



October 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The Community Center of the Bukharian Jews of Colorado D.B.A. Ohr Avner, faces serious security concerns at our property at 11100 E Mississippi Ave, Aurora CO 80012.

After a thorough security assessment, it was determined that the Ohr Avner faces threats of break-ins, trespassing, terror attacks, and kidnappings. Security issues identified were a lack of perimeter barrier, glass doors, and broken windows.

“The lack of any perimeter barriers of any kind make it very difficult to control entry onto the facility and allow for easy observation of the buildings. We believe these two factors would make it easy for a potential active shooter to stake out and observe the facility as well as the congregation’s movements and habits. A sudden entry into either of the buildings would also be a relatively simple task. “ – HCI Security

Furthermore, in the last year, the Community Center has faced attempted child abductions. There has also been an increased threat due to the current war between Hamas and Israel that has heightened tensions around The World. The Aurora Police Department has noted the lack of hard security at Ohr Avner and has sent out a memo noting our increased threat of terror attack at this time.

As part of the security assessment we were given the following recommendations:

1. “ We recommend that a privacy fence be built on the east and south sides of the property.
2. We recommend a security fence along the North and West of the synagogue to help provide target hardening and reduce risk of a drive by. We also suggest that in between the drive entry and exits a security fence is built in the front of the synagogue. This will help to reduce the foot and auto traffic we see coming through the property by eliminating “short cuts”.
3. We recommend installing access control for the parking lot to prevent random motorists from using the parking lot or from driving through the facility.
4. We recommend installing access control for both of the buildings main and rear doors.
5. We recommend changing out all entry/exterior doors of both buildings in order to help implement access controls and enhance security measures. These doors should

not be glass or should have glazing in order to prevent the glass from being shattered to gain entry or to prevent the glass from becoming a secondary weapon in the event of an explosion. The doors should also prevent observation into the buildings.

6. We recommend that all windows facing the main road have glazing, along with the windows in the mikvah, and the location where the children will be kept.
7. We recommend the addition of a security camera system along with a burglary security system (the cameras seen in the photos are not operational).
8. We recommend the use of no trespassing signs that also state that property is protected by armed security.
9. We recommend that the property should have an armed security professional on site whenever there are services or events.” – From a Report from HCI Security

We were able to implement advice numbers 7, 8, and 9 immediately. We installed security cameras inside and around the property, placed no trespassing signs, and have armed security at all times of attendance. We are working with a lock company for advice number 4 and are fundraising to complete advice number 6.

We then applied for The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) and were selected as a nonprofit organization that is at high risk of terrorist attack. The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is a Federal Grant that provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack. The organization must be assessed as high risk for attack to receive the funds.

The NSGP have allocated funding to address numbers 1,2,3, and 5.

This is where we need the partnership and support of the City of Aurora.

We are applying to install a perimeter fence around our property to secure the area against real and credible terrorist threat. As such, we need a security/privacy fence and automobile gates that reduce the risk of drive by attacks and observation opportunities. Therefore, the fence needs to be at least 6’ tall around the entire perimeter and the gates need to have no sight lines. By reducing sight and access we provide sit hardening against threat. Please see the attached images as examples.

We thank you for your partnership in ensuring the safety of The Community,



Rabbi David Arayev  
Spiritual Leader

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11100 E. Mississippi Ave. Aurora, Colorado. 80012 \* Your Address for any Jewish Matter

Rabbi David Arayev 720.338.2704 \* [arayevd770@gmail.com](mailto:arayevd770@gmail.com)

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