



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

**IN COUNCIL  
RESOLVE #5-22/23**

District One  
JOCELYN E. LEIGHTON

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District Two  
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

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District Three  
MISHA C. PRIDE

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District Four  
LINDA C. COHEN

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District Five  
DEQA DHALAC

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
NATALIE E. WEST

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of South Portland, Maine, works for the public good and recognizes that advancing justice and fairness is critical to the success of our community and our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of this Council, believe in and stand for values of inclusion, equity and condemn racism, antisemitism, white supremacy, sexism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia in action and rhetoric; and

**WHEREAS**, we further recognize that the experience of the Jewish-American people is a story of faith, fortitude, and progress and is connected to key tenets of American identity; and

**WHEREAS**, antisemitism is an insidious form of prejudice stretching back millennia that attacks the humanity of the Jewish people and has led to violence, destruction of lives and communities, and genocide; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a documented and dangerous rise of antisemitism globally and in the United States, where Jews are increasingly affected by the grotesque spread of misinformation and false claims including the control of the media and the financial system, accusations of dual loyalty, and a multitude of negative stereotypes and tropes; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Jewish Committee (AJC)'s 2021 *State of Antisemitism in America* report, a survey of American Jews and the general public's perceptions of antisemitism, revealed 24 percent of American Jews have been personally targeted by antisemitism in the past 12 months, 4 in 10 American Jews changed their behavior at least once out of fear of antisemitism, 90 percent believe antisemitism is a problem in the United States, and 82 percent feel it has increased in the past 5 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the rise in antisemitism is part of the larger trend of the rise of hate-filled movements that are targeting marginalized communities;

**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** understand that remaining silent and standing on the side lines while neighbors are attacked and vilified is wrong and is in opposition to our community values;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine, unequivocally condemns individuals and organizations who promote antisemitism and hate speech and stands against those who incite violence and threaten the safety and dignity of our Jewish residents; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we reject the display of racist propaganda and symbols of hatred and victimization based on race, faith, gender orientation, national origin or immigration status; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND REAFFIRMED**, that City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine will continue to make certain the City of South Portland is and will remain a welcoming city and a city opposed to acts of racism and bigotry.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000

Date: March 7, 2023