



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



May 21, 2024

(updated from May 14 and 15 statement with the addition of organizational signers)

Joint statement on UWM

Hillel Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, and ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) Midwest issue the following statement in response to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Chancellor Mark Mone's capitulation to encampment protesters:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Chancellor Mark Mone capitulated to protesters who violated UWM codes of conduct and state law, vandalized university property, and used harassment and intimidation to fuel antisemitism on campus. The agreement is among the most offensive and dangerous of any university agreement reached with encampment protesters over the last two weeks.

Chancellor Mone's agreement with protesters comes after seven-plus months of him refusing to meet with Jewish students and failing to adequately respond to antisemitic incidents on campus since October 7. The chancellor's statement provides no meaningful support to UWM's Jewish community and fails to acknowledge the fear and pain Jewish community members have endured due to the actions of protesters during the encampment and before.

In contrast, Chancellor Mone gave protesters who fueled hate and violated school policies at UWM a seat at the table and even invited them to nominate individuals and faculty to serve on key university committees and working groups. The chancellor's decision to grant immunity to individuals who mocked and broke school rules and the law sets a dangerous precedent for future incidents on campus. And, in another desperate attempt to appease the protesters, Chancellor Mone appears to have used his public university position to compel a private company to submit to demands of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Chancellor Mone has been negligent in his duty to ensure all students feel and are safe on campus. We call on the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to immediately negate this agreement and take the aggressive steps necessary to ensure Jewish – and all – students are able to attend UWM and all UW campuses without the threats of harassment, intimidation and hate just because of their identity.

As of 4 p.m. May 15, 2024, the following local Jewish faith leaders have signed on with their support of this statement:

Cantor Martin Levson, Congregation Emanu-El Waukesha

Hazzan Jeremy Stein, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid

Rabbi Avremi Shapiro, Jewish Youth Foundation

Rabbi Cheski Edelman, The Shul Bayside

Rabbi David Cohen, Congregation Sinai

Rabbi Dov Lisker, Mequon Torah Center

Rabbi Dovid Rapoport, Congregation Agudas Achim Chabad

Rabbi Jessica Barolsky, Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun

Rabbi Joel Alter, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid

Rabbi Levi Brook, Chabad Lubavitch of Waukesha

Rabbi Levi Stein, The Friendship Circle of Wisconsin

Rabbi Menachem Deren, Chabad of Glendale and River Hills

Rabbi Menachem Rapoport, Congregation Agudas Achim Chabad

Rabbi Mendel Mann, Judaism at Home

Rabbi Mendel Matusof, Rohr Chabad at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin, Lubavitch of Wisconsin and Chabad at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Rabbi Michael Feinstein, Chabad of the Bay Area

Rabbi Mordechai Spalter, Peltz Center for Jewish Life

Rabbi Moshe Rapoport, Peltz Center for Jewish Life

Rabbi Noah Chertkoff, Congregation Shalom

Rabbi Sholom Munitz, Bader Hillel Academy

Rabbi Steven Adams, President, Wisconsin Council of Rabbis

Rabbi Taylor Poslosky, Congregation Shalom

Rabbi Tzali Wilschanski, Chabad of Kenosha

Rabbi Wes Kalmar, Congregation Anshe Sfard Kehilat Torah

Rabbi Yisrael Shmotkin, Lubavitch of Wisconsin

Rabbi Yisroel Lein, Chabad of the East Side

Rabbi Yona Matusof, Chabad of Madison

Rabbi Yossi Bassman, Bader Hillel High

Rabbi Hannah Wallick, Camp Young Judaea Midwest

Rabbi Yonason Meadows, Manager for Clinical Pastoral Education, Mission and Spiritual Care
Advocate Health – Midwest Region

Rabbi Moishe Steigmann, Own Your Judaism

Rabbi Tzvi Tornek, The Shul Bayside

Rabbi Marc Berkson, Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun

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