



U.S. Representative • 9th CD, New York • Brooklyn-Queens

ANTHONY D. WEINER

Report

CAN'T CALL FOR HELP

An Assessment of New York City

School Safety Officer Emergency Radios

March 16, 2004

Prepared by:

Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

Executive Summary

This past January, the City announced a new initiative to make our public schools safer. During the rollout of the plan, Police Commissioner Kelly said, "The bolstering of police resources is the centerpiece of this plan to make schools safer." In particular, the NYPD has increased the number of school safety agents and doubled the number of permanently assigned police officers at each of twelve "Impact Schools."

While increasing the number of school safety agents is clearly a step in the right direction, it is not enough. We must not only make sure that there are a sufficient number of agents, but that they have the tools they need to do their jobs. One of most critical pieces of equipment that a school safety agent has is his or her radio, which is used to call for backup when violence breaks out. But in the majority of the City's high schools, when that agent calls for help, there's a good chance it won't be coming because that call will never go through.

We conducted a survey of every high school in New York City to ask whether or not their school safety agents had problems with their communications equipment, and the majority said, "Yes." The key findings of this survey were as follows:

- Out of 250 respondents, 137 (55%) reported that their school safety agents experienced problems.
- The most common problem was dead spots, which were reported in 87 schools.
- The borough with the worst problem is Brooklyn where 51 out of 67 respondents (75%) reported problems.
- Of the 25 "most dangerous" high schools in the City, 20 (80%) reported problems.

How do we fix the problem? Our survey found that the biggest problem school safety officers have with their communications equipment is dead spots where they cannot get a signal. According to industry sources, the primary cause of dead spots would be an insufficient number of radio repeaters which relay the radio signals. In addition, the age of the network could also contribute to the problem. We will be seeking a \$2 million federal appropriation in this year's Justice Department appropriation bill to help the City build a new and more extensive network of radio repeaters for school safety radios.

It is also estimated that Motorola HT 1000s which are the radios used by school safety agents, have a life span of seven to 15 years. The last major procurement of radios for school safety agents was in 1998 when the Police Department took control of the school safety program. This means that many of these radios are approaching the age where they will need to be replaced. We will be seeking a separate \$500,000 appropriation to help purchase 500 new radios.

Finding #1: School safety agents in the majority of New York City's public high schools are having problems with their communications equipment.

We surveyed all New York City high schools and received responses from 250.

- 55% of schools reported problems
- 137 schools reported problems with their communications equipment
- 113 schools reported no problems

Finding #2: Brooklyn is the borough with the highest rate of problems.

- 51 of 67 high schools in Brooklyn reported problems (75%)
- 26 of 62 high schools in the Bronx reported no problems (42%)
- 39 of 72 high schools in Manhattan reported problems (54%)
- 17 of 38 high schools in Queens reported problems (45%)
- 4 of 9 high schools in Staten Island reported problems (44%)

Finding #3: The most common problem is dead spots, where agents cannot get a signal.

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Dead Spots | 74 |
| • Not Enough Radios | 18 |
| • Poor Quality Radios | 30 |
| • Poor Quality Radios and Dead Spots | 13 |
| • Poor Quality Radios and Not Enough Radios | 2 |

Finding #4: Of the 25 schools with the highest rates of criminal incidents per 1,000 students, 20 reported problems (80%)

Rank	School	Borough	Problem
1	Prospect Heights	Brooklyn	DS and Poor Qlty
3	Wadleigh	Manhattan	Dead Spots
4	Automotive HS	Brooklyn	Poor Quality Radios
5	South Shore	Brooklyn	DS and Poor Qlty
6	New School for Arts & Science	Bronx	Poor Quality Radios
7	Brooklyn Literacy	Brooklyn	DS and Poor Qlty
8	Street Academy	Brooklyn	Dead Spots
10	DuBois	Brooklyn	Dead Spots
11	Metropolitan Corporate Academy	Brooklyn	DS and Poor Qlty

12	Van Arsdale	Brooklyn	Poor Quality Radios
13	Lafayette	Brooklyn	Poor Quality Radios
14	Brooklyn HS for the Arts	Brooklyn	Poor Quality Radios
15	Brandeis	Manhattan	Dead Spots
16	John Jay	Brooklyn	Dead Spots
17	Thomas Jefferson	Brooklyn	DS and Poor Qlty
21	Monroe	Bronx	Dead Spots
22	Evander Childs	Bronx	Not Enough Radios
23	Beach Channel	Queens	Poor Quality Radios
24	August Martin	Queens	DS and Poor Qlty
25	Erasmus Complex	Brooklyn	Dead Spots

Methodology

To conduct this survey, we went to the Department of Education's website at <http://www.nycenet.edu/ToolsResources/SchoolInformation.htm> , and sorted the list of schools by "Category." We called all 259 schools listed as High Schools. We asked to speak to the Vice Principal in charge of school safety, and asked, "Have school safety agents in your school experienced problems with their communications equipment?" If the answer was yes, we asked if they could describe the nature of these problems.

