



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2018

Dear Sheriffs and Police Chiefs:

On Saturday, our nation witnessed a shocking and horrific anti-Semitic attack that took 11 innocent lives in Pittsburgh. Immediately following this act of violence and hatred, I directed the Florida Highway Patrol to work with your agencies to enhance police protection at religious institutions across Florida. I appreciate your dedication to keeping your communities safe. It is because of your work that Florida has reached a 47-year low in crime. Working together, we took an important first step in protecting our citizens as they gather to worship, but we must continue to do more.

After meeting with faith leaders this week, I have identified additional ways to help increase and enhance security measures at religious institutions. This includes additional threat and security assessments conducted by your officers at religious institutions. I am asking that you provide each religious institution in your community the ability to request a threat and security assessment. I am a strong believer that you, local law enforcement professionals, are best suited to keep your communities safe. I ask that you identify a person in your agency that can serve as a point of contact for religious leaders who request your advice and expertise.

Today, I am also requesting that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) make the same resources available to religious leaders across Florida. FDLE will offer to meet with religious leaders at their request to provide information and details to keep Floridians safe. Everyone in Florida deserves the opportunity to worship peacefully in a safe environment. FDLE can provide information to these communities to help them make informed decisions on safety.

Again, thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that working together, we can help keep all of our families safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor

cc: Commissioner Rick Swearingen, FDLE