



January 2026

Dear President Zach Shemper,

On behalf of the Westchester Jewish Council, the coordinating organization for the 120 Jewish organizations serving Westchester County, NY, made up of 130,000 Jews, we are writing to express our profound sorrow upon the violent destruction of your synagogue.

An attack on a house of worship is an attack on faith, history, and the very idea of community. We know that a synagogue is far more than a building—it is a sacred home for prayer, learning, memory, and connection across generations. The loss you are experiencing is deeply felt far beyond Mississippi.

Please know that you do not stand alone. Jewish communities across the country are holding you and your congregation in our hearts and stand with you in unwavering solidarity — Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh (כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה), all Israel is responsible for one another.

May your community find strength in the support surrounding you and comfort in the knowledge that people of faith and goodwill stand with you. May the spirit of community, resilience, and hope guide you through the days ahead, and may healing and peace come to you and all those affected.

With heartfelt prayers and solidarity,

Michael Mittelman, President
Elliot Forchheimer, CEO
Westchester Jewish Council, Westchester County, New York

About the Westchester Jewish Council

The Westchester Jewish Council (WJC) is the central convening and community relations organization for the Jewish community of Westchester County. Representing more than 120 member synagogues and Jewish organizations, the Council connects community leaders, fosters collaboration, strengthens Jewish life, and builds relationships with elected officials and interfaith partners. Founded in 1975, the WJC works to safeguard the community, combat antisemitism, support Israel, and ensure a strong, vibrant Jewish future in Westchester.

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