School	Borough	Problems	Not Enough Radios	Poor Quality Radio	Dead Spots
August Martin HS	Queens	Y		y	y
Bronx HS for the Visual Arts	Bronx	Y		y	y
Bronx HS of Music	Bronx	Y		y	y
Christopher Columbus HS	Bronx	Y		y	y
DeWitt Clinton HS	Bronx	Y		y	y
Flushing HS	Queens	Y		y	y
Global Enterprise E.H.S.	Bronx	Y		y	y
Herbert Lehman HS	Bronx	Y		y	y
Literacy Center-Brooklyn	Brooklyn	Y		y	y
Metropolitan Corp. Academy HS	Brooklyn	Y		y	y
Peiham Prep. HS	Bronx	Y		y	y
South Shore HS	Brooklyn	Y		y	y
Thomas Jefferson HS	Brooklyn	Y		y	y
Ballet Tech/NYC PS for Dance	Manhattan	Y			y
Boys and Girls HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Bronx Coalition Community HS (shares facilities with Monroe Schools)	Bronx	Y			y
Bronx Leadership Academy II HS	Bronx	Y			y
Brooklyn Academy HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Brooklyn Int'l HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Bushwick HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Bushwick HS for Social Justice	Brooklyn	Y			y
CES-Manhattan Int'l	Manhattan	Y			y
CES-Vanguard	Manhattan	Y			y
City as School	Manhattan	Y			y
Cobble Hill School of American Studies	Brooklyn	Y			y
Curtis HS	Staten Island	Y			y
EBC-HS for Pub Service-East NY	Brooklyn	Y			y
Edward Reynolds West Side HS	Manhattan	Y			y
ENY-Transit Tech HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Erasmus Campus- Science/Math	Brooklyn	Y			y
Erasmus Campus-Business/Tech	Brooklyn	Y			y
Erasmus Campus-Humanities	Brooklyn	Y			y
Far Rockaway	Queens	Y			y
Fiorello H LaGuardia HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Fort Hamilton	Brooklyn	Y			y
Frances Lewis HS	Queens	Y			y
Franklin K Lane HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Freedom Academy	Brooklyn	Y			y
George Westinghouse	Brooklyn	Y			y
Gregorio Luperon HS Sci & Math	Manhattan	Y			y
HS for law enforcement and public safety	Queens	Y			y
HS for Leadership and Public Service	Manhattan	Y			y
HS for World Cultures	Bronx	Y			y

HS of Redirection	Brooklyn	Y			y
Independence HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Institute for Secondary Ed.	Manhattan	Y			y
International HS	Queens	Y			y
Jamaica HS	Queens	Y			y
James Madison HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
John Dewey HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
John Jay	Brooklyn	Y			y
Lincoln Academy/ Hostos	Bronx	Y			y
Louis D. Brandeis	Manhattan	Y			y
Manhattan Bridges HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Manhattan Int'l	Manhattan	Y			y
Manhattan/Hunter College HS for Science	Manhattan	Y			y
Martin Luther King HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Martin Van Buren HS	Queens	Y			y
Middle College HS	Queens	Y			y
Middle College HS @ Medgar Evers HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
MLK , JR HS for HS Arts & Tech	Manhattan	Y			y
MLK Jr. HS Law, Advoc. & Community Justice	Manhattan	Y			y
Monroe Academy-Visual Arts	Bronx	Y			y
Monroe Academy- Business and Law HS	Bronx	Y			y
New Dorp HS	Staten Island	Y			y
New Utrecht	Brooklyn	Y			y
Newtown HS	Queens	Y			y
NYC Vocational Training Center	Brooklyn	Y			y
Park West High School	Manhattan	Y			y
Paul Robeson HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Professional Performance Arts	Manhattan	Y			y
Science Skills Center HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Science Tech & Research HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Second Opportunity School	Bronx	Y			y
Seward Park HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Sheepshead Bay HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Springfield Gardens HS	Queens	Y			y
Street Academy	Brooklyn	Y			y
Talent Unlimited HS	Manhattan	Y			y
The Academy Urban Planning HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
The Harbor HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Thurgood Marshall Academy	Manhattan	Y			y
Urban Academy Lab HS	Manhattan	Y			y
Urban Peace Academy	Manhattan	Y			y
Wadleigh Arts HS	Manhattan	Y			y
WEB DuBois Academic HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
WM H Maxwell HS	Brooklyn	Y			y
Legacy School	Manhattan	Y	y	y	
Pacific HS	Brooklyn	Y	y	y	

