NWCP
Northwest Citizens Patrol
the CITIZEN news & views
Volume 1 – Issue 10
Recognized Nationwide as the Leader in Community Patrolling & Safety
May 2017

Chief Melissa Hyatt, Baltimore Police Department
Special Operations and Development Division

Chief Melissa Hyatt directs the Special Operations and Development Division of the Baltimore Police Department. Her vast and varied responsibilities include command of the Special Operations section, including SWAT, aviation, canine and mounted police as well as the Professional Development and Training Academy, which is the Police Academy at Park Heights and Northern Parkway. She is also in charge of the Recruitment and Communications sections of the police department.

The following is an excerpt from an interview the NWCP conducted with Colonel Hyatt:

NWCP: You have a huge job! It must be very interesting.

MH: Yes. It is very diverse and keeps me busy and on my toes.

NWCP: Special Operations, would that entail security problems in the Jewish community?

MH: Some of it would fall under Special Operations, for example our bomb techs, our SWAT team and canines. Some of it is district level, so that would fall under the patrol side in the Northwest District, one of our 9 districts. My last assignment before becoming Chief of Special Operations and Development was Chief of Patrol, so I'm very familiar with that.

NWCP: Can we speak a little to the current security situation?

MH: Anytime we have an incident, scare or threat, from the point of view of law enforcement,

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Major Keith Tiedemann, Security Director, Jewish Community Federation

Major Keith Teidemann is the Security Director for the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. Prior to assuming this position, he was part of the Baltimore City Police Department (BCPD) for over 30 years. His last position with BCPD was as Commander of our Northwest District.

Two of Major Tiedemann's main responsibilities are: 1) coordinating and communicating any security concerns between the various community organizations and federal, state and local law enforcement; and 2) conducting security assessments for any community organizations that request this service.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY COUNCILMAN SCHLEIFER

Neil Schachter

I arrived at City Hall for my appointment with Councilman Issac Yitzy Schleifer to present him with a special NWCP birthday cake. I was told that he was running a little late because of a long breakfast meeting he was just finishing. While I was waiting, the individuals arrived for his next meeting which concerned efforts to lower city taxes. And this was all just the first part of Councilman Schleifer's very busy day. On behalf of the citizens of the 41st district, thank you Yitzy

for all the hard work you are doing for your constituents and wishing you a very happy birthday with many more healthy years enjoyed with your family.

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Coordination and Communication

The communication system that Major Tiedemann uses has a high level of sophistication and effectiveness. In October of 2016, Baltimore was one of three communities selected to pilot the Emergency Alert System. This is an electronic list of community representatives which has grown from about 60 to 130 names in just the last four months. When important security information needs to be quickly disseminated, everyone on the list gets a phone call and text message on their cell phones as well as an e-mail message. This allows for very fast, efficient communication.

Paul Goldenberg, National Director of the Secure Community Network (SCN) of the Jewish Federations of North America, had visited Baltimore twice. Major Tiedemann explained that Mr. Goldenberg was so impressed with our community's security, SCN selected Baltimore as one of the pilot cities. The pilot was very successful, and when it went out to the other communities in the United States, they cited the experience in Baltimore.

Security Assessments

Major Tiedemann has found that the organizations he has met with in the Jewish community are taking security issues very seriously. He does free security assessments for any Jewish organization in the Baltimore area that requests it. He has met with over 65 Jewish day schools and synagogues since joining the Associated. He even does assessments for organizations outside of Baltimore. With each assessment, Major Tiedemann will visit the facility and analyze what that facility's safety needs are. He then will issue a written report with recommendations. He also works with organizations trying to help them get Federal Security Grants. Major Tiedemann explained that for small synagogues and schools, they need that federal grant money to afford any significant security improvements. He reviews the grant proposals before they are submitted to the Department of Homeland Security to give them their best chance of success.

