

# PUBLIC COMMENT SIGNUP SHEET

MARCH 6, 2017

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-52.1, the Henderson County welcomes public comment at its meetings. Please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes, unless a different time limit is announced. Also, the Board may adopt rules limiting the number of persons speaking taking the same position on a given issue, and other rules regarding the maintenance of good order.

Each speaker should be aware and by their signatures hereto they agree that their comments may be recorded (by audio-visual recordings, photography or other means), and may be (but are not required to be) broadcast by the County as a part of the broadcast of this meeting, or as a part of the County's programming on its local video channel(s). By their signature they further agree that Henderson County is and will be the sole owner of all rights in and to such programming. The undersigned hereby indemnifies Henderson County, its employees and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses arising out of the use of the undersigned's images and words in connection therewith.

- 
1. Chris Walters  
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415 Linwood Pond Rd.  
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739  
MAILING ADDRESS
- Chris M. Walters  
SIGNATURE  
proposed tactical training facility at BRCC  
Topic
- 
2. MERRY FLETCHER  
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703 FARMINGTON CIRCLE  
HVL, NC 28739  
MAILING ADDRESS
- Merry Fletcher  
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Topic
- 
3. DELIA ALONSO  
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HENDERSONVILLE 28791  
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LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING - AL PROJECT  
Topic
- 
4. Peri David  
**PRINTED** NAME  
540 Hunters Glen Ln  
Hville 28739  
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- Peri David  
SIGNATURE  
Law Enforcement Trends  
Topic
-

5. CHRISTOPHER BERG  
**PRINTED** NAME

6 Rosemary Trail  
Flat Rock NC 28731  
MAILING ADDRESS

Christopher Berg  
SIGNATURE  
proposed law enforcement training facility  
Topic @ BRCC

6. Robert Miles  
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208 Navajo Dr  
Hendersonville NC 28739  
MAILING ADDRESS

Robert Miles  
SIGNATURE  
Proposed law enforcement  
Topic training facility

7. Wade Nelson  
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60 Twin Elm Knoll  
Hendersonville 28792  
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Wade Nelson  
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Roosters  
Topic

8. Audrey Stelloh  
**PRINTED** NAME

65 Sierra Dr  
Hendersonville  
MAILING ADDRESS

Audrey Stelloh  
SIGNATURE  
Shooting Range / etc  
Topic

9. Linda Sherman  
**PRINTED** NAME

1236 Highland Ave  
Hills  
MAILING ADDRESS

Linda Sherman  
SIGNATURE  
training center  
Topic

10. Judith G Scruggs  
**PRINTED** NAME

[scribble]  
MAILING ADDRESS

Judith G Scruggs  
SIGNATURE  
traffic & training center  
Topic

11. Deborah Rhinehart  
**PRINTED** NAME

Deborah Rhinehart  
SIGNATURE

Hendersonville NC  
MAILING ADDRESS  
28748

training center  
Topic

12. Dennis Justice  
**PRINTED** NAME

DJ  
SIGNATURE

31 Tanis Ln  
Cletcher NC 28732  
MAILING ADDRESS

Artificial Turf  
Topic

13. Michele Skeele  
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Michele Skeele  
SIGNATURE

5193rd Ave West  
Hendersonville, NC  
MAILING ADDRESS

Law Enforcement  
Topic  
Training Center

14. TODD EATON  
**PRINTED** NAME

T. Eaton  
SIGNATURE

1526 ORLEANS AVE  
HENDERSONVILLE NC 28711  
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Training center  
Topic

15. Thomas W Hill  
**PRINTED** NAME

Thomas W Hill  
SIGNATURE

2700 Mt Olivet Rd  
Zirconia, NC 28790  
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Training Facility  
Topic

16. KC Stockman  
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KC Stockman  
SIGNATURE

173 N Lakewood Rd  
Saluda NC  
MAILING ADDRESS

Training facility  
Topic

# PUBLIC COMMENT SIGNUP SHEET

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17 John Moore  
**PRINTED NAME**

807 Hebron Rd.  
Hendersonville, NC  
**MAILING ADDRESS**

[Signature]  
**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Topic**

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
**PRINTED NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAILING ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE**

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**Topic**

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**MAILING ADDRESS**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**Topic**

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**MAILING ADDRESS**

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**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Topic**

**Statement to County Commissioners**  
**March 6, 2017**

Good evening,

My name is Robert Miles. I live in Hendersonville.

On Friday, I delivered a letter to Commissioner Edney with a copy of a letter signed by 29 county residents to Sheriff McDonald that expressed our alarm about his statements in a recent issue of *The Guardian* newsletter.

