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Secure Community Network Convenes Task Force on Mass Attacks to Recommend Lifesaving Preparedness and Response Actions

Expert Panel Will Evaluate Next Steps in the Aftermath of Three Mass Shootings in Two Weeks

The Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, today announced the immediate formation of a task force to recommend additional steps to protect the Jewish community from mass attacks. The panel will convene in the aftermath of mass shootings over the last two weeks at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., a church in Laguna Woods, Calif., and an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

“SCN has always provided leadership and training to keep the Jewish community safe,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. “We have done this by constantly evaluating current and emergent threats, and the tactics of those who commit the types of heinous acts we have seen in recent weeks – as well as our own efforts. Given the number, pace, and lethality of recent attacks, SCN and our team of security professionals, along with many law enforcement agencies and school districts, are working to identify lessons from recent mass attacks, and adapt our safety and security efforts accordingly. Our commitment to saving lives is even more urgent when our children are the targets of violence.”

Once the task force shares its initial findings in the coming weeks and SCN’s National Security Advisory Council provides additional input, resulting recommendations will be incorporated into SCN’s strategies and operations.

According to FBI data, active shooter incidents increased by more than half between 2020 and 2021 and killed almost three times more people. While active shooters account for a small percentage of all homicides nationwide, they frequently occur in public gathering places and are of special concern for Jewish facilities like synagogues, schools, community centers, and healthcare facilities.

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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.