



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

October 7, 2022

Chief Mark A. Keel
State Law Enforcement Division
4400 Broad River Road Columbia,
South Carolina 29210

Dear Chief Keel,

On October 5, 2022, local law enforcement agencies were called on to respond to reports of an active shooter at numerous public schools across the state. Thankfully, the 911 calls turned out to be a hoax, and appear to be connected to similar incidents occurring nationwide.

According to media coverage of the hoax calls, hundreds of law enforcement officers and first responders immediately rushed to the schools, some officers made it to campus and were inside the school buildings within two minutes. I believe this situation provides our state's law enforcement agencies with a rare opportunity to learn from this unprecedented incident; to learn what worked best and what can be improved upon.

Therefore, in response to recent events in South Carolina and nationwide, I ask the State Law Enforcement Division to work collaboratively with local officials to review the response to the October 5, 2022, active shooter hoax at our public schools and provide best practices to all the state's public-school districts and law enforcement agencies. These events require extensive training and preparedness, and I am confident this review will further enhance law enforcement's ability to combat such criminal attacks.

We must use this unfortunate event to identify all of our strengths and vulnerabilities and address any gaps identified to ensure that our children, teachers, and staff are safe at school.

Thank you for your leadership and service to the State of South Carolina.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster