

May 19, 2019

Statement Re: Chabad Jewish Center Arson

We have seen growing intolerance in the world around us, and an increase in anti-Semitic incidents elsewhere, and now in our town.

Hate has no home in Needham. The Needham Human Rights Committee, the Select Board of the Town of Needham and Needham's Massachusetts state delegation express our profound sadness and deep concern in response to the attempted arson at the Chabad Jewish Center in Needham, which is also home to the Rabbi and his family.

The Needham Police Department, along with state and federal authorities, are investigating this incident and two other arson attempts that occurred this week at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life in Arlington, as potential hate crimes.

We stand together with our Jewish neighbors and Jewish houses of worship who have been targeted by these hateful acts. The Human Rights Committee and the Select Board are resolute in our commitment to furthering understanding and compassion in this community.

May we each serve as a beacon for peace, may our households be a force for good, and may our town be a welcome place for all.

Needham Human Rights Committee, Select Board of the Town of Needham,
Rep. Denise Garlick, Sen. Mike Rush, Sen. Becca Rausch