

Mayors United Against Antisemitism

By Daniel Pearlman

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) and The U.S. Conference of Mayors have partnered on a new initiative called Mayors United Against Antisemitism. This comes after the FBI's most recent Hate Crimes Statistics revealed that Jews, who make up less than 2% of the American population, were the victims of 60.2% of anti-religious hate crimes. The Mayors United Against Antisemitism initiative seeks to respond to these alarming trends by calling on mayors to reject antisemitism in all its manifestations.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is supporting this initiative and has assisted AJC in reaching out to Toledo-area mayors. Local mayors who have signed the Mayors United Against Antisemitism statement include Richard Carr of Maumee, Thomas Mackin of Perrysburg, Craig Stough of Sylvania, and Wade Kapszukiewicz of Toledo. Across Ohio, over 25 additional mayors, including the mayors of our state's six largest cities, have signed on.

Mayor Stough of Sylvania said, "Anti-Semitism, racial prejudice, or any form of division or intolerance has no place in our community. We must set a better example for our children and grandchildren so they can make our world a happier and healthier place to thrive."

"To date, more than 475 mayors, like Mayor Stough, have spoken out strongly against antisemitism, bigotry, and hate," said Lee C. Shapiro, AJC Cleveland regional director. "Speaking in unison, the mayors state unequivocally that antisemitism is incompatible with fundamental democratic values. AJC Cleveland is proud to partner with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo to raise awareness, educate, and seek to combat rising antisemitism."

To see a list of all mayors who have signed on to the Mayors United Against Antisemitism statement, visit ajc.org/mayors.

The JCRC represents the Greater Toledo Jewish community, Israel and Jews to the general community; establishes collaborative relationships with other ethnic, racial, civic and religious groups; promotes the interests of Jewish organizations and other agencies through government relations at the federal, state and local levels and the media; and educates and advocates on important issues, seeking consensus with a commitment to Jewish values. To learn more, please contact Daniel Pearlman, JCRC Director, at daniel@jewishtoledo.org.