



# Proclamation

## Condemning Terrorism and Supporting Impacted Community Members

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, October 7, 2023, during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, Hamas, an organization designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization, launched an unprecedented attack against civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas terrorists crossed the Israeli land border, massacring civilians and abducting hostages in more than 20 towns in southern Israel, including infants, children, elderly, and foreign nationals; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas' initial attack killed more than 1,300 Israelis and injured thousands more; and

**WHEREAS**, since Saturday, October 7, 2023, Hamas has been directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinian civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas launched thousands of rockets into southern and central Israel leading to damage, injuries and civilian deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the resulting war between Hamas and Israel is likely to last for a significant amount of time, causing great pain and hardship, as many more innocent lives are lost; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of our community have family and friends directly impacted by these events; and

**WHEREAS**, political turmoil abroad can lead to an influx of hate crimes and discrimination locally. Palo Alto strongly denounces such actions, and is committed to ensuring the well-being of all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Palo Alto Jewish community already live in heightened anxiety due to unprecedented levels of antisemitism in California and the United States, which has been amplified by the recent violence; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Palo Alto condemns the horrific attacks against civilians by Hamas and mourns the tragic loss of innocent lives on all sides.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Palo Alto fosters a culture of belonging, where all members of our diverse community feel included, safe, and respected.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Palo Alto remains committed to calling out all forms of hate and encourages residents to show civility, compassion and understanding in support of their neighbors who may be in great pain.

Presented: October 21, 2023

Lydia Kou  
Mayor