

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### **RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH May 2022**

**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 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**, the City of Albany 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 Albany; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how Albany has been enriched by local Jewish institutions and synagogues including Jewish Gateways, Congregation Or Zarua, and Congregation Kol Hadash.

**THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Albany City Council 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 and calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have woven the fabric of our country and community and supports opportunities to learn more about Jewish American history and culture; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the City of Albany 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.

DATED: May 16, 2022

  
PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR