

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislators Wieder & Soskin: We Remember And Stand With The Family Of Josef Neumann & All Victims Of Machete Attack

**Today Is Second Anniversary Of Attack That Also Injured Four Others At
Rabbi's Monsey Home During Hanukkah Celebration**

Alleged Perpetrator Ruled Mentally Unfit For Trial; Scheduled To Be In Court Jan. 26

New City, NY (Dec. 28, 2021) – Rockland County Legislators Aron Wieder and Phil Soskin are remembering Josef Neumann, who died of injuries sustained two years ago today during a brutal machete attack on people peacefully celebrating Hanukkah.

“Time has not erased the pain for the family and friends of Josef Neumann nor the fallout for the other victims, including those injured physically or mentally or both,” Legislator Wieder said. “It has not erased the shock experienced by members of the Jewish community at-large who felt personally attacked after a stranger showed up during what was supposed to be a joyous occasion and proceeded to carry out such hateful violence. But we continue to let the family of Josef Neumann, as well as the other victims of this attack, know that we support them, and that Josef Neumann’s memory will always be a blessing.”

The alleged perpetrator faces multiple charges involving the machete attack on Hasidic Jews attending a Dec. 28, 2019, Hanukkah party at a rabbi's house on Forshay Road. Josef Neumann, 72, later died from head and body wounds and four other men were injured. The alleged perpetrator has been receiving mental health care at an institution and thus far ruled unfit for trial. He is next scheduled to be in court on Jan. 26.

“He was fit enough to go online and search for synagogues, then carry out his horrific deeds, specifically against Jews,” Legislator Soskin said. “The justice system should not overlook that fact because that would deny the reality of why Josef Neumann and the other victims were attacked and why Josef Neumann was killed.”

According to published news reports, the FBI searched the alleged perpetrator’s home in Orange County along with his cell phone, finding references to Jews, Hitler and the Nazi culture. A hand-written journal also referenced the Black Hebrew Israelites, an extremist group linked to one of the shooters in the Dec. 10, 2019, fatal attack on a kosher grocery store in Jersey City, New Jersey.

“Justice sometimes takes a while,” Legislator Soskin said. “Foremost in my thoughts on this somber second anniversary of the attack are the family and friends of Josef Neumann and the other victims. We should all continue to have faith that the case will eventually come to a rightful and just conclusion.”

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