

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

**In the matter of: Proclaiming May 2024 as
Jewish American Heritage Month.**

Resolution No. 2024-158

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 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, and around 25% of Bay Area Jewish households include a person of color, increasing to nearly 40% of households if the head of the household is younger than 35; and at the start of 2023, antisemitism was already at an all-time high, including but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism rose exponentially this past year, with a reported 360% increase in antisemitic incidents in the U.S., during the three months following October 7, 2023, from the same period in 2022, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL); and

WHEREAS, implicit bias and antisemitic attitudes are widespread today, with 63% of Jews surveyed in the Bay Area, in 2023, agreed that people make assumptions about them because they are Jewish, and the ADL found 24% of Americans surveyed endorsed six or more anti-Jewish tropes in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa 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, we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American community, including those who live, work and play in Contra Costa County; and we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how Contra Costa County has been enriched by local Jewish institutions and synagogues; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does 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. Contra Costa County 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.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 14th day of May 2024.

Absent

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
Chair,
District V Supervisor

Absent

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

KEN CARLSON
District IV Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: May 14, 2024

MONICA NINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By _____, Deputy