



What's Being Done - And What Can We Do – About Threats To Our Community's Safety?

Bomb threats throughout the United States and abroad have been on the rise for many months. Thank G-d, due to the coordinated efforts of all of our law enforcements organizations, two individuals were recently apprehended and charged with making the threatening calls to JCCs across the country. These specific threats have ceased since the arrests, but in these ever changing times, we need to remain vigilant in all aspects of security and safety for our citizens. To that end, we reached out to Ray Hanna, a Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Protective Security Coordination Division.

As a PSA, Mr. Hanna's responsibility is to be a conduit between DHS and various levels of governments, law enforcement, emergency management, and most importantly with the private sector since 85% of the entities that DHS is trying to protect around the country are owned and operated by the private sector. In order to help protect our nation, DHS offers the public and private sectors free anti-terrorism training, improvised explosive device (IED) training, and active shooter



training. DHS also offers Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection (ECIP) Program briefings, which is a presentation of the tools, assessment, and training that DHS can provide and coordinates with other agencies to support the community.

Mr. Hanna recently provided, for example, an ECIP briefing for the Baltimore JCC leadership, where he performed several walk-throughs well before the recent threats occurred. Chief Hyatt from the Baltimore Police Department; Captain Scott Cantor of the Baltimore County Police Department; and Director Pete Landon, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, were at the briefing.

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Community Alert: Paving Scam

The Baltimore County Police Department reports that subjects are traveling in our area and offering driveway services such as asphalt and tar coating. They present the customer with a contract offering driveway services and take the initial deposit and are never heard from again. Always research companies, check with the Better Business Bureau and Office of the Attorney General, and get references before signing any contract or giving any type of deposit. Please be aware there are many types of home improvement scams not limited to driveway repair, roof repair, tree services etc. A good rule of thumb is: if you did not solicit the company for work, then you are not interested.



If you can, get a good description of the subjects and vehicles soliciting such services, then call 911 for police to respond. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Additional Police Coverage on Passover

The Baltimore Police Department informed the NWCP that there will be additional police patrols in our community during the Passover holiday. The patrols will consist of Motorized patrol and foot patrol. Please remember to report all suspicious activity by calling 911.



We acknowledge and thank the Commanders of the Northwest District Major Latanya Lewis and Captain Jason Yerg for all this extra coverage and all the good work they, and the Baltimore City Police Department do for our community.

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DPW Cautions Citizens: Possible Scams

Baltimore City Department of Public Works Director, Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., is advising Baltimore metropolitan water customers to be aware that private individuals are making the rounds to either scam the public, or to sell them unnecessary water filtration systems.

Postcards and telephone calls have been sent to area residents asking for them to make an appointment to discuss their water quality. These are not from the Baltimore City Department of Public Works and should be ignored. The name of the company is not on these postcards, some of which are titled "WATER UPDATE".



Sample postcard

In the past, Public Works impostors, posing as employees, have misled citizens into letting them inside their homes by saying that they are checking on low water pressure, leaks or other water-related problems. Once inside a home, they distract the resident, steal items of opportunity and then flee. Citizens should be aware that imposters often wear what appears to be "official looking" clothing. These cards and calls are a way to gain entry into homes in order to steal.

Citizens should remember the following:

No Public Works employee will ever come to your home unless you have requested assistance and an appointment has been made.

- Department of Public Works employees are not authorized to enter your home without your permission.
- Always ask to see a Baltimore City employee identification card which includes a photograph.
- Report any and all suspicious activity to the Police Department by dialing 911 immediately.

For non-emergency questions about water related work, Baltimore City residents may call 311. Outside the City, please call 410-396-5352.

Quotable Notables

Christopher T. McDonold, Executive Director, Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council.

He has been executive director for 18 months and Deputy Director for three years prior. "I wish we could somehow put patrols like NWCP in all the areas covered by the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council."

"The best way to prevent auto theft is to lock your car and take the key with you." Too many people leave the key in the ignition while they go get a cup of coffee. Then the car gets stolen. Remote starters are okay, but only if the car would shut down as soon as some unauthorized person would get into the car.



IRS Scam

Chaim Harris
Senior Security Consultant
The Attack

Internet criminals are sending fake emails with attachments, text messages, making phone calls, and even sending traditional postal "snail" mail letters claiming to be from the IRS and using a phony Form CP 2000.

A legitimate CP 2000 is "snail" mailed by the IRS to the taxpayer when income reported by the employer does not match the income reported on the taxpayer's income tax return.

The fake IRS letter that accompanies the phony IRS form relates to the Affordable Care Act, to scare potential victims. The criminals are extorting cash from victims, but this attack could also be used to infect victims with a computer virus (using email and the phony IRS form).

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration is currently investigating this scam. The real Form CP 2000 is a 6-page form with instructions about what steps to take, whether you agree or disagree with the IRS assessment.



How to Protect Yourself

The IRS will never initiate contact with you to collect overdue taxes by email, text message, or phone call. If you get emails, text messages, "snail" mail or even phone calls from someone purporting to be from the IRS, do not respond and/or hang up the phone!

If you receive a "CP 2000" form in the mail, call the IRS at 1-800-366-4484 to confirm whether it is a scam or not.

For more information, go to: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>

President's Corner



With Spring arriving, along with later sunsets and warmer

weather, we need to be extra vigilant. We will be seeing more of our neighbors outside, which is a great thing. But we may also be seeing more strangers in our neighborhoods. We need to be welcoming to all, but just be wary of suspicious activity. Please call the NWCP at 410-664-6927 if you see anything out of the ordinary. If you see any presently occurring criminal activity call 911 immediately. If you see anything else, you may want to call MCAC. See the Community Safety article on page one.

