



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island has declared a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as a community priority by Proclamation No. 201 on November 21, 2016; and renewed this commitment on June 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of racism faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 14 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent of all religious-based hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, a variety of attacks against Jews have recently been on the rise in the United States and around the world,

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island expressly rejects such conduct and acts; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish Community, including synagogues, schools, community centers, other institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island is home to a significant population of Jews, and Jewish religious and community institutions; and

WHEREAS, all persons are encouraged to report any such antisemitic incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Jewish community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that the Mercer Island community is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry; and.

WHEREAS, each of us can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms, which makes Mercer Island a stronger and healthier community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim:

Our continuing commitment to be an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias against individuals because of race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion, and we urge all our members and residents of our community to treat each other with respect and to stand up and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

APPROVED, this 6th day of July 2021.