

Councilmember Sophie Hahn
City of Berkeley, District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 11, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Sophie Hahn (Author); Susan Wengraf (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Proclaiming May as Jewish American Heritage Month

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution proclaiming May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

BACKGROUND

On April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, stating, “As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens,” and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have been made by Presidents of the United States annually, and by other government entities.

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.

Berkeley has been and continues to be a City greatly enriched by the Jewish American community. This item honors Jewish-Americans in Berkeley and throughout the United States with a resolution in support of Jewish-American Heritage Month.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

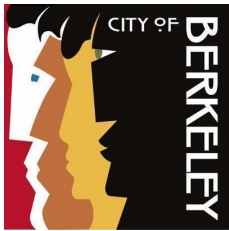
N/A.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Sophie Hahn, (510) 981-7150

Attachments:

1. Resolution



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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are an important part of the American story and have made significant contributions to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest days; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, stating, "As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens," and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have been made by Presidents of the United States annually; and

WHEREAS, generations of Jews from across the globe have come to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, including many fleeing persecution and genocide; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of a shared experience of oppression, and in keeping with longstanding values and traditions, Jewish Americans have participated actively in movements to support equality and civil rights for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity through history, culture, religion, and through the expression of Jewish ethics and values; and

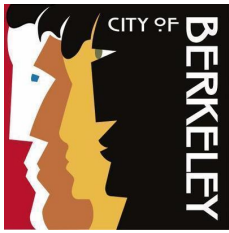
WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are ethnically, socially, politically, and economically diverse, with an estimated 15% percent of Jewish Americans being individuals of color; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Jewish Americans have increasingly experienced antisemitism, including physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media,¹ and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley shares an obligation to condemn and combat antisemitism wherever it exists, to include Jewish Americans in all facets of civic life, and to stand with the Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry; and

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

¹ <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>
<https://www.adl.org/blog/antisemitic-incidents-reported-to-adl-increase-sharply-during-israel-hamas-conflict>
<https://www.sdjewishworld.com/2021/09/20/survey-finds-jewish-college-students-fear-for-their-safety/>



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WHEREAS we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American community, including those who live, work and play in Berkeley, and;

WHEREAS, we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and are enriched by local Jewish institutions such as The Magnes Collection of Jewish Life and Art, the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, New Lehrhaus, Urban Adamah, and Congregations Beth El, Beth Israel, Chabad House, Berkeley Hillel, Congregation Netivot Shalom, Chochmat HaLev, and Beyt Tikkun, as examples;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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 Jewish organizations and members of the Jewish American community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley will continue efforts to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate impacting the Jewish American community, support education about the Jewish American community, and include Jewish American culture in programs, activities, and ceremonies throughout the year.

