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# **HPS DURESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**

HPS Board of Education Operations Committee, March 1, 2022

# HPS Duress System Replacement

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- Current HPS duress system (Stop Tech Centurion/Elite systems) were installed in 2014-2015 pursuant to funding within the first round of the CT School Security Grant funding program.
- The current system has demonstrated a lack of reliability in our monthly emergency communications test.
- Stop Tech no longer supplies maintenance and support to this older generation system.
- Stand-alone duress buttons require batteries be changed every two years to ensure activation capability. There are just about 700 duress buttons to keep track of.

# Replacement Options

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- The HPS District safety Planning Team considered two replacement options: Alertus and School Messenger (Intrado).
- Alertus came recommended by the Chief of Security for Milford Public Schools (they are also installing the system).
- Intrado withdrew after recognizing that their system would not conform to our alert requirements.

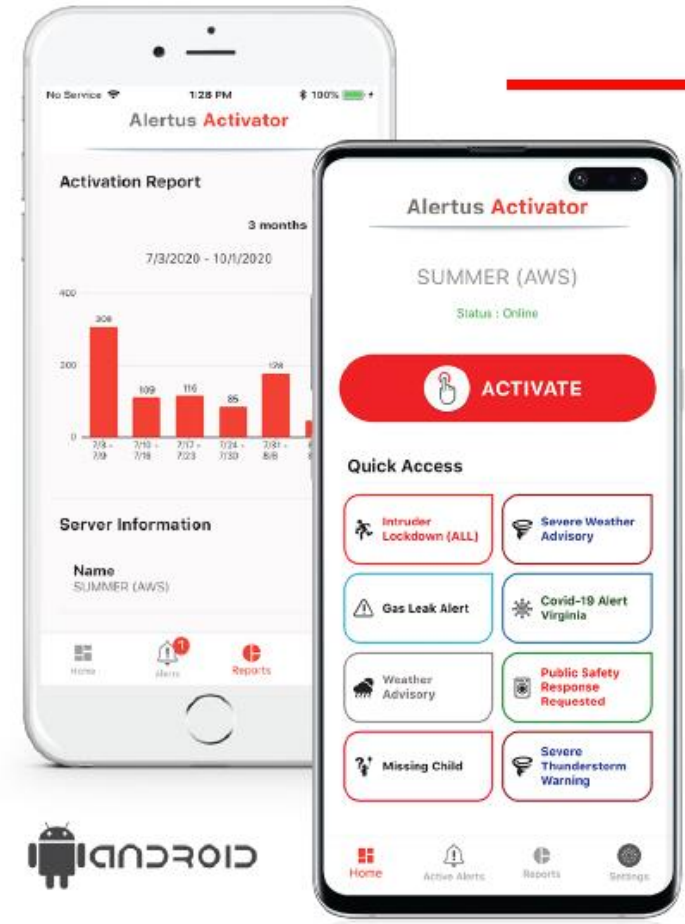
# Requirements

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- The system had to replicate current capacity to transmit an emergency signal via our HPD accessible radio frequency direct to Dispatch and all HPD assets.
- System must be smart-phone-based.
- System must be able to operate at all school sites regardless of phone signal access.

# Activation

- Staff download the Alertus application to a phone.
- In an incident, open the “app”, and click “activate”.
- The phone sends a signal to a server through building wifi.
- The server converts the signal to a text to speech message sent out through a UHF radio on the HPD frequency we use for our duress systems.



# Checks

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- Frank Gargiulo has reviewed the IT aspects of the system.
- HPS partner Utility Communications (Stephanie Seymour) has reviewed the radio connectivity.
- HPD Dispatch (SGT. Mike Doherty) has also reviewed the communications pathway integrated into our current response format.

# Next Steps

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- Phase I costs: \$39,225 (year one); \$14,950 annual cost thereafter.
- Phase II: Room to grow including messaging improvements and integration with existing HPS systems (i.e. emergency strobe lights). Anticipate working closely with Milford Public Schools on planning for upgrades.