

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, Jewish residents have been and continue to be an essential and vibrant part of the fabric of Hyattsville, enriching our city in countless ways; 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, the City of Hyattsville condemns antisemitism unequivocally, in all forms and expressions, affirms that no resident should live in fear because of their faith or heritage, and that antisemitism in any form is an attack on the entire community; 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, we join our Jewish American residents in proclaiming “Never Again;” and

WHEREAS, political criticism leveled against a sovereign country, including by means of public assembly and peaceful protest, are pillars of a healthy democracy and are enshrined to citizens and non-citizens by the US Constitution; and

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

Remain unwavering in its commitment to inclusivity, dignity, and in fostering a community where all residents, including those of Jewish heritage, are welcomed, valued, and protected.

Proclaim our unequivocal condemnation of antisemitism in all its forms; and We acknowledge the deep unease currently felt by our Jewish residents and pledge our commitment to their protection and security; and

We 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;

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be shared widely as a testament to Hyattsville’s unwavering commitment to inclusivity, dignity, and moral clarity.

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Robert S. Croslin

Mayor, City of Hyattsville

May 19th, 2025