



**2023-2024 OFFICERS**

March 26, 2024

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*Chief Executive Officer*

JACOB SOLOMON

The Honorable Steven Meiner and Miami Beach Commissioners  
1755 Meridian Avenue  
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Mayor Meiner and Miami Beach Commissioners,

For nearly 90 years the Greater Miami Jewish Federation has served as a unifying force in the Miami Beach Jewish community, strengthening Jewish life and advancing the well-being of our people. We remain in proud collaboration and partnership with nearly all of the 150 Jewish organizations throughout Miami-Dade County, including Miami Beach's Jewish schools, JCCs, synagogues and other agencies. We write to express our profound gratitude to the Miami Beach Police Department for its unwavering commitment to protecting our community, most notably after the massive terror attack against Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023. As you are aware, that was the single deadliest day for the Jewish people worldwide since the Holocaust, and it served as a catalyst to a tremendous rise in overt antisemitism around the globe that unfortunately we are not immune to locally.

We are grateful for our numerous strong partnerships with law enforcement agencies in Miami-Dade County. However, the Miami Beach Jewish community and the Federation have enjoyed an especially close relationship with the City of Miami Beach and its police department. As you know, Miami Beach is home to one of the strongest, most vibrant Jewish communities in the nation. It is remarkable that such a diverse city and top-tier tourist destination with a disproportionately high demand on its law enforcement personnel has maintained such a degree of consideration to and protection of our Jewish community.

There are countless examples of the responsiveness that the Jewish community has received from law enforcement, initiated by Chief Wayne Jones and his executive team. We would like to share several with you.

*The Mission of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is to mobilize human and financial resources to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish life and advance the unity, values and shared purpose of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and around the world.*

The Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach is perhaps the single most visible, recognizable Jewish site in Miami-Dade and has received an incredible amount of attention and protection from the Miami Beach Police Department.

Staff members' calls are answered promptly, there is increased police presence upon request, and we have even noticed the efforts to increase the visibility of law enforcement during the evening hours in an effort to deter vandals and trespassers. The staff, docents and visitors, even during a time of increased antisemitism, feel as safe as ever.

This commitment has been further evidenced by the continuous presence of police and their vigilance at our Miami Beach synagogues and in our neighborhoods, as well as perhaps most notably our schools and Miami Beach JCC – the very places where our community's most precious commodity, our children, are most vulnerable.

Other notable actions are the police department's willing participation and collaboration with a variety of security teams at Jewish organizations, the potentially life-saving training it provides to synagogues, the weekly sharing of intelligence with our Office of Community Security at the Federation, and the comprehensive coordination with Federation in preparing for events that have potential security risks.

It is a delicate balance for law enforcement to engage with opposition groups and protestors, some of whom are antisemitic in nature and intent on disrupting Jewish spaces. Walking the line between protected speech and public safety is always challenging. We recognize while much of the behavior displayed by these groups and people is despicable, it is often not illegal. We commend Chief Jones and his excellent team for expertly navigating this difficult territory.

During one of the darkest and most fearful periods for our community in recent history and in an unparalleled time of need, Miami Beach, through its police department, has ushered into our community a feeling of safety that has been critical to our well-being and our continued way of life. Never has such support been more meaningful to us.

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation and our Jewish community are deeply moved by and grateful for this unwavering commitment.



**GREATER MIAMI  
JEWISH  
FEDERATION**

The Strength  
of a People.  
The Power  
of Community.

We are especially appreciative to your city and the commission members and staff for its leadership, and for the collaboration and commitment of Chief Jones, who has established a model for protecting Jewish communities from which we believe all police departments across the nation can learn and benefit.

Sincerely,

Ariel Bentata  
Chair of the Board

Jacob Solomon  
President and CEO

Barry Gurland  
Chair  
Office of Community Security

James Somohano  
Director  
Office of Community Security

Mojdeh Khaghan Danial  
Chair  
Jewish Community Relations Council

Joshua A. Sayles  
Director  
Jewish Community Relations  
and Government Affairs

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