

# JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE PENINSULA, MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTIES

*Beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation*

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## THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT JCRC STATEMENT

The Jewish Community Relations Council, representing more than 70 synagogues and Jewish organizations in San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, welcomes the historic accord aimed at ending the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and establishing a comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors.

We support the efforts of the negotiators on all sides who worked tirelessly to arrive at an initial Israeli/Palestinian agreement. Based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual recognition and security, the agreement represents a road map for transforming relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

We applaud the courage and vision of the Israeli government under the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. While the risks inherent in this agreement are considerable, their recognition of the greater risks posed by maintenance of the status quo provided the impetus for this achievement.

We appreciate the efforts of the United States government. Our government's unwavering support for direct face-to-face negotiations between the parties - while avoiding placing disproportionate pressure on any of them - kept alive the possibility of such a breakthrough.

We acknowledge the significant changes in the positions of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO's explicit commitments - to accept Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state within secure borders, to renounce terrorism, and to declare "inoperative and no longer valid" those articles of the Palestinian Covenant that deny Israel's right to exist - can, through full implementation, help pave the road to peace.

We urge the Arab states to see in this accord the opportunity to end decades of enmity toward the state of Israel that has resulted in suffering on all sides; to follow the example of Egypt in formalizing peace treaties with Israel; and to cooperate in joint efforts aimed at bringing stability and economic prosperity to the entire region.

We are aware of the dangers and complex issues that lie ahead. These obstacles must not be allowed to detract from this historic moment. For the first time in the painful history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict there is light at the end of the tunnel. The momentum toward peace must continue, so that future generations of Israelis and Palestinians will grow up free of violence and hatred and the entire region can enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity.

(UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE JCRC, SEPTEMBER 14, 1993)

