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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-70

RESOLUTION BY INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT OF RACINE COUNTY’S JEWISH COMMUNITY

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, late on the evening of Sunday, October 8, 2022, Racine’s only Jewish synagogue, Beth Israel Sinai, was vandalized and defaced following Sukkot (Tabernacle) services; and

WHEREAS, the incident lasted into the next morning with bricks thrown three different times resulting in shattered windows; and

WHEREAS, the October 8th incident represented the second recent act of vandalism at Beth Israel Sinai; and

WHEREAS, following Selichot services on September 21, 2019, Beth Israel Sinai was spray painted with swastikas, and other antisemitic graffiti; and

WHEREAS, established in the 1920s, Beth Israel Sinai synagogue holds a traditional egalitarian service, welcoming everyone in an open and friendly family-oriented atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, antisemitic materials have been reportedly distributed within the City of Kenosha five times since December 2021, and, according to the Anti-Defamation League’s most recent audit, antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high in the United States – an average of more than seven incidents per day and a 34 percent increase over the prior year, including assaults, harassment, and vandalism; and

WHEREAS, there are neo-Nazi organizations with growing membership carrying out hate crimes across the country; and,

WHEREAS, many synagogues across the United States are now paying for armed guards and other security measures due to experiences in many Jewish communities; and,

WHEREAS, we stand in solidarity with Beth Israel Sinai Congregation in Racine, as well as the Jewish congregations in Kenosha, and other places where antisemitic incidents have recently occurred – including Hancock, Michigan, Colleyville, Texas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Poway, California – and the entire Jewish community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these incidents are a reminder that we must continue to educate ourselves, and speak out against and prevent antisemitism and hate, both locally and nationally; and,

WHEREAS, everyone has the right to pray and practice their religion safely; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Racine is committed to a safe, inclusive and just society; and,

WHEREAS, a safe, inclusive and just county has no place for hate against specific groups.

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The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

Approved: _____

Vetoed: _____

Date: _____,

Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive