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January 4, 2008

Hon. Rory I. Lancman
Member
New York State Assembly
704 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Lancman:

UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York are supportive of proposed legislation you will be introducing that will allocate \$10 million in State funds to support target hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are deemed at high risk of potential terrorist attack. Federal funds appropriated to date, while helpful, have not met the security needs of nonprofit organizations affiliated with the Jewish and broader community.

The July 2007 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) revealed intensified threats of al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and self-generating radical cells and individuals to the homeland over the next three years. Each of these terrorist categories poses a substantial threat to vulnerable segments of the nonprofit sector. This nexus between the NIE's assessment of elevated threat across a number of categories of terrorists and vulnerable segments of the nonprofit sector warrants the authorization of a nonprofit security program funded by New York State.

This threat is neither theoretical nor exaggerated. On October 10, 2006 Scott Shane and Lowell Bergman of the *The New York Times*, in a story for the *International Herald Tribune*, reported on a 2005 plot targeting synagogues and other Jewish sites in Los Angeles. On July 28, 2006, a man who described himself as a Muslim American angry with Israel, forced his way into the Jewish federation of Greater Seattle by gunpoint and killed one woman and shot five others.

We applaud your efforts to secure at risk nonprofit sites.

UJA-Federation is the major Jewish philanthropy in the New York City metropolitan area supporting a comprehensive network of more than 100 caring agencies. Each offers dozens, even hundreds, of specific programs, services and facilities to enrich the lives of people living in Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York serves as the central coordinating and resource body for community relations issues within the Jewish community in the New York metropolitan area. JCRC is an umbrella organization for more than 60 civic, communal, educational and religious organizations. Security is one of the key issues on the JCRC agenda.

Sincerely,

{ EMBED Imaging.Document }

Ron Soloway

Managing Director

Government and External Relations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Pollock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

David Pollock

Associate Executive Director

Jewish Community Relations of New York, Inc.

Filename: Lancman - Assemblyman Ltr2.doc
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\user\Local Settings\Temporary
Internet Files\OLKCED
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