

May 26, 2025

Regina Sassoon Friedland, Regional Director AJC Seattle

Dear members of AJC Seattle and our local Jewish community,

I am writing to express my concern and support for members of our Jewish community after the tragic and senseless murders of two bright and promising young people, Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky, outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. this past week.

This act of violence is a reminder that we must remain diligent in every community to prevent antisemitism and hate, instead fostering inclusive and supportive communities. In Bellevue, we actively work to educate the public about hate and bias, enourage reporting of hate and bias crimes, actively pursue investigations into hate crimes and build bridges of understanding between our many diverse cultures in the city to foster a more connected and human-centered community.

The city has a <u>web page</u> with resources, definitions and data for hate and bias incidents in our community, as well as the ways we are working to prevent these incidents from happening.

I want to assure you that Bellevue pays attention to what is happening in our nation and world. City staff, including the Bellevue Police Department, learn from those happenings in order to apply best practices for maintaining safety and security in our own community. It is a comfort to see solidarity and support showing up in many ways in Bellevue when tragic acts of violence occur.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the grieving families of Sarah and Yaron as well as all members of the Jewish community, who have been especially and profoundly impacted by historical and continued violence against your community. It brings us all deep sorrow that these horrible losses continue to occur, and we will continue to stand with our community and work even harder to focus on prevention and connection with each other. Sometimes, that is the best we can do until we see meaningful change in the world, which we join you in striving to achieve.

Blessings to you,

Rellevue Councilmember Conrad Lee