Emanuel Synagogue Security Committee

Status Report – 13 Mar 2022

Background

The security committee was tasked to review a security assessment report, also referred to as a TVRA Report (Threats, Vulnerabilities, Risk Assessment) issued by SCN (Secure Community Network). The assessment was conducted on Oct. 19, 2021, by John Colangelo (Community Security Director for Jewish Greater Hartford). This report identified 59 security vulnerabilities, which have been consolidated into twenty (20) issues, many of which are common issues that exist in multiple areas (example: inadequate security camera coverage, inadequate exterior lighting, etc).

Status of Review

The security committee has completed a review of the identified vulnerabilities and excluded those vulnerabilities that have already been addressed and mitigated by the 2019 Security Committee. The committee has evaluated feasibility and cost of mitigations to reduce risk going forward.

The current status of issues can be summarized as follows:

Twelve (12) vulnerability issues have been categorized as CLOSED

For example:

Vulnerabilities that have been addressed through physical changes or security protocols implemented in 2019 (such as installing anti-fragmentation window film, upgrades to interior door locks, adoption of controlled access at a single door, etc).

Vulnerabilities related to routine facility operation or maintenance that have been or are in the process of being implemented (such as adding locks to the dumpster gates, replacement of First Aid Kits, replacement of an inoperative Automated External Defibrillator (AED)).

Vulnerabilities related to inadequate outdoor lighting and insufficient means of emergency communication within the building. FEMA awarded a grant to the Emanuel to mitigate these issues in 2021 and work is underway to implement solutions.

Four (4) Vulnerability Issues have been categorized as OPEN

A number of the OPEN projects are candidates for inclusion the application for 2022 FEMA Security Grant. Development of detailed description and cost estimates of the selected projects will be required in the next several months.

For example:

Upgrade to the security camera system, addition of shades to lower windows in Koret Hall and Silverman Auditorium.

Eight (8) Vulnerability Issues have been categorized as ON HOLD

These issues are related to uncontrolled access to the parking lot, proximity of vehicles to the building, and risk from vehicles for groups of people attending religious or social activities conducted in the

parking lot, etc. Mitigating solutions have been evaluated, but further development remains on hold pending the final disposition of perimeter security solutions and the future use of outdoor space at the Emanuel for large gatherings.

Record of Security Committee Meetings

Meetings are held on Zoom hosted by Kobi Benita every two weeks, with 10 to 15 participants at each meeting.

Meeting, Jan 12, 2022

The committee reviewed a list of 59 vulnerabilities identified in the SCN report, consolidated into 20 common issues. Actions to investigate were assigned for a number of issues.

Meeting, Jan 26, 2022

The committee reviewed solutions for 10 high priority issues, with an extensive discussion on perimeter security. Action items from the meeting included the need to prepare estimates of feasibility, cost, and time frame for various options to address improved security of the parking lot and the building.

Meeting, Feb 10, 2022

The committee reviewed illustrations and costs estimates for various perimeter security and/or parking lot security solutions. Consensus recommendations of specific solutions to be proposed to the Board for perimeter security are being deferred until all other issues have been resolved.

As planned, the committee reached consensus on which projects should be included in the expected upcoming application for the 2022 FEMA grant program, recognizing that implementation of any security changes funded by a 2022 FEMA grant will not take place until the second quarter of 2023.

Meeting, Feb 24, 2022

The committee discussed 10 secondary priority issues and determined actions required to evaluate solutions.

Meeting, (March 9, 2022):

The security committee reached consensus on a path forward for the 10 secondary priority issues. including additional projects that could become candidates included in the application for the 2022 FEMA grant program.

Topics for Upcoming Security Committee Meetings

 Meeting: March 31, 2022:

The security committee will review and discuss a draft report to be delivered by **April 6, 2022**, to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees covering recommendations for implementation of necessary security upgrades, including those identified for application for a FEMA grant.

(Last Meeting (May Time Frame - date TBD)

The security committee will review and incorporate comments and decisions from the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees so that a final report on the SCN Security Assessment can be issued as a record document.

SECURITY COMMITTEE 2022

Alan Goodman
David Epstein
Elysa Graber-Lipperman
Gary Mendal
Hilda Slivka
Joel Kent
Ken Simon
Kirk Hipps
Kobi Benita
Rick Lasker
Stuart Mahler
Thomas Mastronarde
John Pitigoff
Howard Smith
Marshall Soltz
Mark Jacobson