

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 9



City and County of San Francisco

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Supervisor Ronen Introduces Resolution Condemning Increase of Anti-Semitic Harassment

San Francisco, CA – District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen today introduced a resolution responding to “the increase in incidents of anti-Semitism and other forms of bias, prejudice and discrimination.” Driving this resolution are incidents of anti-Semitism, bomb threats and the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, which have taken place across the nation, and in the Bay Area and San Francisco.

“In today’s highly polarized political environment, we see a general rise in xenophobia. Alongside anti-Semitism, we have witnessed a radical jump in racial discrimination, misogyny, anti-LGBT bias and erasure, and Islamophobia. That’s why I was proud to work with our local Jewish Community Relations Council to develop a resolution that would respond to this rise of anti-Semitism and reaffirm the City’s commitment to inclusion,” Ronen said.

Anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. surged by more than a third in 2016 and then jumped another 86 percent in the first quarter of 2017, according to data from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Although most often these acts involve bullying and vandalism, they can escalate to harassment, assault and hate crimes. FBI data indicates that the majority (51.3 percent) of hate crimes motivated by religious bias are anti-Jewish. Numbers in California, where hate crimes have increased by double digits each year for the last two years, show a similar preponderance, according to the state’s attorney general.

From the anti-Semitic flyers on BART last year, to bomb threats that caused multiple evacuations in February of several Jewish community centers and day schools, to a mezuzah set on fire on a student’s front door at UC Hastings in March, the rise in anti-semitic harassment has been coordinated and extreme. Also deeply disturbing has been harassment involve children including Nazi salutes at a pep rally at George Washington High School or the swastika scrawled on the blackboard at Lowell.

“We want to thank Supervisor Ronen for introducing this resolution and choosing to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and other minority communities that find themselves increasingly targeted. At this difficult time we must come together and work harder than ever to uphold our cherished values of equality, pluralism and inclusivity,” said Abby Michelson Porth, Executive Director of the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council. JCRC represents more than 60 synagogues and Jewish organizations on critical issues affecting the Bay Area Jewish community.

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