On behalf of the co-signers, I ask you to address concerns raised in the letters. Primarily, we asked the Sheriff and this board to clarify his statements about "vile and disgusting protests that are taking place across our nation" and affirm that his department will respect the rights of all citizens who publicly and peacefully express their views.

In his letter the Sheriff referred to destruction of businesses and property, which has never occurred during vigils and demonstrations in this community or the state.

This questionable assessment of the threat of violence is relevant to consideration of the training facility proposed for the Blue Ridge Community College campus by the Sheriff.

He has referred to the threat of school shootings to justify this \$20 million facility. An analysis shows, however, that students who are minors, using guns improperly secured at home, are responsible for a majority of school shootings that start as disputes between students. Schools now are taking steps, including practice lock downs, to protect students from shootings.

Law enforcement officers need to be trained to confront active shooters, but the most effective way to prevent school shootings is for the Sheriff's Department to redouble its program, and collaborate with other programs, to educate gun owners about the importance of securing their firearms. Expanded education programs also would help to prevent a recurrence of the tragic loss of a 3-year old shot unintentionally here in Hendersonville.

A training facility the size of a football field would be a tragic waste of resources when the new Early College Program needs recreation facilities and noise from up to 24 high-powered firearms shooting simultaneously could disrupt classes in the new building. Local priorities are more important than building a facility to train law enforcement officers from all of western North Carolina.

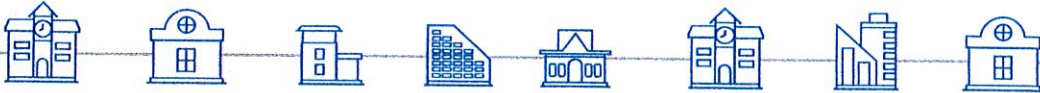
Along with many other community residents, I ask this body, at least, to reconsider and drastically downsize plans for the training facility.

A summary of the school shooting report is included with this statement.

Thank you.

# ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2015



In 2013, Everytown began tracking gunfire in schools and at college and universities — public reports that a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds — and over the next three years identified 160 qualifying incidents, including fatal and nonfatal assaults, suicides, and unintentional shootings. In all, these incidents resulted in 59 deaths and 124 non-fatal gunshot injuries.

Regardless of the individuals involved in a shooting, or the circumstances that gave rise to it, gunfire in schools and at colleges and universities undermines the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments. By tracking this data, Everytown hopes to begin a reasoned discussion about effective means to promote school safety.

- Of shootings perpetrated by minors at primary and secondary schools and for which the source of the firearm was known, **more than half of the kids obtained the gun at home — likely because an adult did not store it locked and unloaded.**
- **Twenty-four shootings — nearly one in six — occurred after a confrontation or verbal argument intensified,** *because* of the presence of a gun rather than in spite of it.

**CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION:** Incidents were classified as school shootings when a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds, as documented by the press or confirmed through further inquiries with law enforcement. Incidents in which guns were brought into schools but not fired, or were fired off school grounds after having been possessed in schools, were not included.



## THREE YEARS AND AT LEAST 160 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Everytown began tracking gunfire in schools and at colleges and universities because no one else was doing it. The U.S. Department of Education produces statistics annually on the number of students killed on-campus per year — approximately 15 homicides and 5 suicides annually. But they only track shootings at primary and secondary schools (not higher education institutions), do not distinguish between the weapons used, and omit shootings outside of regular school hours.<sup>1</sup> To fill this gap, Everytown began documenting all incidents where a firearm was discharged on school property, relying on media reports and following up with local law enforcement and school officials when necessary.

Between 2013-15 Everytown identified 160 school shootings across 38 states. Nearly 53 percent of the identified shootings took place at K-12 schools, and 47 percent took place on college or university campuses.

In 95 incidents — over half — the perpetrator(s) intentionally injured or killed at least one other person with a gun. In eight of those incidents, the shooter then shot and killed him or herself; in 20 separate incidents, the shooter attempted or completed suicide without first attacking someone else. Twelve shootings were purely unintentional in nature, and in 33 other incidents, a gun was discharged but no one was injured.

The number of identified incidents was relatively stable over the three years with the exception of incidents in which a gun was fired on campus and no one was injured, which rose each year. It is possible that press coverage of those incidents became more comprehensive over the period of observation.

