

DCS *newsrelease*

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For immediate release

Department of Construction Services (DCS) announces first meeting of School Safety Infrastructure Council

(Hartford - May 29, 2013) In response to the tragedy in Newtown last December, the General Assembly created a School Safety Infrastructure Council to develop new standards to improve or enhance safety and security in the public schools in Connecticut. The council will hold its first meeting on Friday, May 31, 2013, in Room 1A of the Legislative Office Building, in Hartford.

The council is made up of the Commissioner of Construction Services, who chairs the council, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Commissioner of Education and six members appointed by the six top leaders of the General Assembly. The legislative appointees include a person with expertise in building security, a professional engineer, a public school administrator, a firefighter, a school resource officer and a teacher.

The council's work will address access to school buildings and classrooms and will examine a variety of school security measures, including the feasibility of reinforcing entryways, use of ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, remote locks on all entrance and exits and buzzer systems. The group will also explore the use of cameras in school facilities as a method of enhancing security.

Commissioner Donald DeFronzo, acting Commissioner of Construction Services remarked: "In Connecticut today there are approximately 1300 public schools with a student population of 600,000. We all want to believe that these schools are the safest places for children to be when they are not at home with their parents. Our task, on this Council, is to make that so."

The council is required to submit the new standards to the Commissioners of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Education, the School Building Projects Advisory Council, and the Public Safety and Education committees of the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2014. More information on the council and its work, including a list of council members, can be found at the council's webpage: <http://das.ct.gov/ssic>.

(more)

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School Safety Infrastructure Council

May 31, 2013

10:00 a.m. in Room 1A of the LOB

Agenda

1. Convene Meeting
2. Opening Remarks by Chair
 - a. Commissioner Donald J. DeFronzo
3. Introduction of Council Members
4. Introduction of Staff
5. Review Legislative Charge and Objectives of Council
 - Public Act 13-3, §§ 80-83
 - Relationship to School Security Infrastructure Grant Program, §§ 84 & 85
 - Discussion of Overall Policy Considerations
 - Current School Construction Plan Review Process
 - Scope of Proposed School Safety Infrastructure Standards
 - Local Discretion vs. Hard Uniform Standards
 - Creating New Standards vs. Modifying Existing Standards
 - Materials Gathered to Date
6. Plans to Achieve Legislative Charge
 - Timeline
 - Informational Meetings? Public Hearings?
 - Council Meetings - Where/When
7. Publication of Council's Work
 - Website Presence
 - Link - <http://das.ct.gov/SSIC>
8. Time and Date of Next Meeting
9. Adjournment