Secure Community Network and The Birmingham Jewish Federation Announce Partnership to Bolster Community Safety and Security

Law Enforcement Veteran Jeff Brown Will Advise, Direct and Develop Community Security Program

The Secure Community Network (SCN) and The Birmingham Jewish Federation today announced the launch of a new community security program led by Regional Security Advisor Jeff Brown. The program is designed to significantly increase safety and security for all those who participate in synagogues, day schools, museums, service organizations, and other centers of Jewish life in the Birmingham, Ala., area. SCN is the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America.

“SCN strives to ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the Jewish people by creating a security shield over the Jewish community in North America,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. “The heart of this effort is the establishment of a comprehensive security program in each Jewish population center, led by a full-time security professional. We are thrilled that Jeff has joined our team to take SCN’s work with The Birmingham Jewish Federation to the next level.”

“Our Federation is excited to partner with SCN and welcome Jeff to Birmingham,” said Federation CEO Danny Cohn. “As America faces dramatic increases in antisemitic threats and incidents, Jewish communal security has never been more important. Jeff’s extensive experience and knowledge of the Birmingham region make him an enormous asset for our community.”

Birmingham joins the growing network of Federations and communities that have partnered with SCN to launch community-wide security programs designed around an “all threats, all hazards” approach to preparedness, safety, security, and resiliency. Each program is connected to SCN’s national operations, providing direct access to SCN’s National Jewish Security Operations Command Center and Duty Desk, as well as best practice security resources and support related to policies, procedures, physical security, facility assessments, training, and incident response.

To lead the effort, public safety expert and law enforcement veteran Jeff Brown has been appointed the first Regional Security Advisor for the Birmingham area and completed an intensive onboarding process. Brown will serve as SCN’s full-time representative to develop and administer a comprehensive program that provides risk mitigation, security consultations, assessments, and training to Jewish institutions throughout the region. Brown will teach SCN’s flagship training courses such as Be Aware: Introduction to Situational Awareness; Countering Active Threat Training; and Stop the Bleed®.
Brown is a 21-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), having risen through the ranks as a Special Agent in the St. Louis field office, a Supervisory Special Agent in the Detroit field office, a Unit Chief in the Counterterrorism Division in Washington, the Violent Crimes Task Force Coordinator in St. Joseph, Mich., and the Senior Special Agent in Charge in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He also serves as an FBI adjunct instructor. Most recently, Brown served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Birmingham field office.

Brown has served in leadership roles to support numerous high-profile investigations and special events during his career, including the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing, the 2014 Winter Sochi Olympics, and the 2018 Senior PGA Championship. Brown’s FBI experience in helping to plan for the 2022 World Games in Birmingham in July will be particularly valuable, with Israel sending the fifth-largest delegation of athletes from the 110 countries represented in the Games.

Prior to his FBI tenure, Brown served as a police officer and detective for 10 years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in social science from Concordia University, a master’s degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University, and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Brown will serve as an expert advisor to Jewish institutions and establish a system of collaboration, coordination, and communication among community organizations. He will also serve as a liaison to local, state, and federal law enforcement partners and represent the Federation and the Jewish community in public security forums.

“It’s an honor for me to continue working in Birmingham and to contribute to the safety and security of the Jewish community,” said Brown. “I look forward to leveraging my professional experience and community relationships to help everyone become more prepared and resilient against all forms of threats.”

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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.

The Birmingham Jewish Federation is the Birmingham Jewish Community’s central fundraising, community relations, community planning, and community development agency. Since 1936, the Federation has been dedicated to enriching Jewish life, supporting Israel, helping all people in need, and building a better Birmingham. The Federation’s mission is to ensure a vibrant, inclusive Jewish community in Birmingham connected to Jews in Israel and around the world. Learn more at bif.org.