

## Preparing for a Crisis

### How Everyone Can Work to Prevent Incidents Like the Boston Marathon Bombings

While investigations of the April 15, 2013, bombings at the Boston marathon proceed and fears of terrorism prevail, Phrantceena Halres hopes law enforcement, corporations and individuals will prioritize preparing for future incidents. Halres is the founder, chair and chief executive of Total Protection Services International, the only certified security services company at large that focuses on high-threat/close-proximity safety and security for the protection

According to Halres, families can protect their members by having regular discussions about the things they face each day, including concerns of bullying, violent crime and terrorism. She says the same principle can be applied to government, law enforcement and corporations. Halres suggests people in all institutions should think about how to react in potential future incidents and come together to discuss how to prepare and devise a plan.

"The war is here now. It's in our neighborhoods, in our streets," says Halres. "We have to be united because [the terrorists] are united in attacking us."

Aside from planning and preparing for crises, Halres stresses the importance of developing a sixth sense to protect against dangerous people and situations.

"Developing a sixth sense, it's a skill, it's a gift, it's not really anything you can write down," Halres says, elaborating that it generally consists of sensing problems as they develop and reacting appropriately.

Halres notes that children are especially intuitive and can be empowered against bullies if encouraged to trust their intuition. Likewise, she thinks everyone can benefit from developing a similar awareness and that it can provide protection even in the most critical of circumstances involving crime and terrorism. "We have to have telepathy," says Halres. "We need to intuitively know where our enemies are."

While some may be reluctant to take on Halres's philosophy, reports following the Boston bombings revealed that several individuals might have foreseen criminal tendencies in Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the two bombing suspects.

For example, Jim Duggan, a cab driver who transported the brothers the day before the marathon, might have alerted authorities of their suspicious behavior had he given more credence to his observations. After the bombings, he recalled that while driving the Tsarnaevs to their destination, he had casually mentioned the upcoming marathon to the young men, at which time the older brother grew agitated and they abruptly ended the ride.

Duggan also reported that when he picked up the Tsarnaevs' backpacks, he noticed that they were unusually heavy, and the brothers were clearly upset by the fact that he had touched them. Others admitted after the bombings that signs of Tamerlan Tsarnaev's aggression had always been present. Friends and acquaintances reported that they had repeatedly witnessed him throwing things at and verbally abusing his girlfriend.

Halres envisions a time when citizens will no longer live in fear of crime and terrorism if only they can become more aware of subtle signs and prepare for potential crises. "Somehow we've gotten real relaxed and lazy," Halres says. "But we can start the change one person at a time."



of critical infrastructure assets in the corporate, nuclear, energy, government and personal protection sectors. She believes that by planning for any potential crisis, law enforcement, corporations and individuals alike can prevent similar tragedies.

"The first step is to sit down at the kitchen table," Halres says. "In corporations, it can be a boardroom, a break room, a gathering of the minds."

