**TIMELINE SUPPLEMENT TO TORCH AWARD SUBMISSION**

**TIMELINE**

**HOW LONG IT TOOK**

**Before COVID interfered—with a capital ‘I’— we discussed engaging our local Police, Fire and Sheriff’s departments to express appreciation for the day-in / day-out work they do; COVID had other ideas… plans were side-tracked and shelved.**

**How long it took is, therefore, a relative term… while the planning-to-execution was accomplished within a few short months, the idea percolated throughout the pandemic, waiting for the right opportunity.**

**KEY EVENTS**

**The motivating event was a “False Alarm” during Shabbat evening services that brought swarms of First Responders to our synagogue. The “event” brought to the surface our cognizance of the commitment and dedication of our First Responder neighbors and moved us to action!**

**We decided to prepare a brisket chili lunch and decide it would best be served in ‘colder weather’—another relative term, of course, in Atlanta—and a post-Thanksgiving / pre-Christmas timeframe was targeted. (We didn’t want to compete with the Church ladies and their Christmas cookies!)**

**First on the agenda was coordinating with the Fire and Police Departments which share a County Government building close to the synagogue. We didn’t go for Front Office coordination, though...we met with the local “chiefs”—Major Batterton of Cobb County Police Precinct 3 and Captain Hilley at Cobb County Fire Station 21.**

**PARTICIPATION**

**As soon as the date was announced, everyone wanted in on the action. Etz Chaim Men’s Club is blessed with an abundance of chefs; Alan Lightstone and his cadre of Kitchen-[volun]teers are old hands at procurement, kitchen prep, cooking and serving. It was hands-on-deck…truly beyond capacity.**

**We defied the adage, because too many cooks just made better chili!**