

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

CONDEMNING THE INCREASED INCIDENTS OF BIAS, PREJUDICE,
DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE AND ANTI-SEMITISM

WHEREAS, there has been a rash of bomb threats and cemetery desecrations targeting Jewish Community Centers, Jewish Day Schools and Jewish Institutions across the nation and in the Bay Area, and Temple Israel in Alameda was targeted by vandals on August 17, 2017 and there has been an increase in discriminatory rhetoric and actions, including verbal and violent anti-Semitic assaults, in recent years nationwide and in the Bay Area, targeting Jewish community members and in Alameda where Jewish students in the Alameda Unified School District were targeted and bullied; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Southern Poverty Law Center, Anti-Defamation League, ProPublica, and other reputable groups have identified evidence of hundreds of incidents of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation in the last few months throughout the country targeting individuals perceived to be of Jewish ethnic and/or religious ancestry; and

WHEREAS, these acts appear to have come from white-nationalist and racist groups and often include anti-Jewish bigotry, including anti-Semitic discrimination rooted in efforts to delegitimize Jewish self-determination; and

WHEREAS, today, white nationalism and neo-Nazism remain very real threats to the values for which the Alameda community stands, and their reinvention as the "Alt-Right" should not mitigate their hateful ideologies; and

WHEREAS, white nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to societal order as they seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, divide the nation, and foment hatred, classism, and ethnic eradication; and

WHEREAS, there have been an increase in violent rallies sponsored by white-nationalist and racist groups, including in Charlottesville where a non-violent counter-protestor was murdered as hundreds of white supremacists gathered with torches and chanted racial, ethnic and religious slurs about Black and Jewish people while waving banners with swastikas and in the Bay Area where many peaceful counter-protestors were beaten, threatened and subjected to verbal assaults; and

WHEREAS, these incidents occur in the context of a steep rise in anti-Semitism globally, xenophobic and discriminatory acts targeting people of diverse backgrounds, including Muslim, Arabs, Sikhs, Latinos, women, immigrants of all backgrounds, and LGBT people in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alameda has proudly recognized and celebrated its diverse community through various resolutions and events and declared that "Everyone Belongs Here"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, in light of the volume, frequency, and intensity of acts of intolerance, bigotry, xenophobia, racism, and the nature of anti-Semitic, we hereby reaffirm our commitment to an open and inclusive city that actively opposes all of these forms of prejudice, bias, and discrimination against people based on religion, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, or disability, and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we seek to uphold principles of equality, pluralism, and inclusivity, and will stand in solidarity with Jewish, Muslim, Black, LGBTQ, immigrant, and other communities whenever they are targeted or further marginalized; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the totalitarian impulses, violence, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis are strongly denounced and opposed; and further,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon free speech or any other right that is protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in a regular meeting assembled on the 5th day of September, 2017, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSECTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 5th day of September, 2017.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

Approved as to Form:

Janet C. Kern, City Attorney
City of Alameda