
Statement on the Ongoing Crisis in Gaza and Global Antisemitism

Friday, October 13, 2023

Today, law enforcement agencies have increased the threat level in Baltimore and across the United States amid Hamas's declaration of Friday, October 13th as "the Friday of al-Aqsa flood," calling for a "Day of Rage" of global action against Jewish people.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center (SFNC) celebrates its deep ties to the Baltimore Jewish community. We cherish our enduring partnerships with organizations like Beth Am Synagogue and Repair the World and remain committed to recognizing the Jewish history of our neighborhood of Reservoir Hill. During a recent renovation of the Center, we discovered and preserved precious historic *mezuzahs* (Torah scrolls that Jews affix to doorposts) and donated them to the Jewish Museum of Maryland. We also celebrate our ties to the Baltimore Muslim community. We served as the official Welcome Center to Afghan Refugees in Baltimore and have partnered with religious Muslim schools. SFNC is a secular organization devoted to fighting generational poverty and systemic inequity. In such a diverse city, this mission requires religious tolerance. Our doors are open to all.

As an organization founded on the principles of social justice, equity, and peace in all forms, we have watched the recent violence and devastation in Israel and Palestine unfold with shock and horror. Just as we decry Hamas for the indiscriminate killing of civilians, we decry the Netanyahu government and its oppression of the Palestinian people. We boldly condemn apartheid, racial and religious injustice, and violence against innocent civilians.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center has stood in solidarity with those who fight injustice since 1963. We continue to stand in solidarity with those invested in equity and peace, whether that be in our own neighborhood, city, or across the globe. Our thoughts are with the victims of this unimaginable violence. As tensions escalate, we want to be clear: hate has no home here.



"SFNC symbolizes a safe space for residents of Reservoir Hill. The community knows they are cared for and that the Center is a place for resources. As a focal point on the corner of Linden and Whitelock street, SFNC has an unwritten rule

Torbin Green, Executive Director

2405 Linden Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217

Mail address: P.O. Box 12279, Baltimore, MD 21281

Center: 410-669-2612 | stfranciscenter.org





that the area surrounding the Center is a Safe Zone and haven. Silence is acceptance of the status quo and we will be heard.” — Torbin Green, Executive Director

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Torbin Green', written in a cursive style.

Torbin Green, Executive Director

Torbin Green, Executive Director
2405 Linden Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217
Mail address: P.O. Box 12279, Baltimore, MD 21281
Center: 410-669-2612 | stfranciscenter.org

