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LEON GUERRERO-TENORIO ADMINISTRATION CREATES SCHOOL SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

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Hagåtña, Guam - The Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration announced today the creation of the Governor's School Safety Partnership. The group consists of members of the Guam Police Department, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and Guam Homeland Security. Leading the effort will be Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio and GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez as co-chairs.

Governor Leon Guerrero made the announcement at Simon Sanchez High School in front of students and teachers before joining school administrators and students on a tour of SSHS and F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School. The tour allowed the Governor and Lt. Governor to see and hear firsthand the safety concerns affecting faculty and students.

Governor Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Tenorio and Superintendent Fernandez met several times to discuss the challenges surrounding school safety. Public school campuses face a variety of threats, including heavy weather, substance abuse, school violence, and potential active shooter situations. While the school system has a number of protective and preventive measures in place, the Superintendent has asked for help in coordinating with key executive agencies to enhance law enforcement response to school campuses, expand capacity for more school-based behavioral health intervention and treatment, and hardening school facilities.

The Governor's School Safety Partnership's goal is to focus on the three areas identified by the Superintendent and report findings and recommendations no later than June 30, 2019.

"We have heard the concerns from our families and our educators, and I want to assure them that we will work together with GDOE to come up with collaborative solutions to keep our children safe," Governor Leon Guerrero said.

"I look forward to continued partnership with GDOE. When I was the Judiciary of Guam Administrator, we worked with GDOE to establish the School Resource Officers Program."

SROs are a powerful tool at school campuses because they act as liaisons between the school, court, police, and other law enforcement officers and agencies,” said Lt. Governor Tenorio.

“I appreciate the commitment of our Governor and Lt. Governor to helping protect our students and employees. Over the next few months, I look forward to working closely with our agency partners to do what is necessary to secure our schools and improve our ability to prevent and respond to the threats that our schools face,” Superintendent Fernandez said.

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