

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Jewish American experience is a story of faith, fortitude, and progress and one that is connected to key tenets of American identity including our nation's commitment to freedom of religion and conscience; 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 a myriad of ways in support of equality and civil rights through their leadership and achievements; and

WHEREAS, May 2022 is recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month by Presidential Proclamation stating that “the Jewish American story, and the story of our Nation as a whole, is fueled by faith, resilience, and hope” and this heritage month was first proclaimed in April 2006; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity and 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 to 15% of Jews in the United States being people of color; and

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

WHEREAS, this month, we honor Jewish Americans — past and present — who have inextricably woven their experience and their accomplishments into our community, including places of worship such as Temple Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia, which hosted an undocumented family in 2019 after declaring itself a sanctuary congregation in August 2018 and becoming the third congregation to do so in the state of Washington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim the month of May 2022 as

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Olympia and encourages all Olympians to condemn anti-Semitism and to stand with Jewish Americans against hatred and bigotry of any kind and to include Jewish Americans in all facets of civic life in our community.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 24th DAY OF MAY 2022.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

**Cheryl Selby
Mayor**

