



CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

February 1, 2019

Dear Members of the Faith-Based Community:

Throughout the history of our nation, the United States has epitomized the truest definition of a great democracy, and has demonstrated to the world the value of freedom. This core principle of the American way of life is not only captured in our constitution, but is also memorialized in the way in which we live. Although this is a testament to our ability to coexist in a harmonious manner, it has not come without a price. The persistent pressures from domestic and international terrorists – and other violent extremists – with differing ideologies aim to threaten the fabric of our democracy, and we must collectively do what is necessary to protect our citizens, our infrastructure, and our American way of life.

In this dynamic threat environment, we face the reality that differences in ideology can result in attacks even in the most holy of places, as unfortunately demonstrated as recently as the October 2018 attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. In order to reduce the probability of another successful attack and mitigate the impacts of those that do occur, it is incumbent upon all of us to remain vigilant and collectively identify innovative risk mitigation solutions.

The core mission of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is to collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders to develop and disseminate resources that support risk mitigation. In partnership with entities such as the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, we provide resources that assist in securing physical and cyber infrastructure. I commend all of you for engaging with the Center as it demonstrates the importance you place on partnership, information sharing, and risk-mitigation; all of which support achieving the pinnacle of security practices.

In addition to the resources that the Center provides, I want to make you aware of the capabilities offered by CISA. Enclosed is the "Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places—Resource Guide," which provides information regarding our many resources available to support security at soft targets and crowded places. This includes training, planning tools, self-administered exercises, and facts sheets that can be used by houses of worship and other related venues. Also, I want to remind you that CISA maintains a cadre of protective security advisors (PSA) across the country who serve as trained critical infrastructure security and vulnerability mitigation subject matter experts and facilitate local activities such as assessments, training and exercises, product dissemination, and special event security planning. Please reach out to your local PSA for additional information; if you are not familiar with your local PSA, please contact NICC@hq.dhs.gov.

Thank you again for your commitment to enhance the security of our nation, and please know that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is dedicated to maintaining a strong partnership with the faith-based community and that we value your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Harrel", written over a white background.

Brian Harrel
Assistant Director of Infrastructure Security