

# Mt. Olivet Baptist Church - Michael Coleman

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## Organization Profile

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Organization Name	Mail Address
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	141 Adams Street, Rochester, NY 14608

Exec. Name	Contact Name	Phone	Email
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**Mission/Vision** Our Mission is to serve our members, community and the world at large. We encourage people to be a member of a Covenant Community which nurtures spiritual growth and the gifts and talents of each individual. You are always "Welcome." We invite you and your family to experience the joy, excitement and love of the Mt. Olivet Family. You'll discover that our passion is to provide a place where people can have a life-changing experience with God. Our doors are open to people from all backgrounds, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey. Your, ethnic, religious, or economic background does not matter. Our Vision is to be well founded in God's word, leading a diverse Congregation that is God-centered, Bible-based, and Spirituality-led.

**Receive County Funds?** no

**Div. of Corp. N/A?** no

## Proposal Information

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**Project Name** Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Active Shooter Preventive Action Plan

**Summary** After Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (MOBC) learned from federal, state, and local law enforcement officials that it was on the list of possible targets named by the Buffalo Top's Shopping Market mass shooter (in his online manifesto—<https://wham1180.iheart.com/featured/bob-lonsberry/content/2022-05-17-white-supremacist-wanted-to-hunt-black-people-in-rochester/>). He wrote in his online manifesto, "one morning before covid during Holy Week, I sat on the side and watched and prayed as a full sanctuary and a powerful pulpit praised Christ and preached a gospel of love." He wanted to kill the attendees of the MOBC's Holy Week service because they were African-Americans that were in a concentrated populated area with no security. Simply put, MOBC was considered an easy target to kill many of its congregation and its visitors. MOBC was advised by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials that it is necessary for it to take steps to enhance the security of its property, congregation, and the local community. Specifically, we are seeking funding to install the following security measures:  
Arm security guards,  
Parking lot lighting,  
Security cameras,  
Security and emergency grade exterior doors,  
Active shooter plan,  
Privacy and security film on all for first floor doors and windows,  
Safe rooms installed and updated.

With the assistance of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The aim of this proposal is to secure external funding to address the public health and safety of the MOBC congregation and its visitors who were targeted by an active shooter.

Workforce/Economic?	Health/Safety?	Infrastructure/Sustainability?
no	yes	no

**Description** During our annual Holy Week service, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was targeted by the gunman responsible for the Buffalo Top's Market mass shooting of 10 victims. He wrote in his online manifesto, "one morning before covid during Holy Week, I sat on the side and watched and prayed as a full sanctuary and a powerful pulpit praised Christ and preached a gospel of love." He wanted to kill the attendees of the MOBC's Holy Week service because they were African-Americans that were concentrated in a populated area with no security or other physical deterrents.

Following that tragedy, MOBC was asked to meet with Special Agent Kevin Annis, New York State Police Bruce Drake, and the Rochester Police Department Scott Hill, on June 14th, 2022 to do a walk-through. While this was a sobering moment, we were alerted that several measures can be taken to thwart any future attacks by an active shooter. We were also advised by Monroe County Legislator Mercedes Vazquez Simmons to apply for the APRA grant as MOBC is a cornerstone for the public health and safety of Monroe County residents.

With the assistance of the ARPA funding, we propose a strategic and coordinated response to deter any future active shooters from targeting the MOBC congregation and its visitors. The ARPA funds will serve to increase the public health and safety of the Monroe County community who use MOBC as a place of worship, refuge, food assistance, and civic center.

Towards that goal, we will:

1. Hire Armed Security: Hire two (2) Blackhawk Security and Investigation guards to work collectively forty hours per week (please see letter of intent). The hours of their work will be focused on large gatherings, and potentially, when the church is open for large outside community events. Active shooter attacks are more likely to be deterred if the outcome potentially can cost them their life.
2. Install Parking Lot Lighting: Install twenty-two (22) parking lot lights, eighteen (18) 140 watt LED pole-mounted lights, one (1) 55 watt LED illuminating the roundabout in the parking lot entrance, two (2) Cobra head 150 watt LED area lights, and one (1) 60 watt LED light illuminating the MOBC van carport. The location of these lights will provide a well-lit, clean atmosphere that is safe for the MOBC congregation and its visitors. Parking lot safety and vehicle security was a huge concern as indicated by the federal, state, and local law enforcement officials that visited MOBC on June 14, 2022.
3. Install Security Cameras: Two (2) security cameras will be installed facing the main sanctuary of worship, and also, eighteen (18) security cameras around the 5 acre campus which is located in the inner city Cornhill neighborhood. The outdoor cameras will be equipped with night vision to act as an extra set (or more) of eyes for law enforcement. And like our armed security guards, security cameras wear a lot of hats. They provide security, visibility, and even help to improve public health and safety in the Cornhill community, making them an invaluable resource. The security cameras will also have remote monitoring software to permit live viewing.
4. Install Security-Grade Doors: All MOBC older doors will be updated or replaced with 'push-bar' exit style handles for emergencies, and adding two (2) fire-rated roll down security doors in the interior of the building. Protecting MOBC with roll-down security doors, grilles and shutters offers both security and functionality in case of fire. Because they roll up on a coil, they don't take up much space. These doors are extremely tough, and they last for a long time while requiring very little maintenance.
5. Develop a MOBC Active Shooter Plan: In cooperation with the Blackhawk Security and Investigations firm, MOBC will develop an emergency preparedness plan to ensure members and visitors of the church will properly react to emergency situations. The goal is to train the MOBC Security Team so that we can all respond in a coordinated manner that will better protect life, preserve property, and restore normal church operations as soon as possible.
6. Install Privacy Film: All first floor doors and windows will have window privacy film installed as a deterrent for Active Shooters and/or other criminals from entering MOBC. As these windows are close to the street, we were advised by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials not to permit people to peer in. If they can not get a view from the street, they are more likely not to attack.
7. Update and Renovate Space for Safe Rooms: In the event that we are to shelter-in-place, safe rooms will allow the congregation and its visitors to hide if evacuation is not possible, lock doors behind them, and call 911. MOBC is equipped with multiple sites, storage rooms, service rooms, and a few subterranean egresses that connect the campus. These sites are ideal as they have more options to be strategically placed and can hold larger numbers of people. Furthermore, they can be equipped with emergency communication and reinforced to stop active shooter threats.

