

MOTION

Last Wednesday the shooting of a school police officer prompted officials to seal off a large part of the West San Fernando Valley and place about 9,000 students on lockdown for hours. More than 350 officers swarmed through the area looking for the gunman, blocking people from entering or exiting a seven-square-mile area which stretched from the 101 Freeway north to Oxnard Street — one of the largest in recent memory. At the peak of the search, nine schools in the area were on lockdown.

Hundreds of officers from the LAPD, school police, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, FBI, ATF, and the California Highway Patrol swarmed the area around El Camino High School throughout the afternoon. Firefighters called to the scene wore body armor. Helicopters drummed overhead. Anxious parents gathered in the parking lot of Hale Middle School around 2 p.m., just beyond the perimeter.

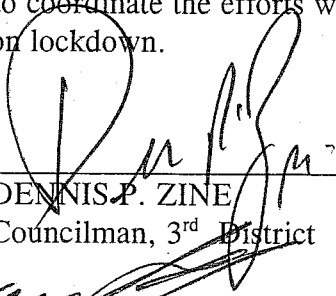
The Police Department as well as other law enforcement agencies should be praised for responding quickly and keeping the area and residents safe.

However, the action caused a great deal of consternation for both children who were stuck inside the cordoned off area as well as for parents who were not allowed to pick up their children, even those who had special medical needs. Several families and news outlets have reported that inside the schools, students said they had no access to water or restroom facilities.

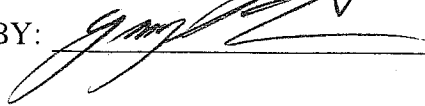
The lockdown of an entire neighborhood went on for hours with parents waiting into the night to be allowed to collect their children. Additionally, at the end of the day the El Camino students were released seemingly all at the same time to walk several blocks down a crowded street and over a freeway overpass to reunite with parents. Clearly we need to see if there is a better way to handle an emergency of this magnitude — as many as 25,000 people not permitted access to their homes and 9,000 students were locked down for up to 7 hours. We need to examine the current process and find better ways to handle similar situations in the future.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department, with the participation of the Los Angeles Unified School District and its police, be directed to report on the response by various law enforcement agencies to Wednesday's shooting incident adjacent to El Camino Real High School which resulted in the lockdown of a seven square mile area in Woodland Hills, specifically on the policies and procedures in place to coordinate the efforts w. LAUSD personnel on the handling of school children while on lockdown.

PRESENTED BY:


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



January 21, 2011

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