Baccalaureate School of Global Education	Queens	Y	y	
Banana Kelly Collaborative HS	Bronx	Y	y	
Bronx Academy	Bronx	Y	y	
Bronx Aerospace	Bronx	Y	y	
Community Prep HS	Manhattan	Y	y	
Dual Language and Asian Studies	Manhattan	Y	y	
EBC-HS for Public Service	Brooklyn	Y	y	
Evander Childs HS	Bronx	Y	y	
HS for Contemporary Arts	Bronx	Y	y	
HS for Fashion Industries	Manhattan	Y	y	
HS for Humanities	Manhattan	Y	y	
HS Math Science & Engineering @ CCNY	Manhattan	Y	y	
Humanities Preparatory	Manhattan	Y	y	
Landmark HS	Manhattan	Y	y	
Manhattan Village Academy HS	Manhattan	Y	y	
Marble Hill HS for Int's Studies	Bronx	Y	y	
Norman Thomas HS	Manhattan	Y	y	
The Heritage School	Manhattan	Y	y	
A Philip Randolph Campus	Manhattan	Y		y
Bronx Theater HS	Bronx	Y		y
Brooklyn Academy of Science & Environment	Brooklyn	Y		y
Brooklyn HS for Music and Theatre	Brooklyn	Y		y
Coalition School for Social Change	Manhattan	Y		y
F.D. Roosevelt HS	Brooklyn	Y		y
Fannie Lou Hammer Freedom HS	Bronx	Y		y
Health Professional and Human Services	Manhattan	Y		y
High School of Legal Studies	Brooklyn	Y		y
HS of Enterprise and Technology	Brooklyn	Y		y
John F. Kennedy HS	Bronx	Y		y
Progress HS	Brooklyn	Y		y
Prospect Heights HS	Brooklyn	Y		y
Queens vocational and technical HS	Queens	Y		y
ACORN Community HS	Brooklyn	Y		
Automotive HS	Brooklyn	Y		
Beach Channel HS	Queens	Y		
Bedford Academy HS	Brooklyn	Y		
Brooklyn HS for the Arts	Brooklyn	Y		
Harry S. Truman HS	Bronx	Y		
Harry Van Arsdale HS	Brooklyn	Y		
Hillcrest HS	Queens	Y		
John Adams	Queens	Y		
Lafayette HS	Brooklyn	Y		
New School for Arts/Science	Bronx	Y		
Offsite Education Facilities	Queens	Y		
Port Richmond HS	Staten Island	Y		
South Brooklyn Community HS (No #)	Brooklyn	Y		

Staten Island Technical HS	Staten Island	Y		
Wings Academy	Bronx	Y		
Jacqueline K. Onassis	Manhattan	No Response		
John Bowne HS	Queens	No Response		
Passages	Brooklyn	No Response		
School of Co-Op Tech	Manhattan	No Response		
Clara Barton HS	Brooklyn	No Response		
Borough Academies	?	No Response		
Harvey Milk HS	Manhattan	No Response		
Satellite Academy	Manhattan	No Response		
Abraham Lincoln	Brooklyn	N		
Academy of American Studies HS	Queens	N		
Acorn HS for Social Justice	Brooklyn	N		
Adlai E. Stevenson HS	Bronx	N		
Alfred E. Smith VHS	Bronx	N		
Auxillary Services/Satellite Academy	Manhattan	N		
Aviation Career & Technical HS	Queens	N		
Bard High School	Manhattan	N		
Bayside HS	Queens	N		
Belmont Preparatory	Bronx	N		
Benjamin N. Cardozo	Queens	N		
Bread & Roses Integrated	Manhattan	N		
Bronx High School of Business	Bronx	N		
Bronx HS of Law & Community & Service	Bronx	N		
Bronx HS of Letters	Bronx	N		
Bronx HS of Science	Bronx	N		
Bronx Int'l Academy	Bronx	N		
Bronx Leadership Academy	Bronx	N		
Bronx Regional High School	Bronx	N		
Bronx Schools for Law and Government	Bronx	N		
Brooklyn College Academy	Brooklyn	N		
Brooklyn Tech. HS	Brooklyn	N		
Business Computer Applications HS	Queens	N		
Canarsie HS	Brooklyn	N		
Career Education Center	Manhattan	N		
Cascade HS Ctr. for Multimedia Communication	Manhattan	N		
Central Park East HS	Manhattan	N		
Chelsea VHS	Manhattan	N		
Community HS for Social Justice	Manhattan	N		
Comp. Night HS of Brooklyn	Brooklyn	N		
Concord HS	Staten Island	N		