Major Tiedemann has been working closely with the Jewish schools in Baltimore, and he stated that he has been getting outstanding cooperation from the schools. A local day school had a lock down drill recently, and the entire school was locked down in 18 seconds. Local high and middle schools also conducted lock down drills, and both schools were locked down in 25 seconds.

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Thank You to the NWCP - from the Westchester Patrol

By: Paul Buker

About seven years ago, a group of us wanted to start a neighborhood watch group in Catonsville, but we were unsure of how to go about it. Having worked in the Baltimore City Police Department (Northwest District) as an Officer, I was aware of the effectiveness of the NWCP, so my first phone call was to Neil Schachter, President of the Northwest Citizens Patrol. Neil was gracious, helpful and offered to meet with us to provide insight and advice. Some of the best pieces of advice he gave us were to avoid overextending our volunteers and only taking on what we could reasonably accomplish. He told us that we would need to be patient and persistent, to expect growth spurts and contractions, and to expect victories and frustrations. All of these things have come to pass in the last seven years.

The Westchester Citizens Patrol, located in Catonsville, Maryland was formed in 2010 with the help of Neil Schachter of the NWCP as well as the Baltimore County Police and their Outreach Division. Today we have an extensive email contact list, an active Facebook presence, and an active weekend patrol with the hope and expectation to expand our patrols. We also provide training for our volunteers, coordinate with a neighboring C.O.P. and are active in our monthly Police precinct meetings. Our C.O.P. is in regular communication with local Police and has a good relationship with them. Neil and the NWCP have been an invaluable resource and we look forward to an ongoing relationship.

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President's Corner

Have you ever wondered where Baltimore got the nickname Charm City? I looked it up. It grew out of creative conferences among four of the city's leading advertising executives and creative directors: Dan Loden and art director Stan Paulus of VanSant/Dugdale; Herb Fried and writer Bill Evans from W. B. Donor. As leaders of the city's largest advertising agencies, they had come together at then Mayor William Donald Schaefer's request to "come up with something to promote the city." It was Bill Evans who wrote the line that set it all going: "Baltimore has more history and unspoiled charm tucked away in quiet corners than most American cities out in the spotlight."

I would like to suggest that each of us help Baltimore live up to its nickname by greeting our neighbors with a smile and a pleasant good morning, good afternoon or good evening – whatever is appropriate at the moment. Not only does this make life a bit more pleasant for those around us, it can actually make us all safer as well. Neighbors who are friendly toward one another tend to get along better and this leads to safer, more stable neighborhoods. So I will start by saying good morning, good afternoon or good evening depending on when you are reading this. ☺

Neil

Neil (Nachy) Schachter

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we always take it seriously. For all of the times that we have these types of threats, even though the majority of them end up being unfounded, there are incidents that do occur locally and across the nation and the world, so we always take it seriously. In my job, I'm mostly focused on what's going on in our city, but I'm also cognizant of what's going on outside of our city. I work very closely with Ray Hanna from Homeland Security. He does a phenomenal job of making us aware of what's going on outside of Baltimore so we do not work in a bubble. I also work closely with Major Keith Tiedemann, so when there's an incident at a JCC outside of Baltimore, I'm immediately aware that something's occurred. Our system of response is continuing to improve and become more efficient.

NWCP: Thank G-d, the threats to the JCCs across the county stopped when the alleged perpetrators were taken into custody. After dealing with so many of these threats recently, would you have any advice you want to share?

MH: I think what's most important in any of these circumstances is that the faster authorities get notified, the better our response will be. If somebody gets some kind of threat or notification, even while they're in the middle of dealing with that threat, they should have somebody contact 911 which enables us to get our wheels rolling and gives us a better opportunity to mitigate whatever the threat, or perceived threat is. That's probably the point that I would drive home.

Comm. Davis, Chief Hyatt, Neil Schachter

NWCP: That would go to our next question: What can people in the Baltimore Jewish community do to help you protect us?

