

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

MAYOR'S STATEMENT TREE OF LIFE SHOOTING INCIDENT

Once again I am extending the condolences of our City to a community devastated by violence. We grieve with our Jewish community and members of the Tree of Life Synagogue which suffered incomprehensible loss.

The horrific shooting is one more incident in a week filled with terror; a week in which bombs were mailed to Americans who were targeted for their political ideology. In Kentucky two African Americans were murdered at a supermarket, a crime now being investigated as a possible hate crime.

I want to recognize and appreciate the police officers in Pittsburgh who risked their lives to protect the members of the Synagogue and hope for a full recovery for those who were injured.

In addition, I am proud of our own Albany Police Department staff who have and continue to work with community groups including our faith-based community and are available on an ongoing basis to discuss any security concerns they may have.

We must stand up and reject the hate that fills the hearts of some in our society. It is no longer sufficient to declare "love is the answer" but rather we must stand up to those who wish to harm others simply for their religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender identity, race or ability. The result of our failure to do this will be a community and indeed a country we no longer recognize nor love.

We have a local opportunity to take action during the upcoming "Bay Area Stands United Against Hate Week" November 11-18, 2018. Albany is a leader in this movement, <https://unitedagainsthateweek.org/>. These seven days of local civic action by people in every Bay Area community are designed to recognize and stop the hate and implicit biases that are a dangerous threat to the safety and civility of our communities.

During Bay Area Stands United Against Hate Week the City of Albany is partnering with the Albany Unified School District, UC Village and the Albany Community Foundation to show

Near Normal Man, the story of holocaust survivor Ben Stern. This powerful presentation will include a discussion led by his daughter, Charlene Stern. Please join us on November 16 beginning at 6:00 in the Village Community Center. This program is suitable for high school students and adults. Children's activities will be provided for younger children by UC Village staff.

We must courageously meet the challenge of denying hate the ability to take root in our community. Through the acceptance of our own personal responsibility to end this madness, we will bring honor to all who have lost their lives.