



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 10, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Wengraf, Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Hahn
Subject: Resolution Declaring May as Jewish American Heritage Month

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution declaring the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by members of the Jewish Community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

Jewish Americans are an important part of American history and have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest days. Generations of Jews have come to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, and made invaluable contributions in support of equality and civil rights through their leadership and achievements.

Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity in a variety of ways; culturally, ethnically, religiously and by embracing Jewish ethics and values. Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and economically diverse, with approximately 25 percent of Bay Area Jewish households including a person of color.

In recent years, Jewish Americans have increasingly experienced antisemitism, including but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media. There is a need for education and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Jewish in all aspects of American society, including discourse and policy.

The City of Berkeley condemns antisemitism wherever it exists, and stands with the Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry in our city and country. Berkeley calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have contributed to our country and community, and support opportunities to learn more about Jewish American history and culture.

Berkeley will continue its efforts to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate impacting the Jewish community, support local education about the diversity of our Jewish American community, and integrate Jewish American culture into future programs, activities, and ceremonies throughout the year. [Declaring the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Berkeley](#) supports that work.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item does not address environmental sustainability.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160

Attachment:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are an important part of American history and have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest days; and

WHEREAS, generations of Jews have come to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, and made invaluable contributions in support of equality and civil rights through their leadership and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity in a variety of ways; culturally, ethnically, religiously and by embracing Jewish ethics and values; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and economically diverse, with approximately 25 percent of Bay Area Jewish households including a person of color; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Jewish Americans have increasingly experienced antisemitism, including but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley condemns antisemitism wherever it exists, and stands with the Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry in our city and country; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for education and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Jewish in all aspects of American society, including discourse and policy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley hereby declares the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by members of the Jewish community. We call upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have contributed to our country and community, and support opportunities to learn more about Jewish American history and culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Berkeley will continue its efforts to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate impacting the Jewish community, support local education about the diversity of our Jewish American community, and integrate Jewish American culture into future programs, activities, and ceremonies throughout the year.

