



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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**JESSE JAMES**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Representative Jesse James' Testimony in Support of AB 482

Thank you Chairman Spiros and other committee members for holding this hearing. I'd also like to say thank you to Senator Van Wanggaard for joining me in authoring this bill.

This bill involves two of my passion areas: law enforcement/public safety and kids. I'm also a fan of common sense legislation, and this proposal is just that. The critical incident mapping grant program would assist school districts and law enforcement during high pressure incidents. This grant would provide all involved first responders and district officials a vital tool to quickly coordinate an emergency response in our schools and communities during situations such as an active shooter or a natural disaster.

Unfortunately, emergencies such as active shooter situations in schools have been a growing concern across the nation and here in Wisconsin, and there are often times where there is a lack of resources, like physical maps of the building in which the incident is occurring.

School blueprints are either unusable or inaccessible to first responders during an emergency. The blueprints are not always standardized, accurate, or labeled to reflect the layout of the facility, making them difficult to communicate or orient with. Additionally, they are not compatible with public safety systems that allow first responders access to maps during a crisis. Most schools in Wisconsin do not currently have access to resources at this high a level. That's where this grant program comes in.

Having an accessible, streamlined critical incident map available for all first responder's means they can clear a building, neutralize any active shooters, and treat casualties quickly and safely. This would ensure that all parties involved, both first responders and school officials, can communicate and act based off the same language and blueprints, mitigating communication issues. Working together is critical in any emergency response, and that's why we want to have law enforcement and school districts involved in the application process for this grant funding. Communication and comradery is key, especially when it comes to keeping our children, educators, and first responders safe.

It is our responsibility to act in the best interest of all Wisconsinites. This bill would benefit communities statewide and help improve our public safety infrastructure. I ask that the members of this committee support AB 482 and protect those we serve. Thank you.



August 25, 2021

To: Chairman Spiros and Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association  
Patrick Mitchell, President  
Michael Steffes, 3rd Vice President

Re: Support for Critical Incident Mapping Program

Chairman Spiros, thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on Assembly Bill 482, relating to grants to schools to provide critical incident mapping. I would also like to thank you for your support of Assembly Bill 482, as well as Representative Duchow, Representative Novak, and Representative Stubbs for your co-sponsorship of this important investment in our schools and law enforcement.

I would like to thank lead authors Representatives James, Loudenbeck and Vruwink and Senators Wanggaard and Taylor for their leadership on this issue.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association is proud to support Assembly Bill 482. This funding will help our departments better support our school districts and respond to emergencies in a more efficient and timely manner.

When arriving to any stressful and urgent incident, having a better understanding of the layout, entrances, and exits of the building is crucial. With critical incident mapping, we are further benefited by all responders operating off the same map of a potentially unknown location.

In many situations, multiple departments respond to the same incident. With critical incident mapping being done and given to various departments, each mutual aid partner can jointly respond more effectively when arriving to an active scene. With schools having many alterations and additions done through the years, updated maps help ensure more awareness for each of our responding officers.

In closing, the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association is excited to support Assembly Bill 482. Our departments throughout Wisconsin, in communities big and small, will benefit from having this resource made available to them. This in turn will make our communities and schools safer for our children and families.

We respectfully ask you to support Assembly Bill 482.

We are now available for any questions from the committee.



**CRITICAL RESPONSE GROUP**  
America's Common Operating Picture™

August 25, 2021

To: Chairman Spiros and Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Joe Hanson, Regional Director, Critical Response Group

Re: Support for Critical Incident Mapping Program

Chairman Spiros and members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on Assembly Bill 482, relating to grants to schools to provide critical incident mapping. Chairman Spiros, I would also like to thank you for your support of Assembly Bill 482, as well as Representative Duchow, Representative Novak, and Representative Stubbs for your co-sponsorship.

Additionally, I would like to thank lead authors Representatives James, Loudeneck and Vruwink and Senators Wanggaard and Taylor for their vision on this issue. It is an honor to meet with you and discuss ways to make Wisconsin schools safer.

For background, in 2019, I left active duty as a Marine Raider and Special Operations Officer in Marine Special Operations Command. I served as the ground force commander for hundreds of combat operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere. After leaving active duty, I was excited to join Critical Response Group and move back to my home state of Wisconsin.

Critical Response Group was started with the goal of improving the national state of emergency preparation and response. Our company's founders, also Special Operations veterans, saw during their time in the Global War on Terrorism that collaboration, interoperability, and information-sharing between all branches of the military, intelligence agencies, and coalition partners was vital to the success of a mission.

These efforts lead to the development, validation, and adoption of a communication technique called the Gridded Reference Graphic (GRG). The GRG is a visual

communication tool that combines a gridded overlay with high-resolution overhead imagery enabling all mission participants to communicate off of a sheet of paper about unfamiliar locations.

Coming home, they realized that the concept would increase the safety of their children's schools by enabling collaboration between first responders during emergencies at unfamiliar locations like schools. That is why CRG assists schools, government buildings and businesses throughout the country. For example, in New Jersey, over 70% of schools already use critical incident mapping.

