



## HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

### Statement of Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) Homeland Security Committee

*Stopping the Next Attack: How to Keep Our City Streets from Becoming the Battleground  
September 21, 2016*

Remarks as Prepared

This weekend, our nation was shaken by terrorist attacks in Minnesota, New York, and New Jersey.

We are thankful no one was killed, but our thoughts and prayers go out to the injured victims and their families.

We are still searching for answers in this investigation, and I appreciate NYPD Deputy Commissioner Miller being here today to update us on the case.

The threat environment is as high as we have ever seen it, especially from radical Islamist terrorists.

Last year, this Committee tracked the most homegrown jihadist plots ever in a single year in the United States. And 2016 could be even worse.

Americans are rightfully worried that our city streets are once again becoming the battleground: Fort Hood. Boston. Chattanooga. San Bernardino. Orlando.

Some have said this kind of regular terrorism is “the new normal”.

But I strongly reject that argument. Complacency is not an option.

Terrorists are threatening American lives, livelihoods, and our way of life. We cannot falter with so much at stake.

That is why yesterday I released a national strategy to win the war against Islamist terror, with proposals for fighting the enemy overseas and stopping radicalization in our communities.

My strategy explains that one of our highest priorities must be to make sure our frontline defenders are better prepared to stop acts of terror.

This means that police, fire, and other emergency professionals need to be able to detect suspicious activity and catch potential terrorists before it's too late.

And if a plot goes undetected, they must be equipped to respond quickly to prevent loss of life.

We saw that play out this weekend, when our first responders acted heroically to protect their fellow citizens.

So to the witnesses testifying today, I want you to know that this Committee is grateful for your service to our communities and your sacrifices for our country.

I also want to convey one message, above all else: we have your backs.

We are committed to giving you the tools to fight terror. And we are also committed to giving you the public support you deserve in these challenging times.

It has been a hard year, especially for law enforcement. You have faced tough questions in the press, and you are staring down violence in our streets every day.

That is why this Committee has fought to protect important DHS grant funding that you rely on.

In fact, later today the House will vote on my bill to authorize an additional \$39 million in annual grants to help your communities guard against the dynamic terror threat, including active shooter attacks, IEDs, and more.

We have pushed federal agencies to share intelligence with you more quickly and comprehensively.

We need to ensure the federal government properly incorporates the valuable CT information you develop from the streets and communities where you serve every day.

Today, I hope you will share with us what is working on the front lines—and what is not.

In particular, we want to know how we can better support you to respond to the unprecedented terror threat.

Last week I went up to the 9/11 memorial and listened to all of the nearly three thousand names of those killed read aloud.

We do this each year to remember the fallen... and to honor the heroism we saw on that day, from first responders and everyday citizens.

Like those brave Americans we lost, our witnesses this morning have sworn an oath to protect our people.

So before we start, let me just say again: we thank you.

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