

**Whereas**, bigotry, violence, hate, and racism do not align with the values of Delaware County Council and our community and they have no place in Delaware County and will not be tolerated; and

**Whereas**, antisemitic vandalism incidents have been reported in Delaware County recently, and according to data compiled by the Anti-Defamation League, Pennsylvania overall saw a 65% increase in antisemitic incidents of assault, vandalism, and harassment in 2022; and

**Whereas**, other hateful behavior has occurred and is occurring in Delaware County and state-wide and according to data maintained by the Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania saw a sharp increase in hate crimes in 2021, with 255 incidents reported, almost as many as the previous three years combined; and

**Whereas**, in 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation raised civil rights violations, including hate crimes, to its highest-level national threat priority, and preventing and prosecuting hate crimes is a top priority for the U.S. Justice Department; and

**Whereas**, current Pennsylvania law is inadequate to prevent this surge of hate crimes, and stronger legal protection is necessary to protect the residents of Delaware County; and

**Whereas**, hate crimes instill fear across communities and undermine our democracy; and we believe that the vast majority of County residents are as appalled as we are by these crimes, and it is only a small group of persons who are responsible for trying to spread hate in Delaware County.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that We, the County Council of Delaware County, urge all residents to speak up against hateful behavior so that we may create a more just, peaceful, and inclusive society which will benefit everyone. Be it further resolved that the County Council urges our state lawmakers to promptly pass the package of anti-hate crime bills (including HB 1024, HB 1025, HB 1026, & HB 1027) currently being considered in the Pennsylvania Legislature.



Dr. Monica Taylor  
Chair



Elaine Paul Schaefer  
Vice Chair



Kevin Madden



Christine Reuther



Richard Womack

**Proclaimed: September 20, 2023**