Discovery HS	Bronx	N			
Edward R. Murrow HS	Brooklyn	N			
El Puente Academy	Brooklyn	N			
Eleanor Roosevelt HS	Manhattan	N			
Fordham HS for the Arts	Bronx	N			
Fordham Leadership Academy HS	Bronx	N			
Fordham Leadership Business & Tech	Bronx	N			
Foreign Language Academy	Bronx	N			
Forest Hills HS	Queens	N			
Frank Sinatra HS	Queens	N			
George Wingate HS	Brooklyn	N			
Grace H. Dodge VHS	Bronx	N			
Grover Cleveland HS	Queens	N			
High School for Arts & Business	Queens	N			
High School for Excellence	Bronx	N			
HS American Studies @Lehman College	Bronx	N			
HS Communication Graphic Art	Manhattan	N			
HS for Career in Sports	Bronx	N			
HS for Community Res. & Learn	Bronx	N			
HS for Enviromental Studies	Manhattan	N			
HS for Information tech.	Queens	N			
HS for Medical Science	Bronx	N			
HS for Teaching & Professions	Bronx	N			
HS for violin and dance	Bronx	N			
HS Health Careers & Science	Manhattan	N			
HS Int'l Business & Finance	Manhattan	N			
HS Law & Public Service	Manhattan	N			
HS Media & Communication	Manhattan	N			
HS of Art and Design	Manhattan	N			
HS of Economics and Finance	Manhattan	N			
HS of tech., liberal arts, and science	Queens	N			
HS of Telecommunications	Brooklyn	N			
HS Public Service; Heroes of T.	Brooklyn	N			
Humanities & Arts Magnet	Queens	N			
International Arts Business HS	Brooklyn	N			
J. Levin HS for Media and Communications	Bronx	N			
Jane Addams VHS	Bronx	N			
Leon Goldstein HS Sciences	Brooklyn	N			
Liberty High School Academy	Manhattan	N			
Long Island City HS	Queens	N			
Lower Eastside Prep	Manhattan	N			
Magnet school of Law and Gov't	Queens	N			
Manhattan Center for Science and Math	Manhattan	N			
Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day HS	Manhattan	N			
Math and Science research tech ctr.	Queens	N			
Midwood HS	Brooklyn	N			

Millenium HS	Manhattan	N			
Morris HS	Bronx	N			
Mott Haven Village Prep HS	Bronx	N			
Murray Bergtraum HS	Manhattan	N			
New Design HS	Manhattan	N			
New Explorers HS	Bronx	N			
Newcomers HS: Academy of American Studies	Queens	N			
Park East HS	Manhattan	N			
Queens Academy HS	Queens	N			
Queens HS for Science @ York College	Queens	N			
R.R. Green HS	Manhattan	N			
Ralph McKee Vocational HS	Staten Island	N			
Repertory School	Manhattan	N			
Richmond Hill HS	Queens	N			
Robert F. Wagner	Queens	N			
Samuel Gompers VHS	Bronx	N			
Samuel J. Tilden HS	Brooklyn	N			
South Bronx HS	Bronx	N			
Stuyvesant HS	Manhattan	N			
Susan E. Wagner HS	Staten Island	N			
The Bronx Guild HS	Bronx	N			
The Program for Pregnant and Parenting Services	Manhattan	N			
Theodore Roosevelt HS	Bronx	N			
Thomas A. Edison VHS	Brooklyn	N			
Tottenville HS	Staten Island	N			
Townsend Harris HS	Staten Island	N			
Unity HS	Manhattan	N			
University Heights Alt. HS	Bronx	N			
University Neighborhood HS	Manhattan	N			
Walton HS	Bronx	N			
Washington Irving HS	Manhattan	N			
William E. Grady VHS	Brooklyn	N			
William Howard Taft HS	Bronx	N			
WM Cullen Bryant HS	Queens	N			
Young Women's Leadership HS	Manhattan	N			
Horizons HS	Queens	N			
Island Academy	Queens	No Response			
Total Yes	137				
Total No	113				
No Response	9				