

POLICY STATEMENT 11/13/18

The following proposal was approved by the Board of Trustees of Beth Meyer Synagogue on November 13, 2018.

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A RESOLUTION OF BETH MEYER SYNAGOGUE RESPECTFULLY ASKING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO ENACT CONCRETE MEASURES TO CONTROL GUN VIOLENCE AND TO COMBAT ALL FORMS OF PREJUDICE AND INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC

In the wake of brutal murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, directed at Jews and without any doubt motivated by anti-Semitism,

aware that the Pittsburgh shooting is just the latest in an increasing and seemingly endless series of gun violence far too often motivated by religious, racial, ethnic, gender or other intolerable hate;

and mindful of core values in our Jewish faith -- to not stand idly by or remain silent in the face of such hate and violence, and the Jewish commitment to *pikuach nefesh*, the sanctity of life,

Beth Meyer Synagogue respectfully but urgently demands that our elected officials:

1. Stand up against all forms of prejudice against any person no matter where they live, the color of their skin, the ways in which they pray, whom they love or their political affiliation
2. Address the underlying conditions that undeniably contribute to hate-based violence, by conducting all political debate in a civil manner, refusing to engage in or support the use of inflammatory speech including but not limited to anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic, misogynistic, ableist, anti-LGBTQ slurs, lies and rhetoric in any context.
3. Enact meaningful gun controls including but not limited to universal and comprehensive background checks before the sale of any gun, a national database to identify and flag dangerous people who should not be purchasing or possessing deadly weapons, and a ban on civilian use of assault rifles, high capacity magazines and all other weapons appropriate only for military and law enforcement purposes.

It has been the honor and privilege of the Jewish community over our long history to be a voice for the most profound values of humanity and a witness to the presence of the holy in the face of every living thing. It is enjoined upon us to "remember before whom you stand." Today the blood of our fellows in Pittsburgh and around the world cry out to us from the ground. Now is the time to answer Cain's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" in the affirmative. Yes, I am.