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Andrew Rehfeld, PhD
President and CEO

November 20th, 2014

To members of the University-City Jewish Community:

Over the past few weeks we have recognized the growing tension our community faces as we await the return of the Grand Jury decision. Reports have indicated that there will likely be protests as the decision returns, regardless of the outcome. To date we have not had any threats directed to the Jewish community and do not anticipate any forthcoming.

Still, we recognize that our institutions have become targets in times of social unrest and over the last few weeks have worked with leading area law enforcement to develop appropriate plans to respond to unexpected situations. Jewish Federation has a strong security and emergency response plan in place and is prepared to support our community as any need arises. Additionally, a robust communication plan is in place to allow for rapid, effective and appropriate dissemination of information to community leaders should a need arise including on Shabbat.

Because of the proximity of our University City institutions to the Clayton downtown, we are writing you to remind you to remain aware of your surroundings during this time and to use common sense in traveling to and from synagogue, particularly this Shabbat. Some basic safety reminders we recommend that you keep in mind particularly for those of you walking on Delmar Boulevard:

- Travel in groups, particularly when walking
- Cross the street only at areas with electronic crossing signals, when you have the light, and take care as you do
- Stay on the sidewalks whenever possible
- If there are protesters present, do not engage with them

If you feel unsafe, we encourage you to call 911. For non-urgent matters, you may contact University City Police at (314) 725-2211.

We pray for a peaceful resolution during this Shabbat. We will continue to monitor the situation and be in touch as appropriate.

Sincerely,
Andrew Rehfeld
President and CEO
Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Community Leadership Co-Signers

Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, Agudas Israel of St. Louis

Rabbi Hyim Shafner, Bais Abraham Congregation

Rabbi Yosef Landa, Chabad of Greater St. Louis

Rabbi Noah Arnow, Kol Rinah

Rabbi Moshe Shulman, Young Israel of St. Louis