

## Response to a Recent Rise in Antisemitic Remarks and Actions by Our Founder...

**New York, NY** – November 1, 2022 – As I am sure you are all aware, a high-profile celebrity, Kanye West, has recently made a string of antisemitic comments and continues to speak out against the Jewish population. These unfortunate remarks are stirring up a base of hatred and anti-semitism in the US, which among other places showed up as a banner hung over the Los Angeles Freeway last week and subsequently last Saturday as words projected on the stadium at the Georgia/Florida Football game in Jacksonville in support of Ye's anti-semitic remarks, with a number of people raising their arms in a Nazi salute as they stood.

Ye, who is black and has said that blacks are jews so he can't be antisemitic, has also over the years made many racist anti-black remarks including wearing a 'White Lives Matter' shirt with Candence Owens to his Yeezy fashion show in Paris, amongst other things belittling the Black Lives matter movement.

With hate generally on the rise in the US, and increasingly fostered by politics, hate crimes and movements against the Jewish community are spiking. While Jews make up a little over 2% of the US population, the Anti-Defamation League reports they experienced 55% of religious-driven hate crimes in 2021 and scarily this does not show signs of slowing.

In this industry and city, I am sure we are all regularly in contact with people who are a part of the Jewish community, if not a part of it ourselves, and I urge each of you to continue to be an ally to these family members, colleagues, clients, and strangers as we continue to navigate a divisive world that will hopefully prevail with love and unity. We have had some employees express concerns and share angst about this difficult environment in recent days and want to make sure everyone is aware of these difficult issues, and feels safe and that as a firm we are standing up to them. HR and Dina and Carly are here to help if anyone wishes to speak.

I ask everyone to please heed my reminder that **love is always the answer.**