

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 131 OF 2023

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS GERACI, MAGOWAN, SMITH, CONOVER, MCDEVITT, DRISCOLL, AND LEGGETT

ADOPTING DRAFT WARREN COUNTY DOMESTIC TERRORISM PREVENTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Director of Office of Emergency Services presented to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee the draft Warren County Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee has reviewed the draft plan and has recommended that the same be advanced to the Board of Supervisors for consideration, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the draft Warren County Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan annexed hereto, be, and the same hereby is, adopted as the official Plan for Warren County.



Office of
Emergency
Services

Warren County

DRAFT

Not adopted by the Warren
County Board of Supervisors.

Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan

A Guide to the Threat
Assessment &
Management Team

Revisions

Date	Type	Name

DRAFT

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Domestic Terrorism Plan

Introduction

On May 14th, 2022, a Tops Friendly Market in an Eastside neighborhood in Buffalo, New York became the target location of a domestic terrorist who targeted Black Americans; killing ten and injuring three. This individual was motivated by a conspiracy-driven, white-supremacists ideology. In response to this incident, Governor Kathy Hochul, on May 18th, 2022, signed Executive Order 18 (EO 18) entitled "Preventing and Responding to Domestic Terrorism." In accordance with EO 18, county jurisdictions must develop and maintain a domestic terrorism plan that identifies and confronts threats of domestic terrorism.

In an effort to address targeted violence prevention, Warren County, along with other key community stakeholders, have developed the Warren-Washington County Threat Assessment Coordination Team (WWC-TACT). WWC-TACT is a threat assessment and management team (TAM), coordinated by Warren County Office of Emergency Services and Washington County Department of Public Safety. The main goal of the team will be to advise on the mitigation of threats in Warren County. The team will act in collaboration with other government and community stakeholders with various expertise that are beneficial to the success of the team as a whole. The combined agency resources will work to identify, assess, and attempt to manage potentially planned incidents of domestic terrorism or targeted violence.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to detail actions taken in order to mitigate or potentially prevent an act of terrorism or targeted violence. This plan will also identify key stakeholders, detail their roles in the mitigation efforts and work to strengthen coordination among each stakeholder agency.

Scope

As the national threat level from terrorism continues to evolve, Warren County must continually prepare, adapt and change in order to ensure the safety of residents and visitors. This DTP is intended to provide guidance that:

- Applies to the threat of domestic terrorism or targeted violence in Warren County;
- Outlines stakeholder roles and responsibilities before, during and after a threat;
- Serves as a foundation for other terrorism response plans;
- Recognizes that emergencies are initially dealt with at a local level by local first responders and local government, in the event an act does occur or a credible threat emerges, state and federal resources will likely be required.

Primary Participating Departments/Agencies

- Warren County Office of Emergency Services
- Warren County Sheriff's Office
- Glens Falls Police Department
- Bolton Police Department
- New York State Police
- Warren County District Attorney's Office
- Warren County Attorney's Office
- Warren County Probation Department

- Warren County Department of Social Services
- Mental Health – Office of Community Services
- Glens Falls Hospital
- Hudson Headwaters Health Partners
- Schools Representative (Safety Consultant- N. Warren Central School, Bolton Central School, Warrensburg Central School)
- Warren County Board of Supervisors

Operations

Current Threat Environment

Warren County is comprised of 11 towns, 1 village, and 1 city. Geographically, Warren County is a mountainous span of land estimated at 932 sq. miles with Lake George in the east and the Hudson River to the south. With Warren County's many waterways and mountainous terrain, as well as being home to a theme park, tourism is a main capital for the county. Warren County's current population is at 65,618 but during peak tourism season can become more than doubled. Besides a theme park, Warren County is also home to a professional ice hockey team, a large mall, many smaller shopping plaza's and retail locations, a military base, an airport, several hotels and convention centers, a college, several large annual parades and events held annually, and a diversity of places of worship.

Based on an assessment of risk, Warren County may be faced with several different forms of terroristic or violent acts such as an active shooter, a vehicle ramming incident, a complex coordinated attack or a large group attack by simple means.

*If suspicious behavior is observed, it can be report via 911, or by notifying WC-TACT at (TBD) or WCCTACT@warrencountyny.gov or WWC-TACT@washingtoncountyny.gov. Any/all active emergencies or imminent situations should be reported directly to 911.

Ongoing Assessment of Threat Environment

As the world social climate evolves so too will emerging threats. An ongoing threat assessment of the current social environment in Warren County will continually be monitored and results shared with WWC-TACT as needed. This includes an assessment of threats to local schools, infrastructure, tourist and large gathering locations, places of worship and buildings. As threats are assessed, so to are resources and needs to maintain a level appropriate for mitigation measures.

Establishing a Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) Team

A Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) Team will be created with key stakeholders, the team will be designated as the **Warren-Washington County Threat Assessment Coordination Team (WWC-TACT)**. Key stakeholders include county emergency management, state, county and local law enforcement agencies, mental health officials, hospital and health center representatives, school/higher education representatives, the local and state court system, children and family services as well as faith-based organizations. (See Appendix B)

Threat Reporting Process

Threats may be reported in a variety of methods and from there reviewed and disseminated to the appropriate channels. Non-active threat reporting can be done through 911 for imminent threats, or by

notifying WWC-TACT directly at (TBD) or WCCTACT@warrencountyny.gov or WWC-TACT@washingtoncountyny.gov. Any/all active emergencies or imminent situations should be reported directly to 911.

All stake holders will receive an initial training on procedures and introduced to the process for reporting incidents and information to WWC-TACT. Any new stakeholder, wither wishing to come onboard or requested would need to attend a similar training held by a current stakeholder agency. This will be done to increase effective communication and decrease potential gaps in formation sharing.

