

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION: STANDING FIRM AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND DECLARING THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE'S UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR ITS JEWISH RESIDENTS, AS WE HONOR NATIONAL JEWISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, May 2025 marks the 45th observance of Jewish American Heritage Month since its inception as Jewish American Heritage Week in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Hyattsville's Jewish residents have contributed immeasurably to the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hyattsville chooses this occasion to issue an urgent and necessary proclamation addressing the alarming rise of antisemitism in our nation and affirming our commitment to protecting and supporting our Jewish residents; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism represents one of humanity's oldest hatreds, persisting and evolving across centuries, serving throughout history as a harbinger of broader societal decay and the erosion of democratic values; and

WHEREAS, we are witnessing an unprecedented surge in antisemitic incidents across America, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation reporting a 63% increase in antisemitic hate crimes in 2023, reaching a record high of 1,832 reported incidents, making Jewish Americans the most targeted religious group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, our own region has experienced disturbing manifestations of this hatred, including incidents of desecration within our own community, the vandalization of a kosher restaurant in Washington, D.C. on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, and hostile demonstrations targeting Jewish institutions, all of which have understandably caused anxiety among Jewish residents; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish residents of Hyattsville deserve to live openly, proudly, and safely in their neighborhoods, free from fear or the need to conceal their identity; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Hyattsville recognizes that the safety and security of our Jewish residents is fundamental to our values as a community, and that silence or equivocation in the face of antisemitism represents a moral failure that threatens the principles of equality and justice upon which our city stands; and

WHEREAS, history has repeatedly shown that antisemitism serves as an early warning signal of societal degradation, making its forceful rejection not just a moral imperative but a necessity for preserving the foundations of democratic society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of Hyattsville hereby:

Declare our unequivocal condemnation of antisemitism in all its forms, whether overt or subtle, physical or verbal, online or in person;

Acknowledge the deep unease currently felt by our Jewish residents and pledge our commitment to their protection and security;

Commit to investigating and prosecuting antisemitic incidents, treating such acts as the serious crimes they are and affirming that such acts have no place in our community;

Establish that our Jewish residents' right to live openly and safely in Hyattsville is non-negotiable and will be championed and defended with appropriate resources;

Pledge to respond swiftly and decisively to any antisemitic incidents, ensuring that our Jewish residents know they have the full support of their local government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize Jewish American Heritage Month as both a time to honor Jewish contributions to our community and nation, and as a time to make a vital and timely proclamation, signaling our determination to ensure that Hyattsville remains a place where Jewish residents can live without fear, practice their faith openly, and know they have the full and unwavering support of their community and local government.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be disseminated to local institutions, shared with regional partners, and transmitted to elected leaders at all levels of government as a testament to our city's moral clarity and resolute stand against antisemitism in all its forms.

Robert S. Croslin

Mayor, City of Hyattsville

May 5th, 2025

