

**Republican Perspective**  
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**by Ed Manning**

**THE AGENDA**

*“A woman who demands further gun control legislation is like a chicken who roots for Colonel Sanders.” Larry Elder, journalist and radio talk show host*

The call to the FBI’s Public Access Line came on January 5th. A chilling warning from a woman with close knowledge of Nikolas Cruz who worried that he would “get into a school and just shoot the place up.” Five and one-half weeks later her fears came true as Cruz killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Since the occurrence of this horrific tragedy, the Left along with their Praetorian Guards in the main-stream media have gone full throttle for gun control. This is and always will be their agenda. What about the many warnings provided to law enforcement that a deranged young man could kill?

The unidentified woman told the FBI that Cruz recently “switched it to he wants to kill people.”

“Something is gonna happen,” she said. “Because he’s, he doesn’t have the mental capacity. He can’t, he’s so outraged if someone talks to him about certain things.”

The FBI issued a statement, that in part said: “The caller provided information about Cruz’s gun ownership, desire to kill people, erratic behavior, and disturbing social media posts, as well as the potential of him conducting a school shooting. Under established protocols, the information provided by the caller should have been assessed as a potential threat to life. The information then should have been forwarded to the FBI Miami Field Office, where appropriate investigative steps would have been taken.

We have determined that these protocols were not followed for the information received by the PAL on January 5. The information was not provided to the Miami Field Office, and no further investigation was conducted at that time.”

Families are now devastated for life because FBI employees failed to follow their protocols resulting in mass murder. Where is the Left’s demand for accountability? As the Washington Post has reported, it is very difficult to fire a federal worker for cause. Accountability will likely be another “process” investigation and then a “stand down” to insure all protocols are followed, with no one held accountable.

CNN reported that before his mother died, Broward sheriff's deputies were called to the Cruz family home 39 times since 2010. The sheriff's office received a range of emergency calls that included reports of a mentally ill person, child/elderly abuse, a

domestic disturbance and a missing person. Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said there were 20 calls for service over the past "few years" pertaining to Nikolas Cruz. Law enforcement was aware of a Cruz YouTube page saying "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

Relying on law enforcement response to an active shooter is problematic. A call to 911 is often too late to save lives. According to Sheriff Grady Judd, past school shootings took place in 2-5 minutes. The Parkland, FL killings took 3 minutes. It's 5+ minutes for police to respond to 911.

Sheriff Judd has proposed to the Polk County, FL school board a "Guardian Program." His idea is to screen school staff for past military, law enforcement and gun enthusiasts. His proposal calls for a skilled trained armed staff. Participants would be required to pass psychological tests, complete 144 hours of training specific to fighting a shooter and also scoring high on accuracy tests.

The Argyle Independent School District north of Dallas, TX approved school marshalls. To be eligible, teachers and staff must have and maintain a handgun license; pass a psychological evaluation; and undergo firearms and emergency response training. The training is by Shield 91's "Not on My Watch" program. This program is designed for University and school district personnel to ensure safety and security of their students and faculty.

A sign at the entry to an Argyle school reads: "ATTENTION: Please be aware that the staff at Argyle ISD are armed and may use whatever force is necessary to protect our students." Besides arming staff, they monitor school-issued student laptops; use technology to check social media; lock entrances and electronically screen the identification of all who enter the schools, even parents and former students.

Why are teachers unions and many politicians against hardening schools? Do they believe that legislation can stop evil? Columbine happened after the assault rifle ban was in effect. Radical Leftists know that the policies they are presenting will not prevent heinous acts.

Let's be clear, the Left's agenda is not guns but about yet more control over your constitutional liberties.