

Town of Sharon

Proclamation

***WHEREAS,** The United States has many heritage months that celebrate the various communities that form the mosaic of our country. By celebrating heritage months, we learn about one another, we honor the richness of our diverse nation, and we strengthen the fabric of American society; and*

***WHEREAS,** The American Jewish community dates back to 1654 when a group of 23 Jews fleeing persecution at the hands of the Portuguese Inquisition fled Brazil and found refuge in New Amsterdam (now New York). From that tiny group, the American Jewish community has grown to over six million, representing approximately 2.4% of the American population today; and*

***WHEREAS,** Now, American Jews are feeling vulnerable amidst a rise in antisemitism. AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2022 report revealed that 89% of Jewish respondents believe antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. Four in ten American Jews changed their behavior in at least one way out of fear of antisemitism; and*

***WHEREAS,** The strength of a society can be measured by how they protect their minority populations, and celebrate their contributions, it is altogether fitting for the U.S. to once again mark May as Jewish American Heritage Month.*

***NOW THEREFORE, BY THESE PRESENTS,** The Sharon Select Board does hereby proclaim May 2024 as Jewish American Heritage Month in our great community.*

Given this 14th day of May 2024



Kiana Pierre-Louis, Chair

Hanna R. Switekowski, Clerk

Emily E. Smith-Lee, Member