Snohomish County Executive Signs Proclamation Condemning Antisemitism

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., December 1, 2022 – Today, Executive Dave Somers signed a Proclamation condemning antisemitism and reaffirming Snohomish County’s commitment to nondiscrimination and human rights:

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Snohomish County, Washington

PROCLAMATION CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM AND REAFFIRMING SNOHOMISH COUNTY’S COMMITMENT TO NONDISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is one of the most diverse counties in Washington, and our local Jewish community is an important part of the County’s fabric, with individuals and families at Temple Beth Or and Chabad Jewish Center of Snohomish County contributing to our community in countless ways, and

WHEREAS, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum defines anti-Semitism as prejudice or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust, the state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, is history’s most extreme example of anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, According to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the specific hatred of Jews preceded the modern era and the coming of the term anti-Semitism. Among the most common manifestations of anti-Semitism throughout history were pogroms, violent acts launched against Jews and frequently encouraged by government authorities; and

WHEREAS, According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2018, reports of anti-Semitic incidents were up 80% in Washington state from the previous year. And, in Seattle, reports of hate crimes and incidents were up nearly 400% from 2012 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism is found across the ideological spectrum. Particularly alarming is the extent to which expressions of anti-Semitism move from the political fringe into the mainstream as a result of license to perpetrate this hatred with impunity; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County supports the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA’s) working definition of anti-Semitism, which helps protect all people in Snohomish County from acts of hate and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, The IHRA working definition has proven to be an essential tool for government and law enforcement agencies in the United States as they work to identify contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism, and both respond directly to it and provide training and education about it.

WHEREAS, Hate and bias are not acceptable in any form in our community. The Snohomish County Charter declares a commitment to nondiscrimination and the promotion of human rights that reflects our diverse community and our commitment to mutual respect and shared opportunity to live, work, and thrive together; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County respects the infinite value of every human being; and

WHEREAS, Any victims of anti-Semitism in Snohomish County are urged to report any incidents – as hate crimes or bias-related events – so that local law enforcement can respond, track such incidents, and bring perpetrators to justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVE SOMERS, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby proclaim Snohomish County’s condemnation of anti-Semitism, as defined by the IHRA, as supporters and allies of our Jewish community. Snohomish County strongly stands against hate, bias or violence based on identity and remains committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and human rights expressed in the Snohomish County Charter.

SIGNED this 1st day of December, 2022.

Dave Somers
County Executive