Federal funds through grants help continue to protect Temple Bnai Shalom, a vibrant church in East Brunswick

By **user** - September 23, 2022

EAST BRUNSWICK – Federal funds under the Nonprofit Security Grant Program will help continue to protect a facility used by Temple Bnai Shalom and Vibrant Church.

"The First Amendment to the Constitution protects our legal right to freely exercise our religious beliefs, but we must ensure that members of the community can safely exercise that right," said Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12). "Investments like this one made through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program can help provide security and peace of mind to people of faith in every community.

Coleman, a member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, visited local houses of worship earlier this month to review security improvements funded by the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), a federal grant that funds targeted fortification and other physical improvements. security and operations of nonprofit organizations at high risk of terrorist attack, according to a press release through the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

During the tour, Coleman saw first-hand how NSGP assets have been used to enhance security at the facility,

including the use of bollards, CCTV and access control features that protect the building's perimeter and entrances, as well as other advanced indoor security measures , which protect people who work, use and visit the building and the territory.

"As the security needs of religious and other vulnerable organizations grow, the Jewish Federation is committed to supporting elected leaders in realizing the full potential and impact of the NSGP," said Dan Rosette, Jewish Federation Manager, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).

"The Jewish community thanks Congressman Watson Coleman for her interest in the types of improvements NSGP makes possible and how they are designed to save lives"

The congresswoman was joined by East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen, East Brunswick Township Economic Development Specialist Robert Zuckerman, Temple Bnai Shalom Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer, South Brunswick Mayor Charlie Carley and others from the JCRC, Coleman & Cohen office, according to a press release.

"The Jewish Federation was excited to showcase the grantee's use of NSGP funds and advocate on behalf of all nonprofits in Monmouth and Greater Middlesex Counties to align the scope and funding of the NSGP with the changing security landscape," said Amy Keller, Director of Initiatives on security at the Jewish Federation in the heart of New Jersey.

Keller explained that the federation is also working with Jewish nonprofits in Monmouth and Greater Middlesex Counties to streamline NSGP applications as well as implement the award. To date, helping them secure more than $11 million in federal NSGP grants, New Jersey NSGP grants, and other community grants.

"The Federation is proud to support and enhance community safety in significant ways. We encourage all nonprofits to take full advantage of the NSGP and applaud our legislators for their support," said Susan Antman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

Cohen said, "It's unfortunate that security has become such an important component of maintaining our house of worship."

"On behalf of our East Brunswick community, I would like to say thank you [Coleman] for her efforts to bring federal NSGP money to our faith communities," he said.

The Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey strengthens the Jewish community's ability to care for vulnerable populations, repel and defend against hate and anti-Semitism, and inspire and empower young people to build bright and caring futures, according to a press release.

Source link