

Proposed: 5/1/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 082-2023(CRR),
First Reading.

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution recognizing May 2023 as *Jewish American Heritage Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, in 1654, a small ship carrying 23 Jewish refugees sailed into the port of present-day New York City, fleeing oppression and discrimination. Facing resistance from the colony's leadership, they fought for the right to remain and became our nation's first Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, we honor these 23 refugees for building a legacy of generations of Jewish Americans who, despite their own encounters with prejudice, persecution, and the horrors of the Holocaust, have fought righteously for justice, equality, and freedom for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the story of America was written, in part, by Jewish Americans who, through their words and actions, embraced the opportunity and responsibility of citizenship to ensure the rights and protections of all Americans – regardless of race, gender, or creed – sometimes at great risk to their own lives. Many Jewish Americans have served our country honorably in uniform, protecting and preserving American values and ideals – and making the world safer for democracy. They have also made enormous contributions to America's scientific, artistic, and cultural life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights is proud to be home to a large and vibrant Jewish community that has actively participated in our growth as a strong, diverse city; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans are still subject to the scourge of white supremacy and antisemitic violence. The Jewish American story is one that is fueled by faith, resilience, and hope. Three-hundred and sixty-eight years after those 23 brave Jewish refugees arrived in America, Jewish Americans continue to help our country, and the City of Cleveland Heights, thrive and prosper.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby proclaim May 2023 as *Jewish American Heritage Month* and urges every resident to celebrate the valuable contributions of Jewish Americans to our community and American society, and to stand against bigotry and antisemitism.

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SECTION 2. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to join with other communities in this celebration and the need to proclaim *Older Americans Month* on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor: _____

Approved by Mayor: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor