

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, antisemitism embodies hatred of Jewish individuals and communities, which manifests through dehumanizing language, derogatory speech, conspiracy theories, intimidation, violence, and murder; and

WHEREAS, in the early twentieth century, deadly antisemitic riots, known as pogroms, happened in various countries throughout Europe, including Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and Germany, as well as elsewhere in the world, including Iraq, Turkey, Algeria, British Mandatory Palestine, and Argentina; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism reached a horrifying extreme in the Holocaust, in which Nazi Germany systematically murdered over six million Jewish men, women, and children in an unprecedented genocide of Europe's Jewish populations, as well as committed mass murder and other crimes against millions of other victims from many other demographics; and

WHEREAS, the defeat of Nazi Germany by the Allies did not bring about an end of antisemitism, and instead, antisemitism has once again been gaining ground worldwide and even in America in recent years; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent FBI data on hate crimes, Jewish individuals and communities are the target of 51.4% of religion-based bias incidents in the United States, despite constituting just 2% of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2018, a neo-Nazi conducted the worst antisemitic massacre in American history at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and other antisemitic spree shootings were committed by domestic terrorists of various affiliations at the Poway synagogue in California on April 27, 2019, and a kosher grocery store in Jersey City on December 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas perpetrated a terrorist attack in which over 1,400 men, women, and children were murdered in southern Israel, including countless instances of torture and rape, constituting the worst mass murder of Jews worldwide since the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack, worldwide antisemitism has skyrocketed, including Stars of David being painted on Jewish homes and businesses in Paris, and an armed mob overrunning an airport in Dagestan, seeking to locate and kill Jews, and even in America, professors and students at various universities are justifying and sometimes even openly applauding Hamas's atrocities; and

WHEREAS, since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack, the Anti-Defamation League has recorded a 400% increase in antisemitic incidents in the United States since the same time last year; and

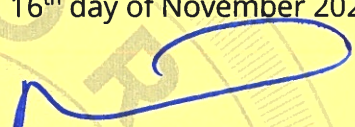
WHEREAS, hatred and bias in any form are not acceptable in the City of Medford, and antisemitism should be condemned just as strongly as other forms of bias.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Randy Sparacino, Mayor of Medford, do hereby proclaim the week of November 19-25, 2023, as

ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS WEEK

to recognize the clear and present danger that antisemitism has presented and continues to present to Jewish individuals and communities nationwide and worldwide, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Medford, should strive to overcome intolerance, indifference, and antisemitism through learning, remembrance and respect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,
I hereunto set my hand this
16th day of November 2023.


Randy Sparacino
Mayor

