Secure Community Network Briefs U.S. House Bipartisan Task Force on Threats Facing the Jewish Community

Event Discussed How to Identify, Report, and Combat Threats Approaching the High Holy Days

Task Force Co-Chairs Reps. Ted Deutch, Grace Meng, Chris Smith Provide Opening Remarks

The Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, briefed members of the U.S. House of Representatives Bipartisan Task Force for Combatting Antisemitism this week on the unprecedented level of threats facing the Jewish community and best-practice strategies for identifying, reporting, and mitigating these threats. The Task Force comprises approximately 175 representatives and works to ensure that Congress plays an integral role in condemning antisemitism and spearheading initiatives that promote tolerance worldwide.

“From Pittsburgh to Poway to Colleyville, we have all seen the consequences of unchecked hate and violence against the Jewish community,” said Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL). There are very real security concerns our religious institutions face, particularly heading into the High Holidays. This week, the Secure Community Network reminded those of us on the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism that every single American has the power to identify suspicious activity and counter violent threats, if we have the right tools. These trainings save lives, and I was glad to host SCN to share their crucial work with my colleagues.”

“I thank the Secure Community Network for providing me the opportunity to invite its team to brief the Task Force, and for the great work they do in providing timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners on
behalf of the Jewish community,” said Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY). “As a Co-Chair of the Task Force, I know the incredible impact SCN’s work has had on the Jewish community’s ability to respond to antisemitic attacks, in addition to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, an initiative I have worked hard to secure additional funding for as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. I look forward to working with them in addressing the threats faced by the Jewish community.”

“With the cruelty of antisemitism surging in the United States and across the world, we must be especially vigilant as the holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur approach,” said Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ). “Just before last Passover, on the eve of the Sabbath, a hate-filled man targeted the Orthodox community in Lakewood in my district, running over Jewish pedestrians in a vehicle he had carjacked and stabbing another while spewing antisemitic slurs. This horrific attack was a chilling reminder that no one anywhere is immune from the evil manifestations of this pernicious hate. The information provided by the Secure Community Network will help keep the community safe during the holy days and beyond and will save lives.”

SCN Special Advisor and former Assistant FBI Director Kerry Sleeper gave attendees a detailed update on threat activity, Chief of Staff Dena Weiss provided an overview of SCN’s work to create a security shield over the Jewish community in North America, and National Training and Exercise Advisor Stuart Frisch conducted training on key concepts in situational awareness and countering active threats. The presentation summarized the comprehensive training SCN routinely conducts on these and other topics in Jewish communities across the country.

“As the Jewish community prepares to celebrate the High Holy Days in synagogues and other Jewish facilities, on educational campuses, and at home, we are grateful to the Task Force for inviting SCN to share the vital work we do to ensure the safety and resiliency of the Jewish people,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters.

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The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official homeland 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.