



UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
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An Open Letter to Our Friends, Neighbors, and Community Partners:

Violence such as that which erupted in our neighboring county yesterday sends shockwaves through our community. Yesterday's tragedy impacts all of us, but two segments of our community were directly struck by this senseless loss of human life: our friends and neighbors of the Jewish faith and our colleagues in law enforcement. I write to tell you that Union County will not be home to hate or violence. My office is here to support the entire community, and most especially these two groups, in that effort.

The Office of the Attorney General, the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, our other state and federal partners, assure us that there is no evidence of an ongoing threat at this time. Nevertheless, the law enforcement community of Union County is stepping up patrols around schools, temples, synagogues, and Jewish community centers, in an abundance of caution. The full resources of our municipal and county departments, as well as the resources of my office, are available and at the ready. Please do not be alarmed by the precautionary increased presence of police in the community.

Please know that we are here to support you, and you should never hesitate to contact my office or your local department with any general safety concerns. Of course, call 911 with any imminent or emergent concerns, and know that you will have the full support of your local department and the entire county law enforcement community behind you. We also encourage you to come forward and immediately report any incidents of bias crimes or intimidation, and you may do so directly to your local department or to the Special Prosecutions Unit of my office.

We continue to keep Detective Seals, the victims of yesterday's violence, and their families, in our thoughts and in our hearts. Our sympathy goes out to a grieving department and a city in mourning. We must endeavor to find something positive to take away from senseless tragedy – a seemingly impossible task – yet out of tragedy, we will find a way to come together as a community to answer hate with love and violence with peace.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

LYNDSAY V. RUOTOLO
Acting Prosecutor of Union County