



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
*Minneapolis Division*

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June 24, 2020

To our community's religious leaders,

We understand the community's concern over the death of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers. As you may be aware, FBI Minneapolis and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension are actively investigating all the facts and circumstances surrounding Mr. Floyd's death.

In addition, many local businesses and buildings were damaged or destroyed during the civil unrest that followed Mr. Floyd's death. FBI Minneapolis is seeking any evidence regarding possible hate crimes which might entail defacement and damage to houses of worship, including graffiti. A hate crime is a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by the individual's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

While the First Amendment protects free speech and peaceful protests, it does not protect threats and damage to property. Please contact FBI Minneapolis if your house of worship or any other house of worship you are aware of suffered damage during the recent unrest. Reports can be made at [fbi.gov/violence](https://www.fbi.gov/violence). If the damage has already been repaired or cleaned up, any photos or videos you can provide will help our hate crime investigations. Each little piece of information can help us complete the big picture. Even if this information was already reported to local police, we request that you please use the link above to report it to FBI Minneapolis.

Please feel free to share this information with your congregants or other houses of worship.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please email Community Outreach Specialist Kathy Hotakainen at [kjhotakainen@fbi.gov](mailto:kjhotakainen@fbi.gov).

Sincerely,

Rainer S. Drolshagen  
Special Agent in Charge  
FBI Minneapolis