

**Office of the Sheriff**  
**Broward Sheriff's Office**  
2601 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
954-831-8900  
[www.sheriff.org](http://www.sheriff.org)



May 1, 2019

Heather P. Brinkworth, Chair, District 3  
Donna P. Korn, Vice Chair, Countywide At-Large Seat 8  
Robin Bartleman, Countywide At-Large Seat 9  
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Patricia Good, District 2  
Lori Alhadeff, District 4  
Dr. Rosalind Osgood, District 5  
Laurie Rich Levinson, District 6  
Nora Rupert, District 7  
Superintendent Robert W. Runcie  
School Board of Broward County, Florida  
600 SE 3rd Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear School Board Members and Superintendent:

This afternoon, the Florida State House passed a bill that would allow teachers to be armed on school grounds, and I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate why this is not the solution to gun violence in schools that we are seeking. Arming teachers is not the right approach to keep our children safe, and this aspect of the Guardian program should not be adopted in Broward County Public Schools. We must look at school safety from a multifaceted perspective, but arming teachers is not the answer. This program would place students, teachers, and first responders at risk, when our focus should be on keeping our children safe and making schools places where students feel they belong.

Sworn police officers undergo extensive firearm training to respond to crisis scenarios, and we continue working on our skills and discipline throughout our careers. Teachers enter that profession to educate children, not to serve as school security. Not only does public opinion indicate that this is not something teachers, parents, or students want, but many recognize that stress, fear, and the rapid response needed may put both students and teachers at an extreme risk. Having untrained personnel carrying firearms is more likely to create a tragic scenario where innocent people can get injured or killed. Additionally, having more firearms in an active shooter situation would make it more difficult for police officers to identify the shooter and respond accordingly. Our job is to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people and provide schools with the protection and life-saving training they need.

Although I commend their effort to address the rampant school violence we have seen in the last few years, I vehemently believe that Florida legislators missed the mark by proposing to arm teachers. There is no evidence that supports the notion that arming teachers would deter a shooter, while the threat posed by untrained individuals with guns in crisis situations is widely recognized. I urge you to not permit for the arming of teachers should this bill be approved and signed into law.

Since I have taken command of Broward Sheriff's Office, the agency and our officers are now better prepared and trained to respond effectively to an active shooter event. I have modified our active shooter policies, increased our training staff, introduced essential equipment, established training partnerships with the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Department of Homeland Security, and we are now underway for building a \$30 million Broward Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center which is funded within our existing budget.

I respectfully ask that you trust in the brave men and women of Broward Sheriff's Office and all our local law enforcement officers. We will not fail our teachers or students ever again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Tony". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gregory Tony  
Sheriff, Broward County