

Communicate with Law Enforcement

During situations and times of heightened tensions, it is important that community members and organizations are aware of planned law enforcement responses.

For example, in 2015, anti-Muslim organizations hosted protests outside of mosques in various locations across the country. In open-carry states, rally-goers were encouraged to carry firearms during the protests. Individuals approaching the mosque had to drive or walk past armed protestors and signs with hateful messages. Worshipers were advised before the rally to stay home, or not to engage with the protestors.

In situations such as these, it is important for community members to contact law enforcement and government officials with requests. If a protest is scheduled in advance, and it is known that the rally-goers are encouraged to carry weaponry, it is important to let law enforcement know.

Below are examples of questions that should be asked:

1. What steps are being taken to ensure the safety of the community targeted by the armed protest?
2. Is law enforcement available to come brief the community prior to the protest?
3. Will law enforcement be monitoring the site of the protest before, during, and after the scheduled event?
4. How many law enforcement officers will be present during the scheduled protest?
5. What steps should community members take when they feel threatened by the presence of the protestors?
6. If community members want to hold unity rallies or other demonstrations of support for targeted communities, what steps should they take to keep those rallies safe?
7. Are there opportunities for community members to meet with law enforcement and other government officials outside the context of this scheduled event to identify ways to open lines of communication to improve the response to hate groups going forward?