

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE CITY AND CITIZENS OF WHITEFISH, MONTANA**

WHEREAS, recent events in our sister city of Whitefish, Montana, remind us that the plagues of anti-Semitism, ethnic and racial hate, and intolerance remain a stain on an otherwise decent society; and,

WHEREAS, it is the province of good government to speak out against such evils, and to remind those most vulnerable that their lives and interests are especially protected; as President George Washington wrote to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1790:

"It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

and,

WHEREAS, silence in the face of intolerance is no virtue, for those who do not speak, or take action, against such dark forces will in time become their victim as well. As the German anti-Nazi theologian, Martin Niemöller, reminds us:

*"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

and,

WHEREAS, these same dark forces are a mockery to the memory of, and sacrifices made by, our World War II veterans, living and dead, who gave their all so that the twin evils of Nazism and fascism might never again hold a free reign in this world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS:

That we join our Montana Congressional Delegation, elected state leaders, the Whitefish City Council, our Jewish neighbors, representatives of the broader faith community, and all citizens, in denouncing hate, bigotry, and intolerance, which today masquerade under euphemisms such as "white nationalism" and the "alt-right;" and that we express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the ongoing struggle to free this world of the ideas and conduct that serve to undermine a free and virtuous society.


And to those who would promote these false ideas long since rejected by civilized peoples, we say, "*le-olan lo*"-----"Never again!"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereto set our hands and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 3rd day of January, 2017.





Bob Kelly, Mayor



Tracy Hynick, Commissioner



Bob Jones, Commissioner



Bill Bronson, Commissioner



Fred Burow, Commissioner