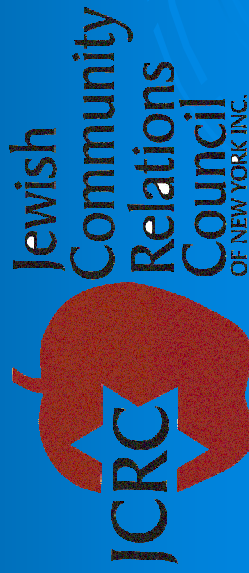


Thinking about access control for your synagogue



David Pollock
Dov Horwitz



Act before it's too late

- 
- An illustration of a person in a blue suit running on a clock face. The clock is white with black numbers and hands. The person is running towards the right, carrying a briefcase. The clock is set against a light blue background with a white cloud-like shape behind it.
- Once an intruder enters your premises it's difficult, if not impossible, to prevent:
 - Vandalism
 - Program disruptions
 - Assaults
 - Erosion of trust



Security awareness

- **Developing a security policy**
 - Balance of warm & welcoming and security
 - Visitors should have the impression that they are entering a secure premises.
 - Admission policy must appear reasonable and fair.
 - Staff should be trained in security awareness.



Basic steps

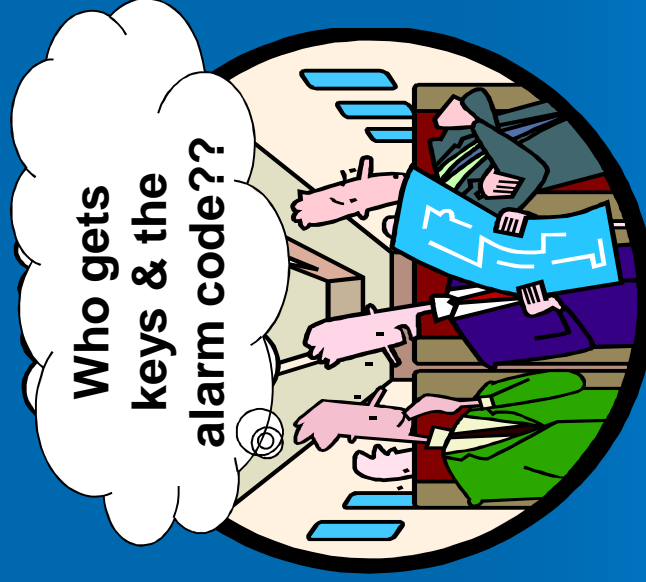
- Use only the entrances and exits that you can monitor and control;
- Develop written *Access Control Policies and Procedures* and have your board review and approve them;
- Make security part of your culture. It's the responsibility of your staff and congregants;
- Don't think that security is a one-time activity. You need ongoing efforts: inspections, training and drills; and
- Get good information. Monitor news alerts, JCRC security alerts, weather alerts and other communications



Implementing your access control policies

Important elements include:

- Determining who is authorized to enter your building;
- Identifying the screening process for guests;
- Setting policies and triggers to heighten security during times of increased vigilance; and
- Considering exigencies for Sabbath and Holidays.



Screening methods

- **Policy.** Only authorized people should enter your premises.
- Your screeners should be trained and prepared to carry out your access policy.

➤ Types of screeners

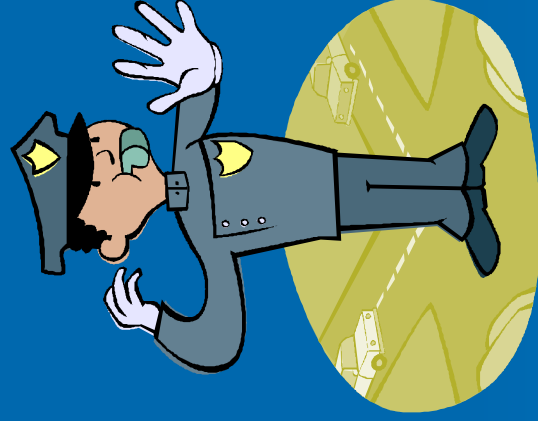
- Ushers/volunteers
- Guards
- Receptionists/Office staff
- Electronic

- Access cards

- Intercoms

- CCTV

- Buzzer door release



Examples of authorized visitors

- Congregants/members
- School parents/caregivers
(except when *not* authorized)
- People with appointments
- Known vendors/contractors
- Individuals who have been
screened and determined to
be authorized.



Identifying authorized visitors

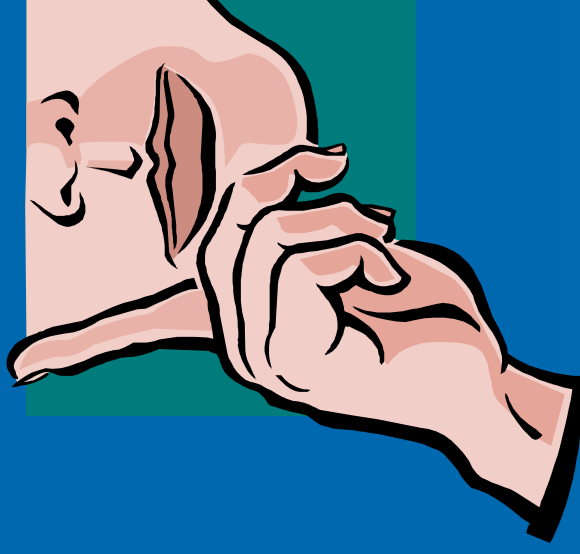
Examples include:

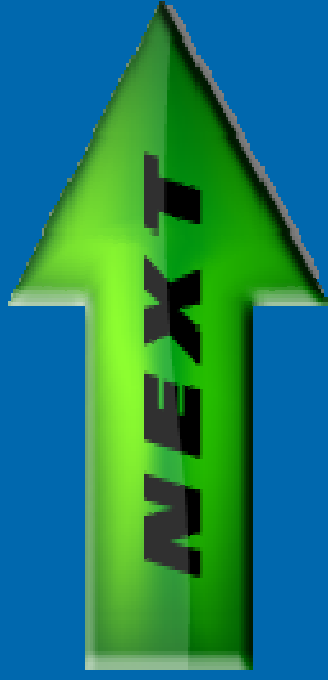
- Experienced volunteers and staff;
- ID Cards;
- High Holiday tickets;
- Lists (e.g., bar/bat mitzvah guests, aufruf guests); and/or
- Expected visitor form.



Other Considerations:

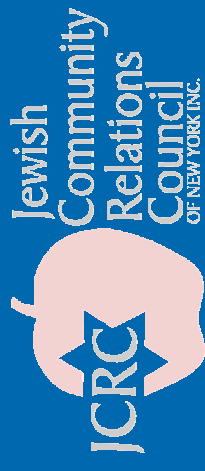
- Locking down areas that are unused;
- Outside meetings (e.g., rentals, civic associations, Weight Watchers, etc.);
- Large events and simchas (both services and parties);
- Professional security survey & training; and
- Specific design elements of your property and grounds.





- Develop your access policy. Go to <http://www.jcrcny.org/security>:
 - Sign up for the JCRC security alert list.
 - Check the latest advisories and alerts.
 - Find “best practices”, e.g., an access policy template to adapt.
- Apply for the Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program for potential funding for hardware and similar security upgrades (www.jcrcny.org/securitygrants)
- Train and educate your staff to be alert and to report any suspicious activity.

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