

**RESOLUTION NO. 2852**

**RESOLUTION DENOUNCING HATE AND ANTI-SEMITISM IN WAKE OF MURDERS IN PITTSBURGH AT TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence proclaims that all are created with inalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and further that this profound document reminds us that hate and bigotry are an affront to the ideals of our nation and to the collective conscience of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, October 27, 2018, the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, experienced a horrific hate crime at the Tree of Life Synagogue where 11 congregants were murdered. This is the deadliest attack on American Jews in the history of this country; and

**WHEREAS**, this act of terror is not an isolated one, because, although committed by an individual, it has happened at a time when hate crimes against Jews in this country have increased substantially, and White nationalism and anti-Semitism are on the rise; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, “We need to stop the hate. Language of hate just has no place. When you speak language of hate as a leader, you give permission to all peoples to say it’s okay to speak that language of hate;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, Mayor William Peduto, has strongly condemned this act of terror, and the City of Alexandria, Virginia, shares his firm belief that we must not be silent and that hatred will not divide us; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria, Virginia, is a city of kindness and compassion, fully committed to human rights, diversity, tolerance, and inclusiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria City Council issued a Statement on Inclusiveness in November 2016, reaffirming our commitment to diversity and to fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness that respects the dignity and worth of every person, and reaffirming our responsibility to ensure that each person within our jurisdiction is accorded equal protection under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, as Mayor of the City of Alexandria, I signed on to the Mayors’ Compact to Combat Hate, Extremism, and Bigotry, which the U.S. Conference of Mayors has issued in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria mourns the loss of life suffered in the City of Pittsburgh, as well as shares the core belief that hatred and violence perpetrated against any Americans, wherever committed, threaten our own peace, safety and community; and

**WHEREAS**, as Elie Wiesel said, “We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allison Silberberg, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim that we stand firmly with the City of Pittsburgh, the Jewish community, the victims’ families, and Americans throughout the nation in declaring that we remain united in denouncing hate.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13th day of November 2018.

  
**ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR**

ATTEST:

  
Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk