



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS:** May is Jewish American Heritage Month. During the course of this month, we recognize and celebrate the many contributions that Jewish Americans bring to our city and country; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Jewish American Heritage Month was first established in 2006 by President George W. Bush to recognize 350 years of Jewish contributions to American culture. May was chosen at the time because of the successful celebration of the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to a Pew Research Center Report, there are 7.5 million Jewish Americans in the United States. In Massachusetts, they make up 4.3% of the population, and in the Boston and the Greater Boston area, they make up 8% of the population; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Jewish Americans are an integral part of our city. From teachers, small businesses owners, healthcare and medical professionals, policy makers, youth sports coaches, among others, they make up an indispensable part of our city's workforce, and have helped our city and economy grow strong; *and*
- WHEREAS:** We are also very fortunate to have many outstanding organizations such as Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Vocational Service, Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Anti-Defamation League that provide support, advocacy, resources and workforce development to our Jewish, as well as immigrant and underserved communities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** As we celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month, we must acknowledge that we have seen a disturbing rise in antisemitism, neo-nazism, white nationalism and hate crimes in our city and across the country; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In Boston, we have seen neo-nazi and white nationalist groups march in Downtown and demonstrate outside of LGBTQ+ events in Jamaica Plain and the South Boston Waterfront in the past two years. In 2021, we also saw the stabbing of a Rabbi by an antisemitic individual in Brighton. Nationally, there have been a wave of high profile figures, celebrities, professional athletes, and even Elected Officials who have either made antisemitic remarks on social media platforms, attended events with neonazis, and some who have made highly inappropriate

comments; *and*

**WHEREAS:** This disturbing wave of antisemitism warrants a strong stance and condemnation from all leaders and communities throughout our country. We must categorically reject and denounce any attempts to normalize antisemitism or any form of hate; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is critical that we continue to stand with our Jewish neighbors now, and always, in order to stop the rise of antisemitism we continue to witness in our country. We must continue to recognize the contributions of our Jewish community, and support and show up for them; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council honors the contributions and achievement of Jewish Americans, recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month, and recommits to our Jewish neighbors by standing up to denounce antisemitism and hate.

**Filed on:** May 10th, 2023