MH: The most important thing is to have an emergency action plan. This is something I always preach about. The reason why I do that is although every situation is not the same, having a general plan of action for the entire facility about how to react to a threat will prepare a facility as best as they can be prepared.

NWCP: Do the schools have emergency action plans? Do you feel they are sufficiently prepared and on board with your department in the current climate?

MH: Some places are better prepared than others. We have an open invitation to all facilities to work with them to improve security and that invitation always stands. If somebody wants help, between us and the Department of Homeland Security, we do threat assessments and upgrading security plans. Right now, in fact, there are multiple institutions that we helping to make improvements and upgrade their plans.

Chief Hyatt, Rikki Spector, Chief of Patrol Osborne Robinson, Deputy Comm. Jason Johnson, Comm. Davis

NWCP: If someone wants a threat assessment for their facility, who should they contact first - Homeland Security or the Baltimore Police Department?

MH: They could either get in touch with their commander at the Police Department, or else Ray Hanna in Homeland Security.

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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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NWCP: What is the division of labor between the Baltimore Police Department Special Operations Department and Homeland Security? If there's a threat, how would you divide that up? It sounds like you work together, but would you be the first responder and then they would come in?

MH: Anytime you call 911 in the city of Baltimore, the Baltimore Police Department is going to be the primary response and we will be the lead agency. Department of Homeland Security supports us, helping us manage security concerns, giving us threat assessments and things like that. We would not rely on them for operational assistance. We would rely on them for support. And they do a fantastic job. Ray Hanna makes himself constantly available and we collaborate on a lot of different projects. I'm generally the Incident Commander for the majority of the major events in Baltimore City and we work very closely with him addressing concerns and vulnerabilities.

NWCP: We wish you the best. Thank you very much for the excellent job you're doing in helping to protect our community. We really appreciate it.

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

Major Teidemann continued from page 2…

Dealing with Bomb Threats

In this last spate of bomb threats over the winter, there were 162 total bomb threats to Jewish community organizations in the United States and four Canadian provinces. Most (138) came via live phone calls and robo calls; 27 came via e-mail. "All threats are treated as credible until determined otherwise." Federal, state and local police departments carefully analyzed the JCC bomb threats, and they were deemed essentially non-credible. There were major clues in the messages that convinced law enforcement that the sender had no ability to carry out any of his threats. But they did not want to take any chances, particularly with so many young children attending day care at these JCC's.

Interestingly, Major Tiedemann did point out that never in United States law enforcement history did a warning precede a bomb explosion. There have been all too many bomb explosions with tragic consequences (*e.g.,* the Afred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, and the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013) but there was no warning in any of them. All phoned in bomb threats have been hoaxes. Once the bombs go off, organizations like ISIS take credit. In those cases, the goal is not to warn anyone, but to create as much carnage as possible. To his knowledge, the only warning that preceded a bomb going off in any country was the King David Hotel bombing in Jerusalem in 1946.

Vandalism in Synagogues and Jewish Cemeteries

While synagogue vandalism has been very minimal, any vandalism is taken very seriously. Recently, there was some anti-Semitic graffiti placed on an Associated sign on the grounds of the Lloyd Street synagogue and Jewish Museum of Maryland. It was quickly reported to the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Police responded very rapidly. In regard to cemetery vandalism, Marc Smolarz of the Associated met with Major Tiedemann right after the Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia was vandalized. The two of them got a list of all the Jewish cemeteries in the Baltimore area. Major Tiedemann then sent the list to all local police departments. By the next morning, each police officer who had a Jewish cemetery in his patrolling area was provided information about those cemeteries. Fortunately, there have been no reports of any cemetery vandalism here.

How can people protect themselves?

"This is the time for vigilance and awareness. 'If you see something, say something'" said Major Tiedemann. "Call it in. If you do not want to call, get someone else to call. Our police departments are our first line of defense. The Northwest District is one of the last strongholds in Baltimore City. Citizens in this area really care, and NWCP and Shomrim are part of that success."

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