



Wenatchee Police Department

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November 7, 2018

Superintendent Brian Flones
Wenatchee School District Office
235 Sunset Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Secured Police Rifle

Dear Superintendent Flones:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request that the assigned patrol rifle be returned to the secure office and safe at the Wenatchee High School.

During the 2017-2018 school year the Wenatchee School District agreed to place a patrol rifle inside the security office at Wenatchee High School for the exclusive use of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the event of a critical incident at the facility. The Police Department purchased a new rifle in what has become our standard patrol car rifle configuration. The school district purchased and installed a substantial gun safe in the security office at the high school and the SRO is the only person with access to the rifle. The secured placement of the rifle was a significant improvement in the possible response to an armed assailant at the high school. While I sincerely hope that this rifle is never needed, the tactical advantage it provides with the goal of protecting innocent lives when seconds count is undeniable.

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, a policy-level decision was made to remove the rifle from the high school. Since that decision was made, Wenatchee Police staff, including myself, have addressed inquiries from school administrators and the public regarding the rifle removal. This issue was brought up at a recent Wenatchee High School Parent Advisory Group meeting. SRO Jared Reinfeld explained to the parents that one of the critical factors during a school shooting is the time it takes to address the threat. If the SRO needs to leave the building to retrieve a rifle during a violent event, those extra seconds could cost lives. The parent advisory group wholeheartedly supported putting the rifle back in the high school. Additionally, Wenatchee High School Principal, Eric Anderson, supports the rifle's return as well.

In this era of ongoing violence in schools, having a rifle inside the building gives the potential advantage to the SRO who spends the vast majority of his time in the high school. Active assailant incidents most often end quickly when the assailant is confronted by police. That is why it is imperative that this rifle be returned to its secure location in the Wenatchee High School.

I would be happy to meet with the Wenatchee School Board in the future, to further address any concerns with this operational need and answer any questions.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Crown
Chief of Police