



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

KATHERINE W. LEWIS
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

District One
JOCELYN E. LEIGHTON

District Two
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

District Three
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
DEQA DHALAC

At Large
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

At Large
NATALIE E. WEST

**IN CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVE #2-23/24**

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RECENT ACTS OF HATE

WHEREAS, the City Council of South Portland, Maine, recognizes that hate speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related forms of intolerance, gender discrimination, and acts of extremism are obstacles to the success of our community and Nation; and

WHEREAS, We, the members of this Council, publicly condemn violence, hate speech and extremism motivated by discrimination including on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or language, in a manner consistent with the laws of our Country; and

WHEREAS, We urge the people of South Portland to stand in solidarity with one another supporting efforts to address hate speech, intolerance and extremism driving the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of hateful acts; and

WHEREAS, We express deep concern at those acts that advocate racial or religious hatred in violation of our Country's laws and which serve to undermine the spirit of inclusiveness and respect for diversity; and

WHEREAS, We express deep concern at instances of violence fueled by hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, including through social media platforms; and

WHEREAS, We encourage all relevant stakeholders, including religious and community leaders, media entities and social media platforms, as well as persons who may have credibility and influence within communities to speak out against hate speech, and to develop and share good practices to promote peaceful coexistence, and to address, in a manner consistent with applicable laws, hate speech and extremism that leads to unsafe circumstances for people in our community;

WE, the elected members of the South Portland City Council hereby assert and ally ourselves in standing against public demonstrations of hateful and racially threatening behavior and against those who preach hate and incite violence in our beloved city; and

WE, encourage all stakeholders to continue fully utilizing their roles to ensure an integrated, strategic, coherent, coordinated and gender-responsive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace and, in particular, to address hate speech in accordance with the laws of our Country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine, unequivocally condemns individuals and organizations who promote violence, hate speech and extremism motivated by discrimination including on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or language.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000

Dated: October 10, 2023