1 2	December 13, 2022
3	RESOLUTION NO. 2022-70
4 5	RESOLUTION BY INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT OF RACINE COUNTY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY
6	To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:
7 8 9	<b>WHEREAS</b> , 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
10 11	<b>WHEREAS</b> , the incident lasted into the next morning with bricks thrown three different times resulting in shattered windows; and
12 13	<b>WHEREAS</b> , the October 8 <sup>th</sup> incident represented the second recent act of vandalism at Beth Israel Sinai; and
14 15	<b>WHEREAS</b> , following Selichot services on September 21, 2019, Beth Israel Sinai was spray painted with swastikas, and other antisemitic graffiti; and
16 17 18	<b>WHEREAS</b> , established in the 1920s, Beth Israel Sinai synagogue holds a traditional egalitarian service, welcoming everyone in an open and friendly family-oriented atmosphere; and
19 20 21 22 23	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
24 25	<b>WHEREAS</b> , there are neo-Nazi organizations with growing membership carrying out hate crimes across the country; and,
26 27	<b>WHEREAS</b> , many synagogues across the United States are now paying for armed guards and other security measures due to experiences in many Jewish communities; and,
28 29 30	<b>WHEREAS</b> , 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,

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

WHEREAS, these incidents are a reminder that we must continue to educate ourselves,

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

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,

and Poway, California - and the entire Jewish community in the United States; and

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Res No. 2022-
Page Two

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the County of Racine stands in solidarity and supports with understanding, sensitivity, and perseverance its Jewish community in the face of rising antisemitic incidents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the County of Racine affirms its steadfast commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, equitable, and just county for all people where religious groups can practice their religions freely and safely, and supports efforts to prevent, investigate, and hold those accountable who engage in hate crimes targeting victims because of their race, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

13			Respectfully submitted,
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15	1st Reading		INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORS
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17	2nd Reading		
18			Tom Rutkowski
19	<b>BOARD ACTION</b>		
20	Adopted		
21	For		Jody Spencer
22	Against		
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25	VOTE REQUIRED:	Majority	
26	Prepared by:		
27	<b>Corporation Counsel</b>		
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3 Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive	22	<del></del>
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