

B 001 00

EXECUTIVE ORDER

The Governor's Columbine Review Commission

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Governor's Columbine Review Commission ("the Commission").

1. Background and Purpose

Coloradans need to learn as much as possible from the mass shootings at Columbine High School in order to help prevent similar tragedies in the future. While these events are already being studied from a number of different perspectives, the State has a particular need to learn any lessons that will improve its ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. The ongoing criminal investigation into Columbine, led by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department with support from other law enforcement agencies, will help determine who might be criminally responsible. Yet there are many other important issues which should be reviewed to prevent or better handle similar incidents in the future. This Commission will seek to learn lessons from Columbine and share those lessons in a report to be disseminated widely to the public.

2. Mission and Scope

The Commission shall:

- A. Review law enforcement's handling of the crisis, including the overall command structure; procedures and techniques used by SWAT teams at the scene; coordination among law enforcement agencies; and the integration of electronic communications to determine the best response in addressing similar incidents.
- B. Analyze the safety protocols used at Columbine High School and how they fared as the crisis unfolded, as well as explore possible protocols for the future.
- C. Review the emergency medical response and evacuation protocols and techniques used at Columbine to ascertain the methods to be used in responding to similar incidents.

2 The Governor's Columbine Review Commission

- D. Evaluate victims' assistance efforts on the scene and immediately after the tragedy and what procedures should be followed if similar incidents occur.
- E. Identify and understand some of the key factors which may have contributed to the tragedy to provide a method for avoiding similar future incidents.
- F. Examine other relevant issues as determined by the Commission's chairperson.

3. Membership

- A. The Commission's voting members shall be limited to not more than 10 persons and may include:
 - I. One current or former judge or justice of the Colorado State Judiciary.
 - II. One current or former chief of police or county sheriff.
 - III. One current or former state or federal prosecutor.
 - IV. One current or retired school administrator.
 - V. An expert on school safety and juvenile violence prevention.
 - VI. A current or former criminal investigator.
- B. Additionally, the following persons shall be *ex officio* members of the Commission and shall not be entitled to vote:
 - I. The Attorney General of Colorado or his designee.
 - II. The Chief Counsel to the Governor of Colorado.
 - III. The Commissioner of the Colorado State Board of Education.
 - IV. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.
- C. All Commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. No Commission member shall be compensated in connection with his or her service on the Commission. However, the Director of the Commission may authorize the reimbursement of members' travel and related expenses, if any, incurred in the course of performing the Commission's official business.

3 The Governor's Columbine Review Commission

- D. The Governor shall designate one voting member of the Commission as the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall convene and preside over all Commission meetings and hearings, using such procedures as the Chairperson deems necessary for the orderly conduct of business, or as may be required by law. The Chairperson shall be the sole spokesperson for the Commission.

4. Staffing and Resources

The Commission shall be staffed by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety or his designee, who shall serve as the Director of the Commission. The Director shall contract for outside expertise and support services as may be needed, including a legal counsel for the Commission. The Director shall be responsible for writing, editing and assembling the Commission report for public release. The Director shall also appoint a Reporter, who shall be responsible for taking minutes and recording the official business of the Commission.

5. Communication with the Public

- A. The Commission's meetings shall be open to the public pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402.
- B. The Commission shall issue a public report on the Columbine not later than 12 months from the completion and release of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department's public report of the criminal investigation into the tragedy. The report shall contain a chronology of the major events leading up to, and including and immediately following the tragedy at Columbine High School. It shall document lessons learned from the tragedy as outlined above, as well as the recommendations for helping to prevent similar tragedies. The report shall be released to the public and made available through hard copy and electronic means.

6. Duration

Following the release of the report, the Commission shall automatically sunset unless otherwise determined in writing by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado
the 28th day of January, 2000.

Bill Owens
Governor

4 The Governor's Columbine Review Commission