



# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

*Commission on Human Relations*

414 Grant Street – Room 908, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2464

(412) 255-2600 – Office / (412) 255-2288 Fax



---

---

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**April 29, 2019**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Megan Stanley – Interim Director

Telephone: (412) 255-2600

Email: [megan.stanley@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:megan.stanley@pittsburghpa.gov)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pittsburgh (PA)** – On April 27, 2019, the last day of Passover, a 19-year old man opened fire in a Poway, California synagogue, killing one member and injuring several others. This hate crime, along with multiple church bombings in Sri Lanka last week, the March massacre at the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue here in Pittsburgh serve as reminders that religious discrimination and hatred is still a powerful issue in today's society that we need to confront. We must refrain from seeing this as just one in a series of attacks but call it what it is- an anti-Semitic hate crime committed by a dangerous white nationalist that killed an innocent person.

In his manifesto, the shooter noted feeling inspired by the recent acts of terror, including the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue. Even though this most recent act did not physically happen in Pittsburgh, those words reverberate through all who live and worship here. Members of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations mourn the loss of congregant Lori Kaye at Chabad of Poway and send condolences to all affected by this tragedy. We stand united against those who feel the need to intimidate, spread hatred, and incite fear in others who do not look, pray, or act like them.

As a City, it is our job to fight back against hatred by spreading love and understanding, getting to know those we might not normally interact with, and avoiding labels that create boundaries instead of building bridges. We urge residents to report any activity that makes them feel targeted or uncomfortable, even if the act is anonymous or they do not know the perpetrator- any information can be valuable in stopping future acts of violence. Potential hate crimes can be reported to the Commission on Human Relations, the FBI Pittsburgh field office, or the Region 13 Fusion Center. As always, in the event of an emergency or if an immediate response is required, please contact the City of Pittsburgh Police by dialing 911.

The Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) investigates instances of discrimination in the City of Pittsburgh and seeks resolutions for anyone who has experienced harm because of discrimination. We are more than just an agency that enforces laws. We proactively work with communities, and public and private organizations, to educate people about equal rights and opportunities. If you, or anyone you know, has experienced differential treatment based on your status in a protected class, contact the Commission at 412-255-2600.