

PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment and discrimination based on actual or perceived Jewish identity, ancestry, ethnicity, or faith, remains a persistent and growing concern in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Hate Crime Statistics Report, anti-Jewish hate crimes consistently represent the majority of religion-based hate crimes in the United States; and
WHEREAS, antisemitic incidents have reached heightened levels in recent years, including threats and attacks directed at Jewish students, houses of worship, and community institutions; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism undermines public safety, destabilizes community cohesion, and erodes trust in civic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Palo Alto affirms its responsibility to protect all residents from bias-motivated harassment, discrimination, and violence, and recognizes that the safety and dignity of one community strengthens the safety and dignity of all; and

WHEREAS, effective prevention, monitoring, and response require clear and consistent definitions and frameworks; and

WHEREAS, in May 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism, which has become an internationally recognized framework used by governments and institutions worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism provides practical guidance for identifying contemporary manifestations of antisemitism and has been widely adopted and utilized by federal agencies, states, municipalities, and law enforcement bodies across the country; and

WHEREAS, the use of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as an educational and analytical tool does not infringe upon rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of East Palo Alto unequivocally condemns antisemitism in all its forms and rejects the normalization of antisemitic rhetoric, stereotypes, harassment, discrimination, or violence; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the City of East Palo Alto supports the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as a non-binding educational and analytical framework to help guide municipal training, policy development, and awareness efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the City encourages continued collaboration with community organizations, educational institutions, and interfaith partners to promote understanding, strengthen prevention efforts, and support the safety and well-being of all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to diminish constitutionally protected speech or lawful expression.

Dated: May 5, 2026



Webster Lincoln, Mayor