On behalf of the NWCP, and all the volunteers at the NWCP, I would like to wish the entire community a safe and happy holiday season.



Neil
Neil (Nachy) Schachter

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An assessment was conducted at the JCCs to identify vulnerabilities, available resources were explained and low- or no-cost options were explored for consideration, as well as ideas about how to harden the physical posture of both these facilities. Mr. Hanna has actually worked with the Jewish communities in the Greater Baltimore area during his entire 12 years at DHS, including coordinating with Major Keith Tiedemann, Chief of Security for THE ASSOCIATED, and Mr. Barak Hermann, President of the JCC of Greater Baltimore. The JCCs are just one example of institutions receiving security assistance from Mr. Hanna and the DHS.

Mr. Hanna says that DHS remains concerned about explosive devices being used in terrorist attacks. An IED can be anything. It can be a pair of shoes, such as in the Richard Reid incident where he tried to ignite them on a plane. It can be a briefcase. It can be a pipe, it can be a pressure cooker, and it can be a vehicle. If it's made by somebody, whether a kid in his basement or a bomb maker for Al Qaida, it's an IED. The IED training the DHS gives is basically Bombing 101 familiarization training.



DHS also offers active shooter training as mentioned above. A couple of weeks ago, for example, DHS had an 8-hour active shooter presentation at Camden Yards. David Mitnick, Senior Building Director of the JCC, was at the course and reported that it was very beneficial. Over one hundred people attended, including representatives of places of worship, businesses, and community centers, both inside and outside of the Jewish community. Most of the DHS trainings are for 1- or 2-days.

Mr. Hanna offers some recommendations:

- Always be aware of your surroundings. Just look for things that are out of the ordinary, things that don't belong.
- Go onto the Internet and google DHS Active Shooter Presentation. It's a 3-minute video that is shown at every DHS presentation. It helps people know how to respond during an Active Shooter Incident using the Run-Hide-Fight methodology.



- The best advice for a school or other facility is to invite your local police department in. You don't want the first day that your local police department is at your facility to be when something bad has happened. You want them to be familiar with the facility; you want them to know

how you're going to respond and you need to know how they're going to respond.

- Schools, places of worship, organizations, etc. should reach out to DHS and have Mr. Hanna come tour their facility, offer training, offer an active shooter presentation, offer materials that will help better identify and react to active incidents.
- Someone who sees current and potentially criminal activity should immediately call 911.

For all other suspicious activity there is a second option. After 9/11, every state established a Criminal Intelligence Fusion Center. In Maryland that is the Maryland Coordination Analysis Center (MCAC). Members of local, state and federal law enforcement staff the MCAC. If someone sees something that is potentially suspicious or has an uneasy feeling about something they see or hear, they should call MCAC (1-800-492-TIPS (8477)). Mr. Hanna advises that if one is not sure if a threat is imminent, one should always err on the side of calling 911.

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We urge everyone to join the ranks of the NWCP. Especially in these times we need every pair of eyes patrolling our neighborhoods to keep our streets safe. Call 410-664-6927 TODAY!

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Think of MCAC as the national 311 equivalent.

• MCAC will take the information, they're not going to laugh or not take it seriously. MCAC knows that out of 1,000 calls, only one may be a valuable tip that actually stops a crime or an attack, but that's what they're there for.

• MCAC is connected to all the fusion centers across the country and all the FBI offices across the country. So, for example, if someone calls in a tag number from Maryland involved in a suspicious activity, MCAC can plug that information into the national FBI database. The



www.mcac.maryland.gov

database may show that a car with that tag number was not only at a nuclear facility in Maryland but two days earlier was at a nuclear facility in Virginia. This putting together of information will most likely result in an investigation by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Mr. Hanna stressed that hometown security starts at home. Security is everybody's job, not just the responsibility of police officers.

On behalf of the community, The Northwest Citizens Patrol thanks Mr. Hanna for his very important work and for taking the time to speak with us. He can be reached at Raymond.A.Hanna@DHS.Gov.

WHAT DOES THE NWCP DO?

Neighborhood Patrol
Project Recourse
Watch Your Home Program
Citizen Protection Program
Event Protection
Auto Theft Protection
Home Security Surveys
Cyber Security

See:

<http://nwcp.info>

"Ask what the NWCP can do for you, AND ask what you can do for the NWCP!"

The Baltimore Chesed League

The Baltimore Chesed League, with its goal of involving children in acts of kindness and charitable work, recently assisted the Northwest Citizens Patrol by cleaning our Patrol Car before Pesach. Team *David Flamm Nationwide Insurance*, fully armed with vacuum cleaners, cleaning fluid, window cleaner and lots and lots of rags, cleaned their way from the inside



L-R: Yair Ziffer, Rafi Lerner, Rafi Shnidman, Moshe Lerner

to the outside of the Patrol Car. The final really beautiful touch was that they even waxed the outside of the car. The Patrol car never looked so good!

Everybody was happy with a job well done and we were told by their leader that the boys appreciated the opportunity to give back and help an organization that does so much for our community. Great work boys; we are proud of all of you. And please, come back next year! 😊



Letters to the Editor

Please let Major Lewis know how much I enjoyed her interview in the March issue. She is an inspiration to all of us. 20 years ago, working as a meter maid as a single mother with a 1-year old, she had the courage to become a police officer. Rising in the police force to the rank of Major while raising a daughter, who is now finishing college with a major in psychology, Major Lewis shows us that with hard work, one can be successful both as a parent and a professional. After just one year in the Northwest District, Major Lewis said that she has already grown from the experience to be more well-rounded.

I am proud to have Major Lewis as commander of the Northwest District, leading the fight against crime, and excelling in the values I try to live by and instill in my children.

Scott Klein



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