

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER & ED FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month originated when Congress passed a resolution authorizing and requesting the President to issue a proclamation for Jewish American Heritage Week in April of 1980; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month was established to recognize the Jewish community's contributions across many different fields, including academics, arts, and sciences; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States observes Jewish American Heritage Month each May to encourage all Americans to learn about Jewish culture and recognize the contributions of generations of Jewish Americans who helped shape our country; *and*

WHEREAS, Jewish immigrants began arriving in America in 1654 and have played a central role in the creation, growth, freedom, prosperity, and strength of the United States of America; *and*

WHEREAS, The welcoming of Jews into American life dates back to the founding of our nation. In 1790, George Washington received an inquiry from the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island asking if the liberties discussed in the nation's new Constitution applied to the Jewish people. Washington assured the Hebrew Congregation that the government of the United States would give "to bigotry no sanction," and his letter is seen as a clarion call for religious tolerance in the United States of America; *and*

WHEREAS, The history of the Jewish people and the enduring values of the Jewish faith have been vital sources of inspiration for the founding of the United States, the Civil Rights movement, and America's commitment to social justice, including workers rights, women's rights, racial equality, and LGBTQ+ rights; *and*

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are an integral part of our Commonwealth and our city. They make up an indispensable part of our city's workforce, our teachers, our policy makers, our medical workers, our military and veterans, and our business leaders; *and*

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have long been the target of antisemitism. The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents began recording instances of harassment, vandalism, and assault against individuals or groups in 1979. Last year, the ADL reported an all-time high of 638 incidents in New England – which broke the previous year's record for the fourth year in a row, and represented a 213% increase since 2022. Massachusetts had the fifth highest recorded antisemitic incidents in the country with 438, while the City of Boston had 96. In 2021, a Rabbi was stabbed in an antisemitic attack in Brighton;
and

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council stands against all forms of hate and is committed to standing with Jewish American residents of Boston and the Commonwealth *and*;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month, honors the contributions of Jewish Americans, and is committed to standing up with our Jewish residents to denounce all forms of antisemitism and hate.

Filed on: April 30, 2025