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THE RESPONSE

New City Panel Will Examine Public Safety

By RICHARD LEZIN JONES

Police Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik has created an antiterrorism panel that will examine public safety in New York City and suggest ways to prevent terror attacks, the authorities said.

The formation of the panel, the New York Metropolitan Committee on Counterterrorism, which was first reported yesterday in The Daily News, brings together officials from local, state and federal agencies, including the New York Police Department, the federal Department of State, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the military.

The group, which will be led by Joseph P. Dunne, the first deputy police commissioner, and Barry W. Mawn, head of the city's F.B.I. office, also plans to confer regularly with antiterrorism groups in Israel, England and other nations, law enforcement officials said.

"I fully support this effort," Mr. Mawn said through a spokesman. "All the members of the New York law enforcement community work very well together and should do all they can by way of sharing intelligence information and devising security procedures to ensure the safety of the public."

Already, the police said, the group is considering measures including stepping up surveillance and increasing the number of armed officers assigned to protect government buildings and other sites that may be targets for terrorists.

The group also plans to work in conjunction with the Joint Terrorist Task Force of the Police Department and the F.B.I. The committee will focus primarily on public security and dispensing information to participating agencies.

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