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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL AND U.S. SECRET SERVICE HOST SERIES OF BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAININGS

Raoul's Office, Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center Provide New Training Series in Ongoing Collaboration to Prevent Mass Casualty Events

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul is continuing his partnership with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) by providing a series of virtual trainings on behavioral threat assessment, an approach designed to help prevent mass casualty attacks. The series is the latest presented by the Attorney General's office and the NTAC, which have collaborated since 2019 to provide threat assessment trainings to public and private entities around Illinois. Using research and case studies from past mass attacks in public spaces, the trainings provide recommendations to help faith leaders, educators, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and others identify, assess and intervene with individuals who exhibit concerning or threatening behaviors.

Participation in the trainings is limited to clergy and worship staff, security personnel, educators and school administrators, hospital staff and administrators, human resources personnel, mental health professionals, law enforcement and prosecutors, and experts in risk detection and management. The trainings include presentations from the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the NTAC presenting research on mass attacks in public places, including key findings and commonalities in an attempt to help people identify warning signs that could prevent future attacks.

"Between gun violence that takes place each day in communities throughout Illinois and our nation and mass shootings that have dominated much of the news over the last several weeks, it is clear that the United States has a gun violence problem. As part of my commitment to being part of the solution, I am proud of my ongoing partnership with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center for another series of trainings aimed at preventing mass attacks," Raoul said. "Drawing upon the center's years of research into mass attacks in public places, these trainings are intended to provide community and faith leaders, hospitals, educators, mental health professionals and law enforcement with critical information to help identify individuals who demonstrate concerning behaviors. These trainings are a crucial component of what must be a collaborative, public-private, federal and local approach to interrupting violence."

"The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center remains ready to support our partners throughout government and across local communities in their work to prevent targeted violence," said National Threat Assessment Center Chief Dr. Lina Alathari. "We all have a role in prevention. We are proud to share the latest research on best practices for identifying, assessing and intervening to prevent these types of tragedies. NTAC remains wholly dedicated to ensuring that this critical research and training is made readily available to government and community leaders responsible for our collective safety."

For more than 20 years, the NTAC has conducted research on the thinking and behaviors of those who commit targeted acts of violence in an effort to prevent future acts. The NTAC has found that attacks took place in a variety of locations, including businesses and workplaces, schools, places of worship, military bases, open spaces, housing complexes, and on forms of transportation. In its yearly "Mass Attacks in Public Spaces" report, most recently issued in 2020, the NTAC found that most of the attackers used firearms, nearly half of which were possessed illegally during the attack. The report also found many attackers had experienced unemployment, substance abuse, mental health issues or recent stressful events. Attackers also had a history of prior criminal charges or arrests and domestic violence. Additionally, the report found

that most of the attackers had exhibited behavior that raised concerns to other individuals, causing many of those people to fear for their own safety or that of others.

In addition to the NTAC's presentation, the Attorney General's office will provide participants with resources to help organization leaders access more information in the event of a threat. Officials from Raoul's office will also detail information on "red flag laws," or firearm restraining orders, including when and how families and law enforcement can petition the court to prevent gun violence. A firearms restraining order is intended to prevent individuals from accessing firearms or ammunition if they pose a danger to themselves or others.

The Secret Service recommends a multidisciplinary approach to violence prevention, called threat assessment. The goal is to proactively identify individuals who display threatening behavior and intervene prior to violence occurring, which requires a community-based approach. According to the NTAC, faith-based leaders, mental health professionals, workplace managers, law enforcement officers and school personnel play essential roles in threat assessment.

The Attorney General's office works to raise awareness of Illinois' Firearms Restraining Order Act, which has been in place since 2019. Family and household members, who are often in the best position to observe when an individual is in crisis, can petition a court to obtain a firearms restraining order. Law enforcement officials can also seek a firearms restraining order. Because the law initially lacked funding for training, the Attorney General's office filled the gap and has conducted trainings to educate law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, hospital administrators and community leaders about the process for obtaining firearms restraining orders. The law was amended last year to require law enforcement to undergo annual training, and the Attorney General's office provided the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board with curriculum to facilitate future law enforcement training.

The trainings are part of Attorney General Raoul's work to address violence throughout Illinois. In addition to working with local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to increase awareness of Illinois' red flag law, Raoul has worked with other law enforcement agencies to address gaps in the state's FOID card system. The Attorney General's office supported a law that was signed in 2021 to expand background checks and require the Illinois State Police (ISP) to confiscate firearms from individuals whose FOID cards have been revoked. Raoul's office also prosecutes individuals who lie on FOID card applications, collaborates with local law enforcement to combat gun trafficking and uses the office's jurisdiction to prosecute multi-county gun trafficking offenses.

The Attorney General's office, in collaboration with Everytown for Gun Safety, created a state-of-the-art crime-gun tracing database, Crime Gun Connect. The database collects data related to crime gun tracing performed in the state of Illinois since 2009. It will be housed at the ISP and will serve as an investigative tool accessible only by Illinois law enforcement officials. The Attorney General's office filled in the gap and has conducted law enforcement trainings to increase awareness and usage of the new database. Nationally, Attorney General Raoul successfully partnered with Everytown for Gun Safety and the city of Kansas City to get the federal firearm license of an unscrupulous arms manufacturer revoked.

In addition to supporting law enforcement, the Attorney General's office supports victims' service providers around Illinois that support trauma informed services for crime victims and their families. Raoul's Crime Victims Services Division administers a host of programs and services to assist survivors of violent crime. For instance, the Illinois Crime Victims Compensation program offers reimbursement for expenses incurred by eligible victims as a result of a violent crime. More information is available on [the Attorney General's website](#).

For more information about participating in the Attorney General's trainings with the National Threat Assessment Center, please email Special.Events@ilag.gov.