



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 24, 2022

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Recognizing May 2022 as Jewish American Heritage Month

Whereas, Jewish Americans have been an important part of the American story and have greatly contributed 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 have fled to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, and these immigrants 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, such as culturally, ethnically, religiously and by following Jewish ethics and values; and

Whereas, Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and economically diverse, with approximately 12-15 percent of Jews in the United States being individuals of color; and

Whereas, in the Bay Area around 25 percent of Bay Area Jewish households include a person of color, and this increases to nearly 40 percent of households if the head of the household is younger than 35; 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, Sonoma County 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 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; and

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

Whereas, we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how Sonoma County has been enriched by local Jewish institutions and synagogues such as the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; Jewish Family and Children’s Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County; Joseph Weingarten Chabad Jewish Center; Anti-Defamation League Central Pacific; and Congregation Shir Shalom;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County, California hereby declares the month of May 2022 as Jewish Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by members of the Jewish community; and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County, California calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have weaved the fabric of our country and community, and supports opportunities learn more about Jewish American history and culture; and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County, California will continue 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.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Hopkins: Gore:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.