



To: TI Congregation
From: Hal Cohen, Security Subcommittee lead
Date: October 9, 2023

In light of the unsettling events of this past week, a number of congregants have inquired about TI's security posture. I'd like to take this space to make sure everyone knows that we have a robust security program that has been developed in consultation with experts over the past several years.

We do not generally determine our security posture in reaction to anything but specific threats. Rather, *we maintain a maximal security posture at all times* when there are gatherings of any size in the building. But as we do this, we deliberately keep the visual cues related to our security posture understated, so as not to make our community feel "militarized."

Our baseline security presence includes our trained security manager and *shomrim*, who are TI members and know the community best. Shomrim are backed up by a professional contract-security service that supplies *trained security guards with extensive field experience* who can proactively respond to apparent or emergent threats, and who can also step in to support the *shomrim* as needed. *We lock all the doors at all times* and control entry on a person-by-person basis, and we reserve the rights (and exercise them) to check bags, respectfully interview potential entrants, and refuse entry as indicated.

In the event of an emergency, security volunteers and staff have panic buttons that go directly to 911 and draw a rapid response from the DC police (MPD). We have been working with Ohev Shalom to develop the ability to communicate directly with their security resources in real time, and that system is nearly in place. In addition, we have numerous infrastructure security mitigations both inside and outside of the building.

If you have follow-up questions or would like to chat in more detail, please don't hesitate to be in touch. You can email me at hal.r.cohen@gmail.com.

In safety,

Hal Cohen
TI Security Subcommittee lead