Managing a Threat

As cases get reported, they shall be assessed, reviewed and assigned to relevant agencies as need and determination requires. The WWC-TACT Coordinator will track all cases and ensure that all parties assigned to a case are updating the committee in a timely and efficient manner until the threat is considered to be mitigated or stabilized. All input from the state shall be followed. If created, reporting through a state system will be utilized.

Information Sharing and Public Outreach

Information Sharing

Information sharing among stakeholders and related agencies is a key tool in the effectiveness of the WWC-TACT. Regular meetings will be conducted to maintain an effective communication channel between all participating agencies and prevent information gaps. When needed, or required, communication will be made to the NYS Fusion center, ATF, DEA, FBI, United States Secret Service, New York State Police and any relevant law enforcement agency. Regular communication will be maintained with local SRO as well.

Public Outreach

Upon WWC-TACT becoming officially operational, public notification, awareness and education will need to be made. Through the use of grant funding, an awareness campaign will be created to assist with educating the public. The trainings may include social media outreach, media usage and in person presentations.

Training and Plan Development

WCC-TACT Training

Maintaining a level of awareness and training is important for the success of the team. The Warren County Sheriff's Office routinely trains in active shooter events. WWC-TACT participants will participate in a yearly tabletop on domestic terrorism and/or targeted violence events. Further training such as Site Protection through Observational Techniques (SPOT) training or awareness level trainings.

Public Training/Proactive Measures

Proactive initiatives should be considered and created in order to educate the general public on how to protect themselves during situations of targeted violence or a domestic terrorism event.

Proactive initiatives will help to decrease grievances and could keep an individual from potentially escalating. Warren County currently offers the current programs:

- Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.): The Crisis intervention Team is a group of officers specially trained, on a voluntary basis, to deal with emotionally distressed individuals in a variety of situations that deal specifically with the needs of the mental health community.
- Correctional Facility Release Programs/ Programs: Include Alcoholics Anonymous, Bible Study, the Navigator and ABLE programs to assist incarcerated individuals with goal setting, interview preparation and resume development.
- Adirondack Peer-to-Peer Veterans Program: serves veterans in Warren and Washington Counties who are experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or other re-acclimation challenges. The program is open to all Veterans transitioning from military service to civilian life regardless of their character of discharge. With the support of local, state and federal resources as well as trained Peers, this program will assist with reintegration and sustenance of personal health and wellness with a special emphasis on veterans who are at risk of suicide and/or homelessness.

Active Shooter Plan Development

The Warren County Sheriff's Office routinely trains their members on active shooter situations and scenarios. They provide drills, education and outreach to local schools and businesses upon request.

School Safety Plan Development

Local schools in Warren County have an established school safety planning process and submit their school safety plans to the OES annually. WCC-TACT has contacted various schools allowing them the opportunity to participate on the team. A representative from various schools will be a participating member.

Grant Funding Use Plan Development

Grant funding uses will all be subject of the grant funding requirements and approval of the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services and Warren County.

Evolving and Future Development of the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan

Warren County's Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plan is continuing to evolve and is expected to grow upon this current version. As the plan develops, updated versions will be presented to the Warren County Board of Supervisors for adoption prior to implementation of future versions.

Appendix A
Mission Statement



Warren-Washington County Threat Assessment Coordination Team (WWC-TACT) is a multi-agency coordination group made up of government and community stakeholders with the combined goal of identifying, assessing, and managing potential threats of domestic terrorism and/or targeted violence through means of combined resource management, various expertise delivery and information sharing.

Appendix B

Stakeholders

The following are Participating Member Agencies (PMA) of the WCC-TACT:

- Warren County Office of Emerg. Services
- Washington County Dept. of Public Safety
- Warren County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Local Town and Village Police Agencies
- Religious, Faith Based Leader
- Warren County Probation
- Glens Falls Hospital
- New York State Police
- Mental Health – Office of Community Service
- District Attorney's Office
- Family Court
- NYS Parole
- Family/Youth Services
- Hudson Headwaters Health Network
- SUNY Adirondack
- Warren County Public Defender's Office
- Board of Supervisors
- ATF
- School Representatives from Warren & Washington Counties including BOCES

*Additional to be added as the program progresses

Appendix C

Common Acronyms

ARC – American Red Cross

CEMP – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

IED – Improvised Explosive Device

LE – Law Enforcement

MRAP – Mine Resistant Ambush Protected

NIMS – National Incident Management System

NWS – National Weather Service

NYSOEM – New York State Office of Emergency Management

NYSP – New York State Police

OES – Office of Emergency Services

PIO – Public Information Officer

PSAP – Public Service Answering Point

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services

WC – Warren County

WCSSO – Warren County Sheriff's Office

Appendix D

Definitions

COMPLEX EMERGENCY	An emergency that is complicated by the involvement of multiple agencies or jurisdictions, by its severity, duration or required resources or by the threat actors or the nature of the target.
CRISIS	A situation that threatens public safety and security, the public's sense of tradition and values or the integrity of government.
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	Services essential to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of a community and the effective functioning of government.
EXERCISE	A planned, staged implementation of a critical incident plan to evaluate processes that work and identify those needing improvement. Exercises may be classified as Orientation, Tabletop, Functional, or Full-scale and involve scenarios to respond to and resolve the assessed risks.
SITUATIONAL AWARENESS	The continual process of collecting, analyzing and disseminating intelligence, information and knowledge to allow organizations and individuals to anticipate requirements and to prepare appropriately.
TARGETED VIOLENCE	A premeditated act of violence directed at a specific individual, group, or location, regardless of motivation and generally unrelated to other criminal activity.