

WHEREAS, in 1654, a small ship carrying 23 Jewish refugees sailed into the port of present-day New York City, fleeing oppression and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, they secured the right to remain and became the first Jewish communal presence to settle on American soil; and

WHEREAS, during Jewish American Heritage Month, we honor these 23 refugees and the centuries of successive generations of Jewish Americans, who — shaped by their own encounters with prejudice, persecution, and the promise of a better tomorrow — have emboldened our Nation to stand up for justice, equality, freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, Jewish Americans have proudly served our Nation in uniform, in elected office, and on our Nation's highest courts. They have made enormous contributions to America's cultural, scientific, artistic, and intellectual life, and they have marched, petitioned, and boarded buses to demand civil and political rights for all — from women's rights to voting rights to workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, today, we continue to strive to live up to the founding ideals as the scourge of white supremacy and antisemitic violence rises; our government remains committed to ensuring that hate has no safe harbor and that new laws were created that provides more tools to combat hate crimes; provide assistance to religious organizations, places of worship, and nonprofits to protect their facilities and members; and a new Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism was named; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish American story, and the story of our Nation as a whole, is fueled by faith, resilience, and hope. It is a story defined by a firm belief in possibilities, the resolve to make real the promise of America for all Americans, and a commitment to perfecting our Union, heeding the timeless words of Rabbi Tarfon, the first-century scholar who taught "It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it."

WHEREAS, three-hundred and sixty-eight years after those 23 brave Jewish refugees arrived in America, Jewish Americans continue to help our country thrive and prosper. This month, we honor the timeless traditions, heritage, and contributions of Jewish Americans that drive our progress as a Nation each and every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as:

Jewish American Heritage Month

and call upon all Americans to visit JewishHeritageMonth.gov to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the City of Delray Beach this 17th day of May 2022.

SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR