



Office of the City Commission

**Proclamation**

**A proclamation expressing support and gratitude to members of the Israeli armed forces from Cooper City, Florida who have fought to defend Israel's right to exist.**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Israel stands as a beacon of democracy, resilience, and unwavering commitment to peace in the Middle East; and

**WHEREAS**, the modern State of Israel was established in 1948 on the ancestral Jewish homeland, and has served as a refuge for the Jewish people following the heinous acts committed against Jews during the Holocaust; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning on October 7, 2023, approximately 2,000 Hamas terrorists from the Gaza Strip broke through the border fence and infiltrated Israel by land, sea, and air at several locations, advancing toward Israeli communities and population centers; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas terrorists attacked the sovereign State of Israel, raping, torturing, and killing thousands of innocent people, including Israelis, Americans, and other nationals, among whom were babies, young children, and the elderly, while indiscriminately launching over 5,000 rockets at private homes, schools, and hospitals and taking more than 240 people hostage; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas continues to hold hostages, attack Israelis, and call for the deaths of Israelis, Americans, Jews, and Christians around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America, the State of Florida, and the City of Cooper City, Florida have formally recognized the right and obligation of the State of Israel to defend itself and to exist as a sovereign nation, with the full rights and privileges afforded to all nations under international law; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cooper City has a significant Jewish and Israeli population, many of whom have loved ones currently in harms' way; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Cooper City, Florida, including Shlomo Shemesh, have served in the Israeli armed forces as part of Operation Swords of Iron.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ROSS**, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, do hereby recognize Shlomo Shemesh for his courage, dedication, and sacrifices in safeguarding the sovereignty and well-being of the State of Israel.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

GREG ROSS

Mayor, City of Cooper City