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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:



SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Snohomish County, Washington

**PROCLAMATION CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM 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 antisemitism 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 antisemitism; and

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

WHEREAS, According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2018, reports of antisemitic incidents were up 60% 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, Antisemitism is found across the ideological spectrum. Particularly alarming is the extent to which expressions of antisemitism 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 antisemitism](#), 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 antisemitism, 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 antisemitism 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 antisemitism, 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