

# Respect for Government

Editorial (excerpted) December 19, '14

Our sages teach us to pray to the Almighty for the welfare of government, that there should be a functioning government system, otherwise, people will virtually destroy each other. This fear of government, maintains some semblance of law and order in our society.

We are commanded by the Torah to have Judges and Police to enforce laws. Everybody is commanded to abide by a justice system.

America is currently up in arms with continuous protests due to complaints that police are generally insensitive to minorities. Recently there were several incidents where white police officers killed black unarmed people. The white policemen were not criminally charged with murder, and were not even charged with the most minor charges such as negligence or reckless endangerment.

In the city of New York (which had one such black-death-by-white-policeman incident) the situation has strained relations between Mayor deBlasio and the Police. Tens of thousands police officers consider deBlasio unfriendly to them because it seems that deBlasio is more sympathetic to the demonstrators, to those who have complaints against the police. A climax was reached last weekend when the police union posted a form on their website that to be signed by the police officers, requesting that if they are killed while on duty, Mayor deBlasio and city council Speaker Mark-Viverito should not attend their funerals! The leader of the Police Sergeants' Union ridiculed Mayor deBlasio.

If the police feel that the current Mayor is not



sympathetic, that causes a very dangerous situation. A police officer risks his life every time that he appears in public in police uniform, and even when in the police station, because we live today in the shadow of international terrorism where police stations are also attacked.

We are now faced not only with massive Al-Qaeda attacks, we see "lone wolf" terrorists such as this week in Australia. Anybody who wants to feel "important", who wants a place in history even in a negative way as a mass

murderer, claims to be a terrorist, and if successful with mass murder, is assured that even when he will be killed, his name will remain etched in history as a hero-martyr who gave up his life for religion. It matters not that Moslem religious leaders condemn such terrorists. They have their own beliefs and there are more than enough mentally unstable people flocking to terrorism.

A prominent psychologist explained that the stunning growth of such brutal terror groups as ISIS, is due to an

"emptiness" in various segments of our youth. They feel that they are lacking "something" in their lives. They seek something fulfilling that they don't find. This presents an opening for the sleek public relations of ISIS in their expert utilization of the internet. The Islamists preach a meaningful religion that can elevate their recruits. It seems that they utilized excellent psychologists to publicize a message that appeals to the disenchanted empty people who seek a meaning in life, even if it results in death, mass murders and their own deaths.

Fighting this new sort of dangerous terrorism requires enhanced police vigilance and maximum dedication. If a New York policeman feels that "his" Mayor or "his" Police Commissioner does not back him 100 percent, his own loyalty-dedication can not be 100 percent. He'll be loathe to risk his own life. Therefore it is imperative that the mayor should forthwith reach an accommodation with the police leadership, to restore the rank and file trust in him and his leadership.

New York is a liberal city, the city may have a liberal mayor, but the mayor must get along with the police. If the people won't feel secure living in the city, it will start another emigration wave out of the city, destroying our city.

Hopefully deBlasio will convince the police that he fights for them, that by demanding justice for all, he should not be considered an enemy of the Police. He also must convince the minority communities that the police work for them, not against them. The mayor is the only one who can accomplish this.