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SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters Appointed by DHS Secretary Mayorkas to Prestigious Faith-Based Security Advisory Council

25-Member Council Provides Advice on Homeland Security Matters Affecting Faith Communities

Michael G. Masters, National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network (SCN), was appointed today by U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas to the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council (FBSAC). Masters joins 24 other new members on the FBSAC, an external advisory body providing advice to the Secretary on homeland security matters of importance to faith communities.

“I’m honored and proud to join the FBSAC, which includes many recognized leaders with whom SCN has long partnered, to address the threats and issues facing the faith-based community, and which threaten religious freedom in our country – striking at the core of our liberties as Americans,” said Masters. “I thank Secretary Mayorkas and the Department for convening this critical body, and for the Department’s – and his – ongoing commitment to and partnership with the Jewish community, and broader faith-based community, to keep our country safe and secure for all people.”

As the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, SCN is a leader in partnering with Jewish communities, Federations, and organizations as well as federal, state, and local law enforcement to promote best practice safety and security efforts that protect freedom of religion and expression. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN operates the National Jewish Security Operations Command Center to ensure coordinated intelligence and information sharing and also provides community-based training, facility assessments, grant application assistance, liaison with law enforcement, and incident response.

“These prominent faith and law enforcement leaders will help us build and strengthen the community partnerships that are so vital to our mission success,” said Secretary Mayorkas. “We will work together to increase access to our services, ensure equity, maintain openness and transparency, and fully restore the trust of the communities we serve.”

The members announced today represent various faith communities and denominations, including from the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities, as well as law enforcement.

“This Council is an important way for the Department to engage formally with critical partners on issues impacting faith communities, said Brenda Abdelall, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for
Partnership and Engagement. "Members of the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council will provide valuable insight that will benefit our stakeholders nationwide on important issues within the scope of the Department's mission."

The Council, which will begin meeting in October, will provide organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific, and actionable advice to the Secretary on diverse homeland security matters. Specifically, the Council’s contributions will enhance the Department’s work to protect houses of worship; improve coordination and information sharing of threat information with the faith community; increase access to DHS resources by building trust and addressing potential barriers; and prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of targeted violence, terrorism, and other threats.

Secretary Mayorkas has appointed the following individuals to the Council:

- Chandru Acharya, Member, Plymouth Canton Interfaith Community Outreach
- Imam Mohamed Hagmagid Ali, Executive Director, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center / Co-Founder, Multi-Faith Neighbors Network
- Salam Al-Marayati, Co-Founder and President, Muslim Public Affairs Council
- Deputy Chief Tracie Baker, Arlington Police Department, Texas
- Kimberly Burgo, Vice President, Disaster Operations, Catholic Charities USA
- Rev. Jeffery Cooper, General Secretary and Chief Information Officer, African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune, Chief Operating Officer, National Council of Churches
- Kiran Kaur Gill, Executive Director, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Rabbi Moshe Hauer, Executive Vice President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
- Commissioner Kenneth Hodder, National Commander, The Salvation Army
- Hyepin Im, President and Founder, Faith and Community Empowerment (FACE)
- Curtis Jones, National Deputy Sector Chief - Manager Religious Facilities Protection Program (RFPP), InfraGard National Members Alliance
- Alberto Martinez, Director, Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center Orange County Sheriff’s Department
- Michael Masters, National Director & CEO, Secure Community Network
- Sheriff Garry McFadden, 45th Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
- Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, Union for Reform Judaism
- Todd Richins, Church Security Department, Field Operations Division Director, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Mayya Saab, Executive Director, Faith Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization
- Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition
- Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, CEO Emerita, Rabbinical Assembly
- Chief Issa Shahin, Dearborn, Michigan Police Department
- Imam Talib Shareef, Nation’s Mosque / Masjid Muhammad
- Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder & President, National Action Network
- Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Director for Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs, Mayor’s Office of Public Engagement, City of Philadelphia
- April Wood, President/CEO, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The
Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.