

1 [Jewish American Heritage Month - May 2024]

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3 **Resolution recognizing May 2024 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have been an important part of the American story and
7 have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest
8 days; and

9 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish
10 American Heritage Month, stating, "As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and
11 stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American
12 citizens," and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have
13 been made by Presidents of the United States annually; and

14 WHEREAS, Generations of Jews have fled to the United States in search of a better
15 life for themselves and their families, and these immigrants made invaluable contributions in
16 support of equality and civil rights through their leadership and achievements; and

17 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity in a variety of ways,
18 such as culturally, ethnically, religiously and by following Jewish ethics and values; and

19 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and
20 economically diverse, and around 25 percent of Bay Area Jewish households include a
21 person of color, increasing to nearly 40 percent of households if the head of the household is
22 younger than 35; and

23 WHEREAS, At the start of 2023, antisemitism was already at an all-time high, including
24 but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful
25 comments posted on social media; and

1 WHEREAS, Antisemitism rose exponentially this past year, with a reported 360%
2 increase in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. during the three months following October 7,
3 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, Implicit bias and antisemitic attitudes are widespread today, with 63% of
5 Jews surveyed in the Bay Area in 2023 agreed that people make assumptions about them
6 because they are Jewish, and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) found 24% of Americans
7 surveyed endorsed six or more anti-Jewish tropes in 2024; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco shares an obligation to condemn and combat antisemitism
9 wherever it exists, to include Jewish Americans in all facets of civic life, and to stand with the
10 Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry in our city and country; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a need for education and policies that are culturally competent
12 when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Jewish in all aspects of
13 American society, including discourse and policy; and

14 WHEREAS, We celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American
15 community, including those who live, work and play in San Francisco, and;

16 WHEREAS, We recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how
17 San Francisco has been enriched by local Jewish institutions; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That San Francisco hereby declares the month of May as Jewish
19 American Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by
20 members of the Jewish community; now, therefore, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
22 Francisco calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have woven the fabric
23 of our country and community, and supports opportunities to learn more about Jewish
24 American history and culture; now, therefore, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco will continue efforts to confront
2 antisemitism and other forms of hate impacting the Jewish community, support local
3 education about the diversity of our Jewish American community, and integrate Jewish
4 American culture into future programs, activities, and ceremonies throughout the year.

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