



Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jessica Anderson, and I currently serve as the Regional Security Advisor for Oregon and SW Washington with Secure Community Network (SCN), a national non-profit responsible for the safety and security of Jewish communities in North America. Since the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has had a security director working with all Jewish organizations across the state to better prepare them from any type of antisemitic attack. I have been the director for the past three years.

I'm also a retired Supervisory Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I served in the FBI for 24 years and my last nine years as the supervisor in charge of International Terrorism investigations and coordination of the office's Joint Terrorism Task Force. I present my testimony today as someone with a longstanding background in safety and security practices and relationships with non-profit organizations in furtherance of those goals.

As a security adviser, my job functions fall into three primary areas: safety and security training, consulting with organizations regarding issues and incidents, and evaluating their physical space to address safety and security vulnerabilities. While my primary focus is Jewish organizations, I also consider it a duty and responsibility to share these skill sets with other organizations, and this has most commonly been with other religious denominations and service non-profits. In the past three years, I have conducted Threat and Vulnerability Risk Assessments (TVRA) on numerous organizations across the religious and non-profit spectrum. Every organization I've evaluated would benefit from some physical security improvements, and every leader at those organizations could articulate how and why they and their staff or community feel unsafe.

With ease, I can state that I have never worked with an organization that had sufficient funds in their operating budgets to cover needed safety and security improvements. Some common examples of these improvements are cameras, improved property access control measures, repairs or upgrades to doors/windows/locks, and security guards, just to name a few. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a yearly Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), the funding is difficult to obtain and narrowly focused on preventing terrorism. In Oregon, the requests for funding through the NSGP outpace the funds available by millions of dollars every year.

We know security improvements work, and I'd like to share some recent examples of how these practices have made a difference. In Spring 2022, a now-identified person conducted a series of arson and vandalism across Portland. His victim organizations were two Jewish synagogues, a

Muslim mosque, and a black-owned business. Critical in linking the crimes was camera footage from multiple buildings. The images proved to investigators that the vandalism was being conducted by one person. This information was shared through the media, and this led to his capture. In another instance, a now-identified man was observed on camera defacing a Eugene synagogue over multiple visits in late 2023 and early 2024. In one of those visits, the camera captured him with a hammer in his hand. As he reached up to smash the door, he saw the camera and instead yelled into the camera and graffitied the wall with the words “white power.” Again, the camera footage led to his identification, and he was recently convicted and sentenced.

In this case, the camera also served as a deterrent. When he saw the camera, he appeared to change (and lessen) his activity. The deterrent effects of security improvements are very difficult to quantify. How do we measure how often someone *doesn't* do something because of a security feature? We can't, but we can extrapolate from the example above and others that it can work.

Another example of deterrence is how potential bad actors react when challenged by security guards. In 2024, on multiple occasions in the Jewish community, vehicles and persons approaching a property turned away and left when approached by a security guard. Across the U.S., there are documented instances of criminal acts where, after the fact, the bad actor describes how they intended to target one location, and the presence of police or security caused them to change their target. This fact is not lost on Jewish communities, which are on the receiving end of over 60% of all religious bias crimes. Security at Jewish organizations is nearly universal and reflects the fear that community members routinely feel.

Non-profits play a vital role in our communities, and they can thrive and maximize their potential when they feel able to execute their core missions, knowing they work in safe environments. We know funds for safety and security help solve this problem, and I encourage Oregon to join other states that have created a state-funded nonprofit security grant program and support SB 939.