

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **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, Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Jewish Federation of Madison

Wisconsin Jewish Conference

ADL Midwest

**Co-Signers (list in formation)**

Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah, Rabbi Wes Kalmar

Congregation Emanu El B'ne Jeshurun Social Action Committee

Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, Spiritual Leader, Cantor Deborah Martin

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, Madison

Congregation Shalom

Congregation Sinai

Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB), R.L. McNeely, Chair

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

Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee

Just Be Hope United Methodist Center, Rev. Deborah Thompson

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Wisconsin

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

MA'RUF -- Amer Ahmed, President

Masjid Al Qur'an Milwaukee, Hafiz Muhammad Shafique

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

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

Milwaukee Islamic Dawah Center

Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin

Social Development Commission

The Spark Wisconsin, Rabbi Moishe Steigmann

Temple Beth El, Madison

Temple Menorah

Tikkun Ha-Ir Milwaukee

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

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, Rev. Kate Fields, Pastor

United Center in Milwaukee, Rev. Mari Gabrielson, Minister

University of Wisconsin Hillel Foundation

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Mark A. Mone, PhD, Chancellor

Wisconsin Catholic Conference

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

Wisconsin Council of Rabbis

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

Rabbi Steve Adams

Rabbi Joel Alter

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

Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, Assisting Minister, Hephatha Lutheran Church

Rabbi Dena Feingold, Beth Hillel Temple, Kenosha, WI

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

Rabbi Rachel Kaplan Marks

Rev. Erik Koepnick

Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield

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

Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

Rabbi Paul (Simcha) Prombaum

Rev. David Simmons, OvJN, Rector, St. Matthias Episcopal Church