



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**  
*President*

24 Iyar 5781 / May 6, 2021

The Honorable Brandon M. Scott  
Office of the Mayor  
250 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Commissioner Michael S. Harrison  
Baltimore Police Headquarters  
601 East Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Scott and Police Commissioner Harrison:

It is with heavy hearts that we, the Rabbinical Council of Baltimore, representing the roughly 30,000 members of Baltimore's Orthodox Jewish community, write you this letter today.

Early Monday morning, Ephraim Gordon, a 31-year-old Israeli visitor, who came to Baltimore to attend a wedding, was brutally murdered outside the home where he was staying on Fords Lane. Not since the abduction and murder of young Esther Lebowitz in 1969 has our community been shaken by a senseless and heinous murder within its confines. Understandably, the sense of safety and security held by the members of our community when going about their normal daily activities, has severely been shaken.

We have been advised of the level of seriousness with which the detectives of the Baltimore Police Department have undertaken this investigation, and sincerely applaud the dedication, care, and compassion shown by the entire department.

As the news of this tragedy has by now spread across the entire world and has been featured prominently in the national Jewish and Israeli news media, we all anxiously await news of any progress with the investigation.

As a community that is deeply committed to faith and prayer, we beseech the Almighty G-d to provide you and the dedicated members of the Baltimore Police Department with His divine assistance to keep the people and streets across the entire Baltimore area - safe and crime-free, and to bring those who engage in violence and perpetrate crime to full justice.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer  
*President*

On behalf of the Rabbinical Council of Baltimore