For over a century, MOBC has been a pillar in the Rochester faith-based community and a safe place to worship. We have sought to support and recognize the critical linkages between community wellness, mental health, and public safety. For a period of time after the onset of COVID-19, there were no in-person gatherings or worship services; therefore we instituted remote services. Though we reopened live services (on a socially-distanced basis) in the summer of 2021, along with a continuation of remote services, the level of giving has not resumed to pre-COVID levels, making it necessary to seek external funding to implement all of the needed security enhancements as advised by law enforcement. Once completed, it is our expectation that we will experience an increased level of attendance and financial gifts. The expected increase in giving will be sufficient enough to cover the cost of maintaining the enhanced security measures, which are mostly one-time capital investments long past 2026.

**Company Strengths** Founded October 14, 1910, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (MOBC) is proud of its legacy, its leadership, and the support provided by God, our dedicated pastors and its members. With God's blessing, MOBC continues its vision with willing hearts as we move into the 21st century as one body confessing "Jesus Christ as Lord." Having been in christian service for over a hundred years, we have no creed, but Christ; preach no gospel, but love; have no purpose but to serve those in need of religion and morality. For over a century, MOBC has served the African-American community and other minority groups including foreign nationals who are often some of the most vulnerable residents of Monroe County with:

- food assistance in partnership with FoodLink;
- public health seminars in partnership with the University of Rochester's School of Medicine, Rochester General Hospital, and other local organizations;
- COVID-19 vaccination site in partnership with the Monroe County Department of Health and Human Services;
- public recreation for children with Summer Bible School in partnership with the City of Rochester Department of Parks and Recreation;
- voter access/polling stations in partnership with Monroe County Board of Elections;
- social service and community awareness site in partnership with local predominately-serving African-American organizations.

Naturally, MOBC is free, open to the public, and if needed, provides transportation to those most in need. We have over 600 members and have an online ministry reaching persons around the world. For over a century, we have dutifully served Monroe County residents and will continue long past 2026.

**Community Resources** MOBC will hire Blackhawk Security and Investigations firm to serve as armed security guards for the congregation and its visitors. While they are not certified as a MWBE as of yet, they are owned by two minority people. Namely, Evelyn Martinez-Nobrega is the CEO/President and Joao Nobrega Vice-president. Both of whom, are both Hispanic and are currently applying for MWBE. Blackhawk Security and Investigations has been in business for over thirty-five years serving the western New York area. Over the past several years, MOBC has worked with Blackhawk Security and Investigations by providing us one armed security officer twenty hours a week and any other special events. We look forward to working with them as we seek to increase our armed security presence.

**Audience** Founded October 14, 1910, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (MOBC) is proud of its legacy, its leadership, and the support provided by God, our dedicated pastors and its members. The first function of MOBC is the education of religion and morality to all. MOBC serves the African-American community and other minority groups within Monroe County, who are often some of its most vulnerable residents with:

- food assistance in partnership with FoodLink;
- public health seminars in partnership with the University of Rochester's School of Medicine, Rochester General Hospital, and other local organizations;
- COVID-19 vaccination site in partnership with the Monroe County Department of Health and Human Services;
- public recreation for children with Summer Bible School in partnership with the City of Rochester Department of Parks and Recreation;
- voter access/polling stations in partnership with Monroe County Board of Elections;
- social service and community awareness site in partnership with local predominately-serving African-American organizations.

Naturally, MOBC is free, open to the public, and if needed, provides transportation to those most in need. We have over 600 members and have an online ministry reaching persons around the world. As a Christian church rooted in the bible, MOBC offers the opportunity for its members to tithe 10% of their earnings/income so that there be 'meat' to do God's work. For over a century, we have dutifully served Monroe County residents as a non-profit organization and look forward to continuing long after 2026.

<b>Cost 1st Year</b>	<b>Cost All Years</b>	<b>Residents 1st Year</b>	<b>Residents All Years</b>	<b>FT Employees</b>	<b>PT Employees</b>
\$167,625.00	\$417,225.00	800	1,200	0	2
<b>Volunteers</b>					
0					

**Staffing** Evelyn Martinez-Nobrega is the CEO/President and Joao Nobrega Vice-president of Blackhawk Security and Investigations. Blackhawk Security and Investigations has been in business for over thirty-five years serving the western New York area. Blackhawk provides unarmed, armed, and private investigations. They are fully certified by the State of New York licensing Division. They are fully insured and bonded, we have a two-million dollar liability insurance policy, comp insurance, disability insurance and bonded. Some of the security services that they have provided are retail, commercial, housing complexes, industrial sites, entertainment centers, churches, schools both private and public. They also have provided executive services, personal services, TSA sites and private investigations as well. Blackhawk Security and Investigations is also planning on training MOBC's members with ACTIVE SHOOTER program. This program will be taught by one of their Professional Certified Trainer who is a member of our staff.