



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 80894, **Version:** 1

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### **Fiscal Note**

No City appropriation required.

### **Title**

Condemning Islamophobia and Antisemitism

### **Body**

WHEREAS, the international crisis in Gaza and Israel is creating fear and distress throughout the United States and our local community; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), "In the four weeks covering 10/7 to 11/4, CAIR's national headquarters and chapters received a total of 1,283 requests for help and reports of bias, which is a 216 percent increase over the previous year", of which "First Amendment issues (23.39%), violations of an individual's right to free speech and expression, were the top reported case type. This was followed by employment (20.56% reports), hate crimes (15.32% reports) and education and bullying (9.2% reports)" ; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), "in the one-month period between Oct. 7 and Nov. 7, 2023, the ADL Center on Extremism documented 832 antisemitic incidents of assault, vandalism and harassment across the U.S., an average of nearly 28 incidents a day. This represents a 316 percent increase from the 200 incidents reported during the same period in 2022"; and,

WHEREAS, incidents of Antisemitism and Islamophobia are on the rise across the nation and within our city, posing a significant threat to the well-being and safety of our diverse communities; and,

WHEREAS, to protect the safety of the public, the Madison Police Department takes seriously accusations of hate crimes, and has pledged to investigate them fully; and,

WHEREAS, on November 18, a group of neo-Nazis marched in downtown Madison, according to news reports, "carrying flags with Nazi imagery, including swastikas"; and,

WHEREAS, the Madison Common Council is dedicated to fostering a community that embraces diversity and upholds the principles of equity and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the Madison Common Council recognizes the importance of creating a community where every resident can live free from fear and discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison Common Council firmly condemns all acts of Islamophobia and Antisemitism and encourages all Madisonians to recognize the diversity of religions and cultures in our community as a source of richness and strength.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council encourages all Madisonians to foster an environment of open and constructive dialogue, education, and communication that provides a supportive space as our communities engage in these crucial conversations.