



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2017

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## **Flagler County Sheriff's Office Offers Security Checks for Places of Worship**



In the wake of the mass shooting at a Texas church on Sunday, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is offering security checks for places of worship in Flagler County.

Places of worship are welcoming in nature, open to the public, and meet at regularly scheduled times. This presents unique vulnerabilities that can pose potential risks if a facility is not prepared.

The Domestic Homeland Security Unit at the FCSO will conduct on-site security surveys of places of worship to determine the present security status, identify deficiencies, and then make recommendations to improve the overall security of the facility. All facilities should have lockdown and evacuation procedures, and all church staff and volunteers should be trained for their individual responsibilities.

"Pastors and faith-based leaders have a responsibility to protect their congregation," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Unfortunately, there is no single answer to prevent a violent crime or traumatic incident so it is important that all organizations are prepared to respond to whatever happens in or around their establishment. Develop an emergency response plan today – and let us help you."

Faith-based leaders are urged to contact the Sheriff's Domestic Homeland Security Director Randy Stroud at 386-586-4837 or send an email to [RStroud@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:RStroud@flaglersheriff.com) to schedule a security check. It is our goal to provide the necessary resources to your place of worship to help your facility stay safe.

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