

Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission  
Resolution 22-01 - Condemning Antisemitism and Anti-Jewish Violence

Summary: In response to past and recent acts of antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence in our community, this Resolution condemns antisemitism and acts of anti-Jewish bigotry as morally reprehensible in themselves as well as serious threats to public safety, and it denounces the antisemitic sentiments that give rise to such acts as false, hateful and antithetical to core American values.

WHEREAS, the CAPS Commission is deeply disturbed that several acts of antisemitism, anti-Jewish violence and hate crimes have occurred in our community, including:

- an arson attack by a white supremacist group against the synagogue of Congregation Beth Shalom in 1982 [1],
- antisemitic hate literature that was publicly distributed in 1998 by a white nationalist who later killed two people and wounded nine in a shooting spree that targeted Jews, Blacks and Asians [2],
- three acts of vandalism against Hebrew books and Jewish community institutions Hillel and Chabad in 2010 [3],
- the theft of dozens of Jewish sacred religious objects from Indiana University students' doors in several dormitories in 2021 [4],
- verbal harassment of a Jewish Indiana University student in 2021 [5], and
- defacement by swastika of several pieces of property near campus and downtown Bloomington in 2021 and 2022 [5].

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY ON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. Celebrates Bloomington's Jewish population as an indelible and valuable part of our community; and
2. Affirms the rights of Jews, people from Israel, and people of Jewish heritage to reside in our community as safely and securely as everyone else; and
3. Condemns all acts of violence, bigotry, hate speech and intimidation targeted at members of our community who are perceived to be Jewish as serious threats to public safety; and
4. Declares that antisemitic speech is:
  - a. is objectively false,
  - b. violates core American values such as liberty, equality and freedom, and
  - c. threatens the most basic civil liberties of all Americans; and
5. Calls upon Mayor John Hamilton, the Office of the Mayor, all Common Councilmembers and the Board of Public Safety to:
  - a. actively condemn antisemitic speech and anti-Jewish violence when they occur as both morally reprehensible and serious threats to public safety;
  - b. reinforce that antisemitism is altogether corrosive of American values, and as such, is to be unambiguously denounced and rejected [6];

- c. endeavor to share factually true portrayals of Judaism and Jews as a valuable part of American society and of our local community.

PASSED by the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 22 day of March, 2022.

*Kimela Brown-Spark*

*Nejha Routson*, Chair

Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

Citations:

1. The arson attack on Congregation Beth Shalom in 1982 was described by Rabbi Brian Besser in a phone conversation with CAPS Commissioner Nejla Routsong on January 26, 2022.  
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtdid=198308150012>
2. The public distribution of antisemitic hate literature, as well as several other local acts of antisemitism included in this Resolution, was described by Rabbi Sue Silberberg, Executive Director of the Helene G. Simon Hillel Center at Indiana University, in a phone conversation with CAPS Commissioner Nejla Routsong on January 21, 2022.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/1999/07/06/us/midwest-gunman-had-engaged-in-racist-acts-at-2-universities.html>
3. <https://www.hillel.org/about/news-views/news-views---blog/news-and-views/2010/12/02/indiana-hillel-responds-to-anti-jewish-incidents>
4. <https://www.wthr.com/article/news/local/indiana-university-iu-task-force-antisemitic-actions-college-campus/531-e86839b8-72d0-4b38-9d49-e946ede8d6>
5. <https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/monroe-county/bloomington/iu-bloomington-community-react-to-antisemitism-incidents>
6. This phrasing was suggested by Professor Alvin Rosenfeld, the Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies and Director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University in an email conversation with CAPS Commissioner Nejla Routsong on February 22, 2022.

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