

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2018

Contact:

Elana Kahn, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation – elanak@milwaukeejewish.org or 414-403-3705

Debbie Minkoff, Acting Interim Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Madison – ExecutiveDirector@jewishmadison.org or 608-695-1777

Michael Blumenfeld, Wisconsin Jewish Conference – mblumenfeld@mblumenfeld.org or 608-575-8018

Jessica Gall, Senior Associate Regional Director, ADL Midwest – jgall@adl.org or 312-520-2574

Statement on Baraboo High School Photo

We are alarmed by the disturbing display of anti-Semitism by a group of Baraboo High School students. Though the incident apparently took place last May, it reflects a rising swell of anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. We are particularly concerned with the prevalence of bigotry within schools; more than 25 percent of all the recorded anti-Semitic incidents in Wisconsin last year took place among students or on campus. We have witnessed numerous egregious incidents targeting African Americans, Latinos, and other minority groups.

We appreciate the school district's comment and look forward to working with them to prevent any future such incidents. As we know, acts of hate begin with hateful expressions. Such expressions must be a call to action for schools and families to educate youth to respect diversity and to embrace difference. The values that will hold us together must be taught and reinforced, lest we see the continued rise of hate and its consequences.

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Jewish Federation of Madison

Wisconsin Jewish Conference

ADL Midwest

Co-Signers (list in formation).... see next page....

Co-Signers (list in formation)

Congregation Emanu El B'ne Jeshurun Social Action Committee

Congregation Shalom

Congregation Sinai

Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA, The Rev. Paul D. Erickson, Bishop

Just Be Hope United Methodist Center, Rev. Deborah Thompson

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Wisconsin

MA'RUF -- Aamer Ahmed, President

Masjid Al Qur'an Milwaukee, Hafiz Muhammad Shafique

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Tory V. Topjian, Senior Pastor

Milwaukee Zen Center, Rev. Tonen O'Connor, Resident Priest Emerita

Milwaukee Islamic Dawah Center

The Spark Wisconsin, Rabbi Moishe Steigmann

Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ, Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, Rev. Kate Fields, Pastor

University of Wisconsin Hillel Foundation

Wisconsin Council of Churches, Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Rabbi Bonnie Margolis

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, Director of Religious Programming, Park Plaza Retirement Center, Chicago

Rev. Dr. Steven Hecky, United Church of Christ - Wisconsin

Rev. Erik Koepnick

Tim McMurtry II, Associate Pastor, World Outreach Center and State Director, Christians United for Israel - Wisconsin