Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations

March 9, 2000: Anti-Semitism and Constitutional Law Task Force

April 5, 2000: Approved by Executive Committee May 17, 2000: Approved by the Board of Directors

Position on Racial Profiling by Police Departments and Other Law Enforcement Agencies

In recent months, we have witnessed an increased level of distress by minority communities throughout the country and people of many backgrounds concerned about human rights, over the issue of racial profiling by police departments or other agencies. The Jewish community fully understands from its own history the destructiveness of being marked for disparate treatment and hostility.

The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations registers its unequivocal opposition to the practice of racial profiling wherever it may exist. We call upon all communities and law enforcement agencies to combat this practice. The Council supports measures which will work toward stopping racial profiling and making police agencies as fair and effective as possible. These measures may include:

- 1. more vigorous efforts to recruit, hire, retain and promote minority group members as police officers;
- 2. making offending police departments and supervising officials more accountable;
- 3. supporting initiatives that provide and encourage diversity training at all levels of law enforcement; and
- 4. increasing community relations efforts and cooperation between people of all backgrounds and police departments, so that all sides may gain a better understanding of minority sensitivities as well as the very difficult and dangerous job police officers are required to do.