

PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO IN RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have been an important part of the American story and have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our earliest days; and

WHEREAS, generations of Jewish immigrants have arrived in the United States fleeing persecution and seeking opportunity, and through resilience and determination, they built vibrant communities and enriched the American social fabric while advocating for civil rights, social justice, and democracy for all; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans were instrumental in historic movements such as the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and women's suffrage, with leaders like Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and many others contributing to the fight for equality; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have continued to face antisemitism, including a dramatic 344 percent increase in antisemitic incidents over the past five years- ranging from harassment to vandalism and violence- according to organizations that are careful to distinguish antisemitism from legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Palo Alto recognizes the importance of standing in solidarity with the Jewish American community to condemn antisemitism and all forms of hate, ensure inclusive representation in civic life, and promote mutual respect and understanding; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American community, including those who live, work, and contribute to the life of East Palo Alto- and recognize the importance of preserving and sharing their stories as part of our collective history; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2006, the federal government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of East Palo Alto, State of California, hereby recognizes May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of East Palo Alto and encourages all residents to learn about and celebrate the diverse contributions of Jewish Americans, confront antisemitism in all its forms, and promote education that deepens understanding of Jewish American history and culture.

Dated: May 5, 2026

Webster Lincoln, Mayor

