



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12 April 2022

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Secure Community Network Publishes Detailed Guide to Considerations for Effective Use of Private Security at Jewish Facilities

“A Roadmap for Securing Sacred Spaces” Provides Detailed Guidance on the Role of Private Security Officers and Companies in Efforts to Protect the Jewish Community

The Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, today published a detailed white paper with guidance and strategies to assist organizations in making educated decisions about the role of private security officers as part of the security strategy of Jewish institutions.

Entitled “[Private Security: Window Dressing or Real Protection? A Roadmap for Securing Sacred Spaces](#),” the 42-page report was developed by a panel of recognized law enforcement and security professionals convened by SCN, including representatives from Jewish Federations, and is designed to support established security programs and assist in creating new ones at synagogues, community centers, schools, and other centers of Jewish life.



“At a time of increased antisemitism and given the ongoing threat of targeted violence facing the Jewish community, this white paper provides a crucial resource to secure and protect our community members and organizations,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. “The report reflects the insights of top law enforcement and security professionals and will help guide Jewish organizations in developing their security plans.”

With antisemitic incidents, threats, and acts of targeted violence against the Jewish community on the rise, organizations are increasingly seeking to implement best-practice, coordinated efforts to ensure safety and security. While security programs often include private officers and companies, there is little consistency in vetting, standard operating procedures, or program evaluation. The white paper will help Jewish organizations identify security goals, create and formalize security plans, hire and vet private

security officers and companies when needed, develop security officer training programs, and create sustainable partnerships with local law enforcement.

“Because there is no one-size-fits-all security solution, the report instead provides structured questions that should be answered before implementing private security services,” said SCN Senior National Security Advisor Brad Orsini, who contributed to the white paper.

The report comes as Jewish facilities across North America continue to face significant threats. In January, an individual armed with a gun held the rabbi and other members of a synagogue hostage for 11 hours in Colleyville, Texas. During March alone, there were at least 20 reported bomb threats against Jewish community centers in nine U.S. states. In April, a private security officer at a Jewish day school was arrested after making online threats of violence against the school and the Jewish community.

SCN will host a national webinar on 28 April with the white paper’s authors to present the report and answer questions. Interested members of the Jewish community may [register for the webinar](#).

The following security experts contributed to the report:

- Shawn Brokos, Director of Community Security, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
- Brandon del Pozo, Former Chief, Burlington Police Department
- Steve Eberle, Regional Security Director, Secure Community Network
- Kurus Elavia, President, Gateway Group One
- Robert Graves, Regional Security Advisor, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Secure Community Network
- Jim Hartnett, Director of Community Wide Security Initiative, Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Gil Kerlikowske, Former Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Dan Levenson, Deputy Director, Communal Security, Combined Jewish Philanthropies — Boston
- Kathy O’Toole, Former Chief, Seattle Police Department
- Brad Orsini, Senior National Security Advisor, Secure Community Network
- Robert Wasserman, Senior Vice President, Jensen Hughes
- James Wasson, Security Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix
- Jeremy Yamin, Vice President, Director of Security and Operations, Combined Jewish Philanthropies — Boston

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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.