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HUNTERDON AND WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE PRESENT SECURITY AND RISK MITIGATION TRAINING FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns III, and Warren County Prosecutor Richard T. Burke announce the recent Security and Risk Mitigation training attended by law enforcement members, faith based leaders, and support staff. The purpose of the training was to promote safety and security for houses of worship. On Monday, December 11, 2017, over 75 attendees met at South Ridge Community Church in Clinton to formulate plans and strategies to improve security measures at houses of worship.

The Prosecutor's security initiative was established to address security concerns for houses of worship, religious community centers and classrooms. The focus of this initiative is to promote awareness, mitigate risks, and address appropriate security and response protocols to incidents and crisis.

The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Safe Campus Initiative established uniform Standard Response Protocols for emergencies in schools throughout Hunterdon County. Since 2012, the Prosecutor's Office has trained school administrators, teachers, students, and staff members to adopt common language and responses to various types of school related emergencies, including active shooter events. These security initiatives are now being expanded to include Hunterdon's business community and faith based organizations.

The presentation was organized in partnership with the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, One Voice of Hunterdon and the Safe Communities Coalition of Hunterdon-Somerset, and was hosted by the South Ridge Community Church.

Prosecutor Kearns stated, "We can not ignore the potential for violence perpetrated against peaceful citizens while practicing their faith. We have an obligation to bring forth measures to assist faith based organizations to be better prepared to deal with these types of crisis."

Lt. Kevin Burd of the Hunterdon County Prosecutors and Bill Eppell of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office conducted the presentation that focused on the response to crimes and

violence committed at houses of worship. Clergy, staff and volunteers were provided information on reducing their risks and how they might respond to respond to crime and violence.

Included in the presentation was direction on how to access resources and materials specifically designed for the religious institutions by FEMA, Department of Homeland Security and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security.

The presentation was attended by a diverse group of faith based representatives. The opening prayer was conducted by Pastor Nathan Tuckey. Father Harry Mazujian of Flemington's Calvary Episcopal Church, spoke about the One Voice initiative and its commitment to bring together law enforcement and our faith based leaders to address problems affecting our community.

Prosecutor Kearns stated, "We are grateful to Pastor Nathan Tuckey of South Ridge Community Church for allowing us to bring our faith based community together to address these important issues. Together with One Voice, we are committed to addressing matters that affect the quality of life here in Hunterdon."

For more on One Voice go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ5bh-VewSs> also go to <http://www.safecoalition.org/523-one-voice>

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling **Crime Stoppers** at 1-800-321-0010 or by going to **www.crimestoppershunterdon.com**, or text messaging "HCTIPS" plus your tip message to 274637 (CRIMES). Tipsters can also download the free mobile app "Tipsubmit" and select Hunterdon County to submit anonymous tips via text messaging. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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