

UPDATE: Jersey City Tragedy

Jewish Federation has been in constant contact with law enforcement, community leaders, and elected officials since the horrific events in Jersey City started unfolding yesterday.

Our state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal has assured me that he and law enforcement are taking the utmost care to ensure our safety. However, only the investigation itself will determine the motive in this case. While it certainly seems the Jewish market, and possibly the Jewish community was targeted, there are many complexities that must be investigated in order to determine whether or not this will be legally classified as an anti-Semitic hate crime.

Attorney General Grewal is a longstanding supporter of the Jewish community and is a stalwart in ensuring that all investigations are conducted thoroughly and according to the law. He was, in fact, the Bergen County Prosecutor that oversaw the case against Akash Dalal and Anthony Graziano for their crimes against the Jewish community in 2012 that resulted in a guilty verdict on terrorism charges.

As a result of the complexities of this investigation, there will continue to be rumors and speculations. We are determined to support law enforcement in their efforts and will keep you posted based on information that becomes available.

Jerry Dargan, Federation's Director of Jewish Community Security, has been in contact with many local Jewish institutions and synagogues and assures me that all local municipal police departments, including Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties, are increasing their patrols. The Bergen County Prosecutor has deployed the rapid deployment team to conduct patrols at all the Jewish institutions throughout the Bergen County area. We encourage you to reach out to your local police department as well, and to remain vigilant.

There continues to be no known threat against the Jewish community.

There will be a community solidarity vigil tonight at Temple Beth El in Jersey City (2419 John F. Kennedy Blvd) at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join the community as it begins the healing process.

We are deeply saddened by the senseless loss of life. A police officer and three members of our Jewish family have been taken from us much too soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families as they mourn this tragic loss.

Federation's partner organizations are on standby to offer any necessary support services for the entire community.

We are continuing to monitor the situation. We will update you with more information as it becomes available.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping initial "J" and the name "ASON" written in a cursive, slightly slanted font.

Jason M. Shames
CEO, Jewish Federation

