

February 3, 2022
Hello Shutesbury,

On January 15, 2022 one of our Nation's Jewish Communities suffered a terrorist attack. Hostages at Colleyville's Congregation Beth Israel were held by a gunman in a standoff that lasted 11 hours. The FBI has determined this to be a terrorist attack and hate crime.

The Shutesbury Police Department would like to take this opportunity to state, we firmly stand with our Jewish Community, and vow to protect and keep safe those that have been affected by the vicious anti-Semitic events.

I invite our Jewish community members and all community members to reach out to me for conversation and understanding. I continue to ensure the beautiful Town of Shutesbury and all the residents and visitors that this Department is a safe place to come and share concerns openly, and freely.

We will be continuing our patrols through town and adding extra checks to our Jewish Cemetery.

I personally have reached out to Rabbi Ben Weiner to assure that he is aware of our support in whatever facet we are needed. We will continue to provide the constant safeguarding that we hold paramount to serving this community.

The Texastribune.org wrote "In addition, attacks and hate acts against Jewish people are on the rise. Over the past five years, anti-Semitic incidents have increased by 60%, according to the Anti-Defamation League, an anti-hate organization. Advocates fear last weekend's hostage situation could spur further violence and threats."

Respectfully,
Acting Chief Kristin Burgess