

Agudath Israel Declares: "We Must Stand Together Against Anti-Semitism"

By: Judith Dinowitz

Just weeks after a turbulent and divisive election, on Tuesday, November 29th, an avid audience of Jewish community activists and legislators attended Agudath Israel's annual legislative gathering. Held at Alliance Bernstein Global Wealth Management in Midtown Manhattan, the luncheon featured Federal law enforcement and NYC government officials as well as a bi-partisan panel of congressmen moderated by Rabbi Abba Cohen, director of Agudath Israel's Washington Office.

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The theme of the luncheon, "National Security Decisions Awaiting President Trump in His First 100 Days: The View from Congress," led to a discussion of many vital topics, such as anti-Semitism, immigration, and supporting Israel. Throughout the afternoon, speakers kept coming back to the idea that cooperation and partnership - our ability to work together and present a united front - are our best weapons against anti-Semitism.

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As NYC Public Advocate Letitia James declared, "In the face of hatred and adversity, the strongest weapon we have is to stand together." She stated that there is an economic anxiety in the city, and, since the elec-

31%. "We must address these issues," he said. He also warned of the possibility, based on certain campaign promises made by President-Elect Trump and a Republican Congress, of a tremendous NYC budget cut, one that would result in more homelessness and crime.

younger attackers and home-grown assailants, with no obvious connection to terrorist regimes or agencies. "The FBI does nothing alone," he said. "Everything we do is based on partnerships. Thank you, especially this group, for your community and your voice."

a strong relationship with our traditional allies in NATO. Several panelists spoke of the need to limit Iran's power. All participants agreed that we need a sane and wise immigration policy - one that does not shut the doors, but vets immigration with common sense.



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tion, a growing proliferation of hatred against the Jewish state. Recently, she attended a protest after a playground was defaced with swastikas. She declared that New York will take action to protect all New Yorkers against hatred and bigotry.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, corroborating the Public Advocate's words, said that since the election, hate crimes in the U.S. have risen by

Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez then spoke. He said, "I am here to commit myself to the community - a place of fairness, of safety and security." He acknowledged and thanked the legislators present.

William F. Sweeney, Jr., FBI New York Director-in-Charge, agreed that partnerships are the key to fighting terrorism - a threat that has evolved, with



William F. Sweeney, Jr., FBI New York Director-in-Charge, was one of the key speakers.

Finally, attendees enjoyed a lively panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Cohen with representatives Eliot Engel (D-NY), Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Ha-keem Jeffries (D-NY), and Randy Weber (R-TX). All of the panelists avowed their support for Israel and their desire to see U.S. support for Israel grow. Discourse included the Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the U.S., additional support for Iron Dome batteries, and the need to keep

In his opening remarks, Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's Executive Vice President, thanked the event's sponsors, coordinator, and attending elected official.

Sponsors included Mr. Joseph Richter, Mr. David Matovich, Mr. Simon Gans and Mr. Zurich Gabof. The event was coordinated by The Friedlander Group and its CEO, Ezra Friedlander. Elected officials included New York State Assembly Members Helene

"I am here to commit myself to the community - a place of fairness, of safety and security."

Weinstein and David Weprin; New York City Council Member Rory Lancman; Rockland County legislator, Aaron Wieder; and Mayor Izzy Spitzer of New Square.

Brief introductions to the speakers were made by: Jeffrey Wiesenfeld, principal with Alliance Bernstein Global Wealth Management and host of the luncheon; Joseph B. Stamm, Luncheon Co-Chair and CEO of MedReview; Michael A. Ramin, Luncheon Co-Chair; prominent community activist and Luncheon Co-Chair Peter Rebenwurz; and Rabbi Abe Friedman.

Several attendees appreciated the chance to network and to hear directly from legislators about the situation in New York and Washington. One participant had come all the way from Lakewood on behalf of her school. Another, a member of a Jewish Community Council, said, "I was impressed by the issues that were discussed - immigration, anti-Semitism, Israel - and the bi-partisan nature of the panel. It was great to see members of many Jewish communities throughout New York come together in an event like this."

A&E Real Estate to Buy \$275M in Harry Silverstein Holdings

By: Ellen Cans

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Harry Silverstein accumulated hundreds of rentals apartments in the three boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Numerous properties in his portfolio date back to the 1960s. Now, shortly after his passing, his valuable acquisitions may be sold by his son Mr. Eric Silverstein. A&E Real Estate Holdings, one of the most aggressive buyers of multifamily properties, is interested. As reported by the Real Deal, A&E is in talks to pay \$275 million to the Silverstein family for 14 buildings, containing over 800 rental apartments. The sum would amount to nearly \$350,000 per unit. If the broker-free negotiation comes to fruition, they could enter a contract by early next year.

The properties in discussion, as per the Real Deal, include 1555 Grand Concourse and 3971 Gouverneur Avenue in the Bronx; 91-35 193rd Street, 39-30 59th Street and 87-40



This July, Fairstead Capital agreed to purchase the Savoy Park Apartments in Central Harlem for \$315 million

165th Street in Queens; 605 East 16th Street, 488 Rockaway Parkway, 535 East 21st Street, 429 Mayfair Drive South, 250 Parkville Avenue, 261 Lenox Road, 141 Lenox Road, 2005 Albemarle Road, and 1130 Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn. Last year, A&E paid \$22 million for Silverstein's 144-unit rental building at 94-02 35th Avenue in Jackson Heights.

If A&E does purchase the said real estate for \$275 million, it would be one of the

year's most expensive multifamily transactions. This July, Fairstead Capital agreed to purchase the Savoy Park Apartments in Central Harlem for \$315 million. Other large pending deals include Blackstone Group's \$620 million purchase of the 894-unit Kips Bay Court in NYC. Also Isaac Kassirer is near reaching an agreement to purchase the 47-building Dawnay Day portfolio, in East Harlem, for over \$350 million.



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