’s Office confronted Peterson about his failed response, and he resigned from the Broward Sheriff’s Office”

Rebuttal: This finding by the MSD Commission is completely false. The MSD Commission Report contains no evidence that supports this finding. The Broward Sheriff’s Office **never** confronted me regarding my alleged “failed response.”

In fact, neither the self-proclaimed “amazing leader” (former Sheriff Scott Israel), his Command Staff nor Internal Affairs ever confronted me regarding my “alleged” failed response! BSO not only failed to communicate with me regarding my actions on February 14, 2018, BSO also violated my right to “due process” by failing to provide me with any protections afforded to me through the Florida’s Policeman Bill of Rights (F.S.S. 112.532).

On February 22, 2018, I was notified (via phone by BSO Deputy Jeff Bell) that I had the option to retire or be suspended **without** pay. Prior to February 22, 2018, I was **never advised** and/or “confronted” by BSO of **any** investigation regarding my actions on February 14, 2018.

On February 22, 2018, I reported to IA (Internal Affairs) where the only communication I had was the following... IA Investigator stated to me “I hear you’re retiring?” to which I responded “Do I have a choice?” That was the entire communication with BSO regarding the shooting incident! It was only **after** signing my retirement paperwork, that I was then given an internal memo (dated February 22, 2018), indicating that I was under a BSO/IA investigation. (Note: I have a witness that was present during this IA meeting on February 22, 2018.)

CHAPTER 4 / THE FINDINGS...

The MSD Commission Report made the finding “former Deputy Scot Peterson was derelict in his duty on February 14, 2018.”

Rebuttal: The MSD Commission Report contains **no** direct evidence to support that my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018 were a “dereliction of duty.”

I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified as to my real time intelligence on the scene (shots heard outside). The MSD Commission Report contains no evidence refuting my real time intelligence. In fact, my real time intelligence (shots outside) was consistent with the timeline given to the MSD Commission by BSO. I arrived on the scene (Eastside/1200 Building) at approximately the time that Aaron Feis (School Security Monitor) was shot and killed. Feis was shot and killed **outside** by the stairwell door (Westside/1200 Building).

Wherefore, my real time intelligence upon arrival on the scene was accurate (shots outside).

The MSD Commission Report contains no evidence that any of my law enforcement actions on February 14, 2018 violated the Broward Sheriff’s Office Active Shooter Policy.

The MSD Commission Report made the finding that I “failed to act consistently with his training and fled to a position of personal safety while Cruz shot and killed MSDHS students and staff.”

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified to my real time intelligence (shots outside), and my actions, based on my real time intelligence. My law enforcement actions to seek a position of “cover” were based on my real time intelligence and was consistent with my law enforcement training.

The MSD Commission Report contains **no** evidence to support the conclusion or finding that I had **any** knowledge that Cruz was inside the 1200 Building during the shooting.

The Commission’s finding, “Peterson was in a position to engage Cruz and mitigate further harm to others, and he willfully decided not to do so.”

Rebuttal: The MSD Commission Report contains **no** evidence to support its finding that I had **any** knowledge (real time intelligence) that Cruz or anyone else was inside the 1200 Building actively shooting students and staff.

Regarding the Commission’s finding that “he willfully decided not to do so.”

The MSD Commission Report contains absolutely no evidence to supports its’ finding that I “willfully decided not to do so.” This finding regarding my actual intent without providing any supporting evidence is reprehensible! If the MSD Commission had evidence to support this finding then it had a duty to provide the evidence to support this finding!

The Commission made the finding that “Deputy Peterson knew that the gunshots were coming from within or within the immediate area of building 12.”

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified that I believed the shots were outside (real time intelligence) in close proximity to my location.

The Commission makes the finding "Peterson retreated to an area of safety."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified to taking a "tactical position" based on my real time intelligence that the shots I heard were outside. (Exhibit "B")

The Commission made the finding that "Peterson told Officer Best that the shooter was on the second or third floor."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I gave **no** testimony regarding communication with an Officer Best.

The information regarding "the shooter was on the second or third floor" was relayed to me (via school radio) by Assistant Principal Morford who was in the camera room (at my direction) reviewing video surveillance. In turn, I was relaying this information to first responders on the scene.

The Commission made the finding that "On February 14, the BSO law enforcement response to MSDHS was hindered in part by MSDHS School Resource Officer Scot Peterson's erroneous directions and other improper information he relayed over BSO main radio channel 8A, including directing responding deputies to shut down nearby intersections and requesting no pedestrian traffic anywhere on nearby roads."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. I testified to my real time intelligence. All information relayed to first responders was based on my real time intelligence as the **Incident Commander on the scene**, as well as, information relayed to me via school administration from the school video room.

The Commission made the finding that "Peterson instructed deputies to stay at least 500 feet away from the 12 or 1300 buildings. These instructions conflict with current law enforcement response procedures to active shooter situations. Law enforcement officers should try to eliminate any immediate threat even if that requires approaching gunfire and danger."

Rebuttal: I provided a sworn statement to BSO on February 16, 2018. All directions given to first responders were based on my real time intelligence as the Incident Commander on the scene.

The Commission made the finding that "Peterson knew that an active shooter situation called for a Code Red response. Based on interviews conducted with MSD personnel, Deputy Peterson never called out a Code Red over the school radio,"

Rebuttal: This finding is entirely false. Upon hearing gunfire, I immediately called a Code Red. Testimony contained in the MSD Commission Report by School Security Monitor Ana Ramos contradicts the MSD Commission report finding in its entirety. Ramos testified that "**Shortly thereafter she heard Deputy Peterson announce "Code Red" over the radio.**" (Exhibit "D").

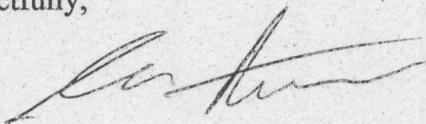
The MSD Commission in its' report repeatedly makes this "false" finding that I did not call a Code Red. The MSD Commission knew or should have known that this finding is entirely false.

First and foremost, my two primary responsibilities on February 14, 2018 was to safeguard the 3,200 students and staff of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (from the unknown whereabouts of a shooter or shooters), and to immediately take command and communicate with BSO regarding my assessment on the scene.

I was the Incident Commander on the scene and remained the Incident Commander during the incident; this due to the fact that I was never relieved of said command by any of my own BSO Command Staff.

In closing, I submit to Governor Ron DeSantis and the citizens of the State of Florida that I did nothing wrong and everything humanly possible with the information provided to me on the scene on that horrific day; "**which was absolutely nothing - I received no information.**" Upon arrival on the scene, I made split-second decisions based entirely on my real time intelligence. My law enforcement actions were based on my real time intelligence assessed on the scene.

Respectfully,



Mr. Scot R. Peterson

cc: Mr. Joseph A. DiRuzzo, III, Esq. CPA

The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is. ---Winston Churchill