

## **Hunterdon Prosecutor Commended For Immediate Response Protecting Houses of Worship**

At the November 7th Freeholder Board meeting, Freeholder John E. Lanza, the liaison for Public Safety, commended County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, for his quick action to protect Hunterdon County Houses of Worship, following news of the Pittsburgh Synagogue attack in October.

Freeholder Lanza stated, "When the news hit about the shooter's horrific attack on the Pittsburgh Synagogue, Prosecutor Kearns immediately directed the police departments throughout Hunterdon County to remain vigilant and show an increased law enforcement presence at houses of worship in their jurisdictions.

At the time, it was not known if the attack was from a lone individual, some larger conspiratorial group, or if news of the shooting could set off some other person as a copycat shooter."

Prosecutor Kearns stated in a media release at the time of the October 27<sup>th</sup> attack, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and families affected by this deadly shooting.

While there is no reported nexus to New Jersey, I have been in contact with police departments throughout Hunterdon County and they have been directed to remain vigilant and show an increased presence at houses of worship in their jurisdictions."

Lanza added, "It is a sad comment on the times that a greater police presence at churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship is necessary; however, the Prosecutor took the right action to protect Hunterdon County's faith-based organizations and the community."