



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

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Jan. 23, 2019

Dear Faith Leaders,

We are reaching out to invite you to a training aimed at helping religious and other faith-based organizations take steps to strengthen the safety and security of their institutions. Recent incidents of targeted violence against faith-based organizations highlight the need for communities to work proactively to increase protections and enhance safety.

As a first step, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and the Northampton Police Department have teamed up to bring Training Force USA to Northampton to present **"Protecting Your House of Worship with Compassion and Common Sense"** on **Tuesday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz St., Northampton.**

We hope that representatives from area churches, synagogues, mosques, meeting houses and other faith communities as well as personnel from police departments from across Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden counties and Athol will be able to take part in this unique training opportunity.

A Training Force USA instructor will guide participants in how to undertake comprehensive safety and security risk assessments, develop security policies and protocols to respond to a myriad of challenging situations including active shooter incidents. Participants will leave with samples of policies and procedures and ideas about how to implement them in your institution.

This workshop will be useful for volunteer lay leaders, clergy and staff within faith-based institutions as well as members of our law enforcement communities. We believe by working together in prevention efforts we can create safer communities for all. To register for this training, go to www.regonline.com/WorshipSecurity-NorthamptonMA-030519.

For more information, contacted Laurie Loisel at laurie.loisel@state.ma.us or (413) 437-5736

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David E. Sullivan in black ink.

David E. Sullivan
Northwestern District Attorney

Handwritten signature of Jody Kasper in black ink.

Jody Kasper
Police Chief, Northampton Police Department