



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-2071
Fax 804-786-1991

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Colonel Gary T. Settle
Superintendent
Virginia State Police
PO Box 27472
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Dear Colonel Settle:

According to the Commission to Combat Antisemitism's most recent report, Virginia has experienced an "increased frequency of antisemitic harassment and antisemitic vandalism at levels which have remained constant from 2018 to 2021. In 2021, 411 reported antisemitic incidents impacted residents of the Commonwealth." Last week, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released their annual audit and it showed that antisemitic incidents in the U.S. rose 36% in 2022. It was the third time in five years that the tally has been the highest number ever recorded since the ADL first began collecting data in 1979.

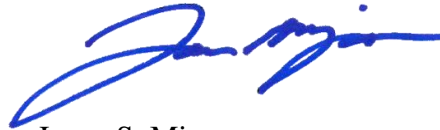
Over the last week, I visited Israel with a bipartisan group of Attorneys General from across America. We learned about the latest innovation and technology for public safety, but we also learned about the global fight against antisemitism. Unfortunately, Jews in various places around the world are experiencing increased threats to their safety. As I have repeatedly stated, it is the oldest and most sustained form of bigotry known to mankind. Our Jewish neighbors, family, and friends have endured this hatred for far too long.

To combat the growing number of hateful acts against Jewish people in the Commonwealth, I have created the Antisemitism Task Force within the Office of Attorney General. The mission of the Task Force includes four strategies: monitoring, information-gathering, educating, and investigating instances of antisemitism. In order to thoughtfully engage on these important issues, our public servants should be informed and trained to recognize acts of antisemitism. Therefore, I am respectfully asking you to include antisemitism training in your already robust training program for new officers. Specifically, I recommend visiting the Virginia

Holocaust Museum and participating in one of their educational sessions. I plan on encouraging police forces across Virginia to include antisemitism training as well. To eradicate antisemitism, it is important that our law enforcement officers are able to identify it. Should you have any questions regarding other educational opportunities, please contact David Brand, Special Assistant for Outreach, at dbrand@oag.state.va.us or (804) 659.9542.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continuing partnership with my office in working to keep the Commonwealth of Virginia a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. Please let me know if my office can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason S. Miyares', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia