



Congregation Beth Jacob

THE CHALLENGE

Ways to manage visitors and improve communications, while keeping doors to the sanctuary and school locked.

THE SOLUTION

Aiphone IS Series video intercom mounted just outside the main entry allowing visitors to buzz one of four master stations.



“Emergency communications and procedures are now embedded in our daily operations.”

Greg Sterling
Past President, Congregation Beth Jacob



IS Series

The Situation

The Congregation Beth Jacob provides a house of worship, preschool and attached K-7 religious school for the Redwood City, Calif. Jewish community—in the heart of the famed Silicon Valley. **In recent years, houses of worship have become an all-too-common target for active shooters, burglars, vandals and a host of other criminals.**

Founded in 1930, Congregation Beth Jacob has a rich history as the first Jewish institution built between San Francisco and San Jose. Since an earlier sanctuary was destroyed by a suspected arsonist in 1979, Congregation Beth Jacob has taken security of its members, students and employees very seriously and regularly updates its systems and procedures.

THE CHALLENGE


Congregation Beth Jacob’s security integrator, Oakland, Calif.-based HighCom Security, was asked for ways to manage visitors and improve communications, while keeping doors to the sanctuary and school locked throughout the day.

Requirements:

- Sanctuary employees had to be able to remotely see and speak with visitors before opening an exterior door
 - Employees needed to be able to easily communicate between the 12 classrooms and offices in the sanctuary and school
 - The solution had to be easy for employees, congregation members and visitors to use
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IX-DV



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THE SOLUTION

Fences and gates now guide visitors from the street to a rear parking lot and a double-door entry to the main facility. This and all other exterior doors are kept locked. An Aiphone IS Series video intercom is mounted just outside the main entry allowing visitors to buzz one of four master stations located on the desks of the executive director and receptionists and in the common areas of the main and school offices. Color LCD monitors on the IS Series master stations allow office staff to see and speak with visitors before remotely unlocking the door. Keypads at the door let employees open the door by entering a code.

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Wall-mount audio intercoms are in each classroom. Teachers can communicate hands-free with the main or school offices and other classrooms. They can also choose to use the intercom's handset for more private conversations. Before the intercoms were installed, teachers had to leave the classroom and walk to the office for help. Aiphone speakers and horns were added to share emergency messages in the school play area, two patios, front entry, sanctuary, social hall and main dining room.

The latest security update

Surveillance cameras set to view the parking lot, school entry and the street fronting Congregation Beth Jacob. Sanctuary staff can view live video from monitors in the facility's main and school offices. Panic buttons were installed in each classroom, the social hall and kitchen. Pushing a button generates a code phrase intended to start an immediate facility lockdown without overly frightening the students.

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