

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
Legislator, District 16



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Public Works
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Budget Review

September 19, 2023

Patrick J. Ryder, Commissioner
Nassau County Police Department
1490 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

RE: Email bomb threats received by Long Island synagogues during Rosh Hashanah

Dear Commissioner Ryder:

I write today to thank you for increasing patrols of Jewish religious institutions in the aftermath of the disturbing revelation that three Nassau County synagogues received emailed bomb threats during the observance of Rosh Hashanah, and to request the Police Department's continued vigilance on all fronts with Yom Kippur set to begin at sundown on Sunday, Sept. 24.

While we are all relieved that these threats were determined to have been unfounded, the fact that bad actors would so brazenly target the Jewish community and seek to disrupt their observance of the high holidays is alarming, it represents an escalation in the pattern of antisemitic incidents that Nassau County residents have recently endured.

This includes the defacing of the grounds of local parks, elementary schools, and even the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County with swastikas. Furthermore, individuals associated with the so-called "Goyim Defense League" have targeted Nassau County communities, including neighborhoods within the 16th Legislative District, with deplorable, hate-filled leafleting campaigns.

These incidents are evidence of a national climate in which antisemitism is inhibiting the ability of Jewish Americans to feel secure and practice their faith freely and openly. According to the American Jewish Committee's "The State of Antisemitism in America 2022" report, 41 percent of American Jews feel less secure in America than they did one year ago, and 39 percent of Jewish Americans are changing where they go, what they wear, and what they post on social media because of the fear of antisemitism.

At this pivotal moment, it is more crucial than ever to strike directly at the heart of antisemitism and hatred in all its ugly forms. Considering the digital nature of these most recent threats and the start of Yom Kippur just days away, I respectfully encourage your department to redouble its monitoring of social media platforms and the shadowy crevices of the internet where these individuals lurk and plot their attempts to intimidate and harass Nassau residents.

As you move forward, please know that you have a dedicated partner in myself as you continue to pursue these crucial efforts. I stand ready to assist in any manner that you would deem beneficial and appropriate in my capacity as a Legislator and a member of the County's Task Force to Combat Antisemitism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arnold W. Drucker". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Arnold W. Drucker
Nassau County Legislator
16th Legislative District