I would like to announce that the City Council will be adjourning our meeting tonight in memory of the victims of the synagogue shooting tragedy that occurred in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Saturday. I know I can speak for the entire City Council in sending our condolences to the victims, their families, and the Pittsburgh community in this time of mourning.

The City of Palo Alto stands together with the rest of the nation and the international community in condemning the senseless act of anti-Semitism that claimed 11 lives. It is important in these divisive times to reaffirm our commitment to being inclusive, supportive and open to diverse views while remaining vigilant of hateful acts of violence.

As a community, Palo Alto is committed to this, and as a City we proactively work to ensure the rights of everyone regardless of religion, ancestry, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We reject bigotry in all its forms, including but not limited to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, nativism, misogyny, and homophobia.

This is who we are as a City, and this heinous act serves as a reminder to carry out the values that make us a caring and diverse community, to reach out to our neighbors in the local Jewish community who are hurting at this time, and to reflect these core inclusive values in the actions of our daily lives.

Liz Kniss
Mayor