Here in Wisconsin, we have already partnered with many businesses, including most waterparks in the Wisconsin Dells, the Milwaukee Brewers, Molson-Coors, SC Johnson amongst others. Additionally, we have already assisted school districts by mapping over 350 schools to support first-responder's response time.

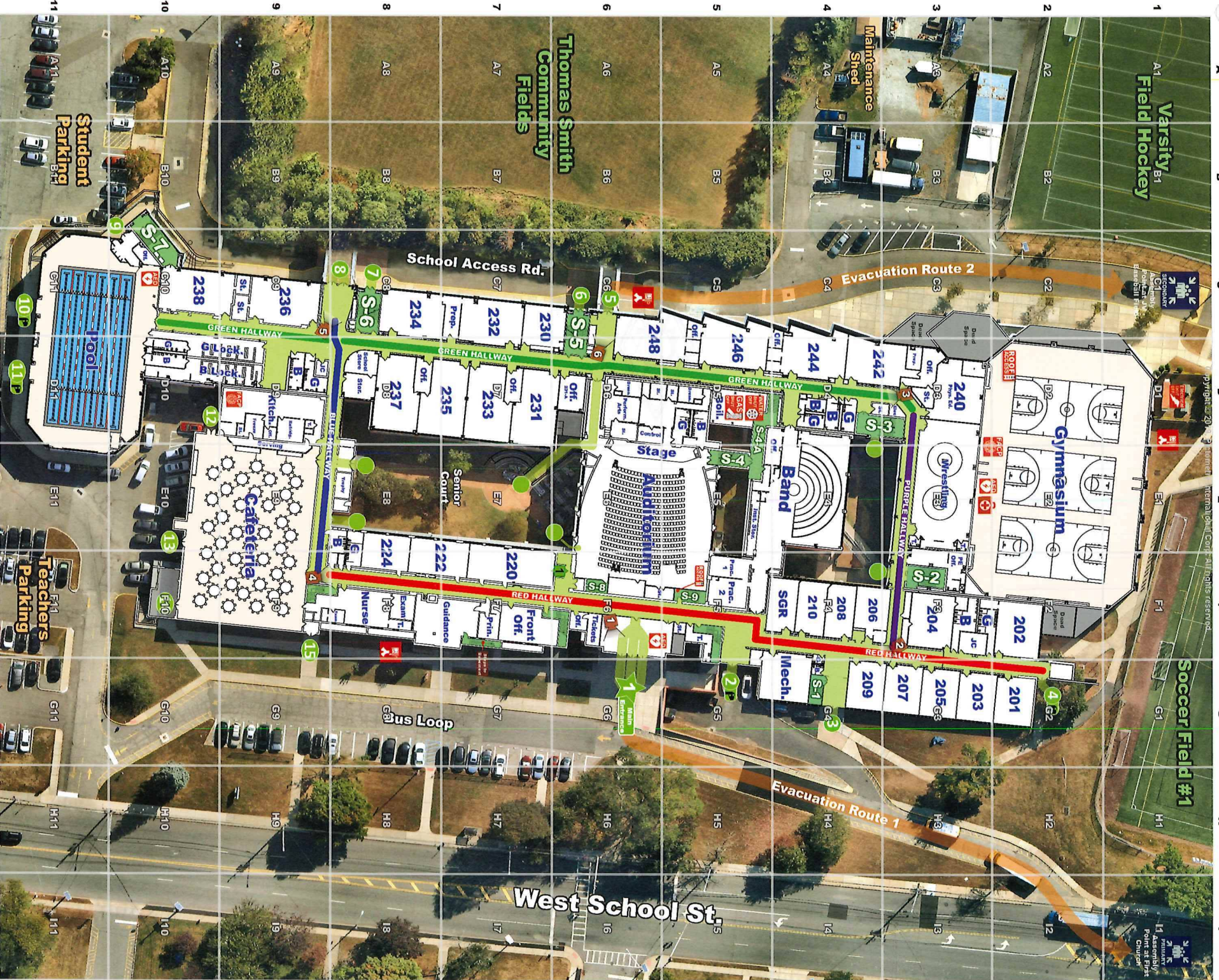
In the handouts provided you will find an example of our mapping for schools. The maps are universal for locations and are predicated on accurate overhead imagery with a grid overlay, creating what amount to a simple game of "battleship". Letters run across the top of the map, numbers down the left hand side, and north is always up. Each floor receives a map and all common language is labeled on the map for ease of communications. Easy to read, accurate, and accessible maps are the base for all movement and communication during a response to a critical incident at a school. This is the most essential tool during an emergency, and without it we have no common language to communicate about location.

Our partnership and success could not be done without the support of law enforcement. Having both law enforcement and schools working together is a successful formula in assuring that our schools, our children, and our communities are safer.

In closing, I am excited to support Assembly Bill 482. As someone who has worked with school leaders and law enforcement to map hundreds of schools across Wisconsin and our country, I know firsthand how valuable and necessary this tool is. I know that this legislation will make our schools safer.

I respectfully ask you for your support in passing Assembly Bill 482.

I am now available for any questions.



West School St.



North UP  
20 YARD  
W.E.S. 5

Version  
Control #  
D1.0

MICRO

Demo High School

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**North UP**  
Version # **D1.0**  
Control # **75**  
W-75  
S-75  
GRID

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