



TEMPLE
BETH OR

School Resources Officers (SROs) and School Safety

Thursday, December 14, 2023
6:30 p.m. At Temple Beth Or and by ZOOM



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School Resources Officers (SROs) and School Safety

Welcome	Rabbi Lucy Dinner
Overview.....	Ira Richman
Logistics	Gailya Paliga
Introduction of Panelists.....	
• Sergeant Mario Lopez, SRO Supervisor, Raleigh Police Department	
• Jim Martin, PhD, former Wake County School Board Member	
• Fernando Martinez, Organizing Director, Education Justice Alliance (EJA)	
• Rev. Dr. Jeffrey B. Robinson, Senior Pastor at Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh NC	
Panel Discussion with Moderator.....	Gailya Paliga/Ira Richman
Questions from attendees	Phyllis LeFevre/Ouida Watson
Closing Remarks	Gailya Paliga

Meet the Speakers:

Rabbi Lucy H.F. Dinner

Rabbi Lucy H.F. Dinner is Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Or in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to serving Temple Beth Or's vibrant congregation she works with local and national organizations that promote social justice. Dinner is the Vice Chair of the Reform Movement's Commission on Social Action and the Chair of the Central Conference of American Rabbis Committee on Peace, Justice and Civil Rights. She serves on the Board of Rise Against Hunger, the Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr Committee, and is President of the Greater Carolina Association of Rabbis. Rabbi Dinner is on the Board of Repairers of the Breach, and active in Moral Monday and HKonJ with the NAACP NC. She is a master teacher in the Melton Adult Education Initiative and lectures in interfaith settings. Her Torah commentary have been published in The Women's Torah Commentary and the URJ's Ten Minutes of Torah. Dinner has received recognition and awards from the NAACP NC Chapter, YWCA Women of Achievement, and the Women's Club.

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Sergeant Mario Lopez

Sergeant Mario Lopez has been a police officer with Raleigh Police Department for about thirteen and half years. He has worked as a patrol officer in the Southwest District, a community officer in the Southeast District, a patrol supervisor in the Northwest District and the Downtown District. He is currently the School Resource Officer Supervisor and has been in that position for a little under two years. His main responsibility is to support the School Resource Officers assigned to the public Raleigh High Schools. He is a certified School Resource Officer (SRO) and an SRO instructor. Additionally, he is a United States Marine Corp veteran and completed his Bachelor's Degree at Park University in Missouri and his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice at Methodist University in Fayetteville NC.

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Jim Martin

Dr. Jim Martin has been a resident of Wake County since 1994. He was elected to and served on the Board of Education for four terms (2011-2022). In that capacity, he chaired the Board for one year and the Policy Committee for 7 years. Dr. Martin is a Professor of Chemistry at North Carolina State University where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate students, and runs an internationally recognized research program in inorganic/physical chemistry. He graduated from Goshen College in 1986 with a BA in Chemistry and Biology and obtained a PhD in Chemistry at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN in 1990. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Paris (France) and Iowa State University before joining the faculty at NCSU.

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Fernando Martinez

Fernando Martinez has been a community organizer working on education issues, workers and immigrants' rights for about three decades both in the US and in his homeland of El Salvador. He has supported movements led by the students and parents most impacted by pushout and criminalization in schools, including the overreliance of School Resource Officers (SROs) in Public Education issues that is directly related racial disparities in court referrals and arrests. As a Restorative Justice practitioner, Fernando campaigned and proposed that WCPSS implement a district-wide Peacebuilder pilot program which is community-intervention position instead armed police officers, where peacebuilders function as peace ambassadors and are equipped with de-escalation and harm reduction techniques.

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Gailya Paliga

Gailya Paliga is President of the North Carolina chapter of the National Organization for Women, and is active from the local to the national level with NOW. She has been president of North Carolina NOW since November 2009. She has chaired the NC NOW Political Action Committee (PAC) for these years, as well. Previously, Paliga had been on the NC Women United (NCWU) Board of Directors and is a past Policy Council Chair for NCWU. She has been a member of the Temple Beth Or Social Action Committee since 2003.

Paliga has a B.S. in Computer Science from University of Wisconsin, and an English as a Second Language Teaching Certificate from Wake Technical Community College.

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Ira S. Richman, Ph.D.

President of Richman Associates LLC and co-founder of Greater Performances, LLP, firms providing organization development consulting and competency based performance development recognition systems. As a Director in the Human Capital and Talent Management practices of Deloitte, LLP and Ernst & Young, LLP, build systems used to develop and compensate audit, tax and business solutions professionals. Previously, Human Resources/Organization Development Director at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Vice Chair, RPD ICARE Team; Member, Durham VA VetREP Board, Temple Beth Or Social Action Committee; Chair, Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board. A U.S. Army veteran and college instructor. Past President of the Occupational, Consulting and Work Division of the New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) and presenter at professional meetings including NYSPA, Human Resource Planning Society and the National Organizational Development Network.

Ph.D. and M.A., Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Case Western Reserve University, 1972, 1969. B.A., Psychology, Queens College, CUNY, 1967.

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Reverend Dr. Jeffrey B. Robinson

Reverend Dr. Jeffrey B. Robinson is a pastor, teacher, and an anointed evangelist. He has been on assignment as the senior pastor at Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh NC, since March 2013. He was previously the senior pastor for sixteen years at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Oak City, NC.

Reverend Robinson has been an educator for over 27 years in the Community College System and on May 1, 2021, he retired as the Chief Campus Officer of the Public Safety Campus and Dean of Public Safety for Workforce Continuing Education at Wake Technical Community College.

Reverend Robinson Partnered with World Vision mission trips to Rwanda to assist with the clean water project. He has assisted with building a Leadership center and with high school and hospital needs in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is a member of I-CARE for the City of Raleigh and a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA. Pastor Robinson is a sworn law enforcement officer from 1988 to present, and was in the United States Marine Corp from 1985-1986.

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Event Organizers and Resources

Ira Richman, Gailya Paliga, Sergeant Mario Lopez, James Kantor,
Bruce Blatzer, Phyllis LeFevre, Ouida Watson, Isaac Lamb