Regardless of the individuals involved in a shooting or the circumstances that gave rise to it, gunfire in schools undermines the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments. There is evidence these shootings have long-term impacts on the school community as a whole: a recent analysis of school shootings found that those involving a homicide reduced student enrollment in the affected schools, and depressed students' standardized test scores by nearly five percent.<sup>2</sup>

### K-12 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN FOCUS

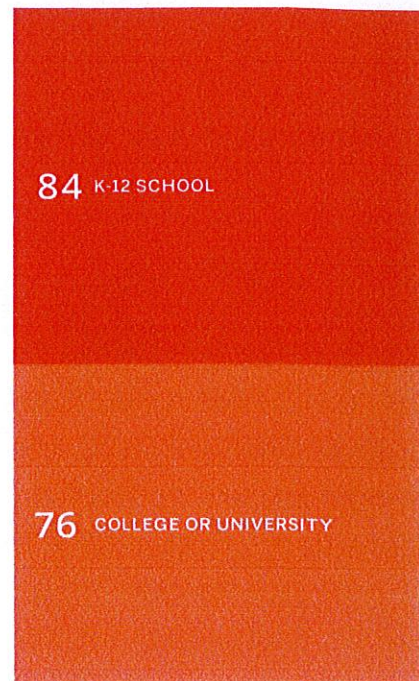
Between 2013 and 2015, an average of two school shootings took place at K-12 schools each month. Among shootings at K-12 schools in which the age of the shooter was known, 56 percent (39 of 70) were perpetrated by minors.

Many of the students who perpetrated these shootings had easy access to guns at home. In some cases investigators declined to comment on the source of the firearm because the incidents were under active investigation, but in the 24 incidents where the source of the firearm could be determined, 13 of the shooters (54 percent) used a gun they obtained from home.

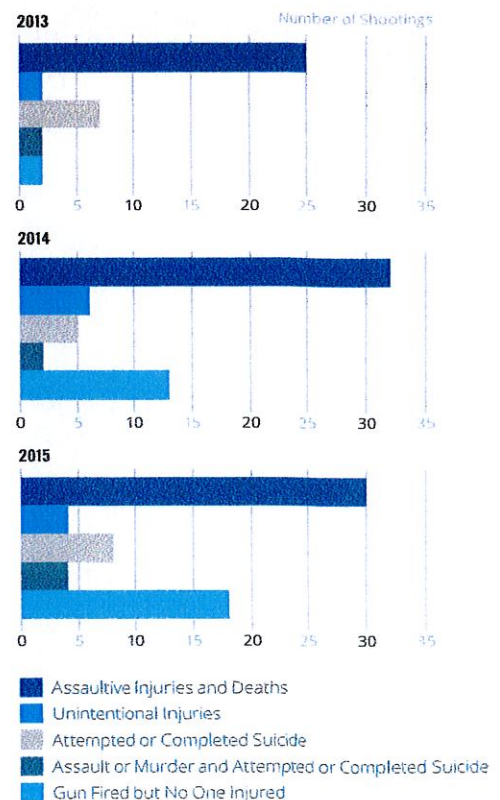
This is consistent with an analysis of school-associated violent deaths between 1992-99 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which found that 56 percent of students involved directly in a school-associated homicide or suicide used a firearm, and of those guns for which the source could be determined, 79 percent were obtained from the shooter's home or that of a friend or relative.<sup>3</sup>

Unsecured firearms frequently make their ways to school. A recent press analysis found that nationwide, a child brought a gun onto school property almost daily during the academic school year.<sup>4</sup> And a survey by the Department of Education found that, during the 2009-2010 school year, one in every thirty K-12 schools took serious disciplinary action against at least one student for use or possession of a firearm on school property.<sup>5</sup>

### SHOOTINGS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL, 2013-2015



### ANNUAL SCHOOL SHOOTINGS BY INTENT



# COUNTY SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL

- **CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS IN 2014 - 2015: \$45 Million Total**
  - \$30 Million Health Sciences Center
  - \$15 Million Innovative High School
- **CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS IN 2016: \$111 Million Total**
  - \$53 Million New Hendersonville High School
  - \$13 Million Emergency Management Headquarters
  - \$25 Million New Edneyville Elementary School
  - \$20 Million Law Enforcement Training Center
- **CURRENT ANNUAL COUNTY INCOME**
  - County Property Tax Revenue: About \$73 Million
  - Sales Tax + Federal Funds: About \$40 Million
  - Other Fees: About \$17 Million



- **COUNTY DEBT SERVICE**

- From 2014 To 2017: Grew From \$14 To \$16 Million
- Will Be \$20 Million In 2019: 27% of Current Income (\$170 Million Debt)

- **PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASES**

- From 2014 To 2016: \$513 For \$100,000 Property Valuation
- In 2016: \$565 For \$100,000 Property Valuation (\$50+ Increase)
- From 2014 To 2016: Fire District Taxes Also Increased By About \$30
- Double Whammy On Taxpayers: Property Value Inflation + Tax Rate Increase

- **CONCLUSIONS**

- Adequate Sheriff's Outdoor Firing Range Estimated To Cost \$3 Million
- Time For The County Commission To Back Off On Spending
- If Any Surplus, Spend On Education About Heroin Addiction, Overdosing