

Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey Partners with Secure Community Network to Launch New Online Form for Reporting Threats, Incidents, and Suspicious Activity

Incident Reporting Form Will Help Ensure Timely and Accurate Response to Protect Jewish Community

Published June 22, 2023 at 1:35 PM

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-brunswick/sections/religions-and-spirituality/articles/jewish-federation-in-the-heart-of-new-jersey-partners-with-secure-community-network-to-launch-new-online-form-for-reporting-threats-incidents-and-suspicious-activity>

SOUTH RIVER, NJ - Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey announced today that it has partnered with more than 40 other Jewish Federations and the Secure Community Network (SCN), a safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, to launch a new, standardized online form for the public to report threats, incidents, and suspicious activity related to Jewish organizations, facilities, or community members. The form is available on the Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ website at jewishheartnj.org/report.

"This new online reporting form replaces our original form but can be reached through the same web link as before: jewishheartnj.org/report. It is one of the many ways Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey is continually improving and expanding on resources to protect the Jewish community," said Amy Keller, Director of Security Initiatives. "Together with the Secure Community Network, we urge everyone to report anything suspicious or concerning, so the appropriate action can be taken."

Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey Security Initiatives support security needs at Jewish institutions in Monmouth and Greater Middlesex counties, NJ, through assessments and training, grant application and implementation support, communications and reporting resources, public advocacy, and incident intervention.

Information reported through the new incident reporting form is sent immediately to Federation security professionals and the 24-hour Duty Desk in SCN's National Jewish Security Operations Command Center, where SCN's intelligence analysts work with local Federation Security Initiatives using intelligence and information-sharing best practices to determine what people or facilities may be at risk, as well as what next steps to take. Credible threats are referred to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and Jewish facility leaders as needed.

"Protecting safety and security in Jewish life is an ever-increasing Federation priority," said Susan Antman, Executive Director of Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. "Partnership among Federations across North America and SCN on tactics such as this new reporting form enables our highly connected communities to speed and strengthen individual and coordinated approaches to security threats, including communications with law enforcement, advocacy with elected officials, and the everyday practices of community members."

"This is the first nationally standardized incident reporting effort that ties together local Federation Security Initiatives and SCN as a national partner, ensuring that wherever someone is, there can be timely, consistent, and accurate reporting of threats, incidents, and suspicious activity," said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. "This is critical to keeping the Jewish community safe. In a world where threats travel at the speed of social media, this effort enhances our ability to identify trends and incidents across communities and work with security professionals and law enforcement to address them. Through a coordinated, best practice approach to information sharing, this initiative will help us more effectively and efficiently address threats and issues before they turn to action."

The new form can be used to report in-person assaults or threats; suspicious persons or activity; property damage or vandalism; threatening or suspicious phone calls, text messages, or social media; suspicious packages or letters; spam and phishing emails; antisemitic or threatening flyers; or other similar incidents of concern to the Jewish community. Reports may be made anonymously.

The effort will also allow Federation and partners to better aggregate and collect information, providing more comprehensive and reliable data to partners in the Jewish community and in law enforcement. This is especially important given findings that 1 in 3 law enforcement agencies in the United States – representing up to half of the Jewish community – did not report hate crimes data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 2021.

The system was developed after careful analysis of the threat environment and a recognized need to ensure consistent, best practice incident reporting across the community, in line with national standards. The form was developed with input from key information-sharing, law enforcement, and public safety partners, as well as those in the nonprofit, academic, and private sectors. The form is designed to be compliant with federal reporting guidelines and constitutional requirements.

In an emergency, always call 911 first. If online reporting is not practical, follow protocols to report suspicious activity:

- Contact local law enforcement and/or the relevant suspicious activity reporting authority
- Contact Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ Security Initiatives at amyk@jewishheartnj.org or by calling 732-588-1817
- Contact the SCN Duty Desk at <mailto:dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org> or by calling 844-SCN-DESK.

Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey supports and promotes programs and organizations throughout Monmouth and Greater Middlesex counties to care for people in need while investing in a strong, safe, and joyful Jewish community today and for generations to come.