



THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

A PROCLAMATION OF ACCEPTANCE AND OPENNESS AMONG ALL OUR CITIZENS

December 4, 2018

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Wakefield Public Schools to prevent “harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, disability, or housing status,” and

WHEREAS, several school communities in our region and beyond have experienced multiple incidents of racist, anti-Semitic graffiti and hate speech targeted at vulnerable students, and

WHEREAS, anti-Semitic incidents are on the rise in K-12 schools, with 93 reported incidents occurring in Massachusetts in 2017, according to the Anti-Defamation League, and

WHEREAS, hate crimes in general have risen for two straight years, according to FBI statistics, and

WHEREAS, the Wakefield Public Schools have also experienced instances of anti-Semitic and racist speech in recent years, and

WHEREAS, the Wakefield School Committee, Wakefield Town Council, (*and Wakefield Human Rights Commission*), wish to publicly demonstrate solidarity with our neighboring schools and communities in condemning racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of hate speech.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Wakefield, through the elected and appointed members of its School Committee, Town Council, (*and Human Rights Commission,*) stands firmly with the students, parents, educators, and citizens of our neighboring communities to reaffirm our message that **Hate Has No Home Here**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as duly voted by each public body, that this resolution be shared with school and municipal leaders across our region to strengthen our collective fight against racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of discrimination.

Signed, on behalf of each public body, by its Chair:

Town Council
Peter May, Chair

School Committee
Thomas Markham, Chair

Human Rights Commission
Pina Masciarelli-Patel, Chair