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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement from City of Milwaukee Health Department in
Response to Shooting at Tree Of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh**

In the wake of a week of hate-fueled violence, the City of Milwaukee Health Department sends our sincere condolences to all of the families impacted by the terror inflicted on the Jewish community and beyond. Violence is a public health crisis that requires bold and consistent leadership as men, women, and children continue to be impacted. After the Parkland Florida shooting earlier this year, young people organized across the world calling for more sensible gun laws that would protect both rights and safety. In addition, they called for more investment in preventive strategies that include youth development, mental health, and diversion programs.

Hateful and divisive rhetoric facilitates violence. It contradicts our values and quest for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh marks the largest fatal act of violence against Jewish people on US soil. We must do everything possible to prevent the next tragic event by promoting proactive efforts embodied in a public health approach to violence prevention. Through our Office of Violence Prevention, we are working daily to advance strategies outlined in Milwaukee's [Blueprint for Peace](#) to foster peace, unity and healing in our community.

Tonight, we encourage the community to participate in the [memorial](#) at Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid, 6880 N. Green Bay Road at 7:00pm.

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