



Proclamation

A Proclamation of the City Council of Mill Creek, Washington, condemning and rejecting antisemitism and reaffirming Mill Creek's commitment to ensuring our community is a safe and welcoming place to live, work and visit;

WHEREAS, *the City of Mill Creek is a diverse city and takes great pride in our diversity and respect for all people. Our local Jewish community contributes to our community in countless ways; and*

WHEREAS, *the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum defines antisemitism as prejudice or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust – the state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945 – is the most extreme example of antisemitism in history; and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Mill Creek supports the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA's) working definition of antisemitism, which states "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."; and*

WHEREAS, *in August 2021, Washington state recorded 451 hate crimes, the third most in the entire country and 5th most per capita. according to the Anti-Defamation League, in August 2021 reports of antisemitic incidents in Washington state were up 60% from the previous year. Similarly, reports of hate crimes and incidents in Seattle increased nearly 400% from 2012 to 2018; and*

WHEREAS, *the use of antisemitic language, conspiracy theories, holocaust denial, and hatred towards Jewish people has increased exponentially the past decade and has led to increased attacks against the Jewish people. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, while Jewish people account for no more than 2% of the U.S. population, Jews were the target of 55% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in recent years; and*

WHEREAS, *the IHRA definition of antisemitism has proven to be an essential tool for government and law enforcement agencies in the United States in efforts to identify contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, respond directly to antisemitism and provide training and education about antisemitism; and*

WHEREAS, *hatred and bias in any form are not acceptable in our community. The City of Mill Creek remains committed to our vision of welcoming the world and recognizing our diversity as a key strength for the City and our character; and*

WHEREAS, *any victims of antisemitism in the City of Mill Creek are urged to report any incidents – as hate crimes or bias-related events – so that local law enforcement can respond, track such incidents, and bring perpetrators to justice;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN HOLTZCLAW, *Mayor of the City of Mill Creek, on behalf of the City Council, and as supporters and allies of our Jewish community do hereby proclaim the City of Mill Creek's condemnation of antisemitism. The City of Mill Creek strongly stands against hate, bias or violence based on identity and remains committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and human rights.*

Signed this 13th, day of December 2022.

Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor

Stephanie Vignal, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Naomi Fay, City Clerk