

Dear Mayor Mamdani,

We are a growing network of grassroots, neighborhood-based Jewish organizations across the five boroughs. Representing a broad spectrum of political and religious perspectives, we are united by our Jewish identity, our pride in Jewish life, and our shared concern for the safety and dignity of Jewish New Yorkers. We write to convey our perspectives and priorities as reports circulate regarding the selection of the next leader of the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism.

Recent events have made unmistakably clear that Jewish New Yorkers continue to face real and escalating threats. Over the past two years, Jewish institutions and communities across our city have experienced a sustained increase in protests, threats, and security concerns. Just this month in Kew Garden Hills, demonstrators stood outside a synagogue aggressively cheering for Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization. In Mississippi, an arsonist radicalized online burned a synagogue to the ground. These incidents are deeply unsettling, and the seriousness with which government leaders respond directly affects whether Jewish New Yorkers feel protected and heard.

Addressing such visible incidents is essential, but it is only one part of this office's responsibility. The more enduring challenge is ongoing, complex, and often less public. The leader of this office must be able to work effectively with community organizations, city agencies, the NYPD, and security partners to ensure Jewish New Yorkers can live openly and safely. This role also requires strong coordination with state and federal partners to secure resources, share intelligence, and strengthen prevention and response efforts.

Equally critical is the ability to collaborate with the New York City Department of Education, the CUNY system, museums, and cultural institutions to support education, guide curriculum development, and ensure instructional materials are free from bias and hate. While prior government experience may be valuable, it cannot replace credibility, trust, and the ability to build and sustain broad coalitions.

Ultimately, this role demands a leader who is grounded in the day-to-day realities of Jewish communal life and capable of engaging meaningfully with communities across all levels of observance, background, and political belief. The individual selected must be able to command trust even among those who may not share their personal views.

In this regard, we believe it is important to state that Moshe Davis has served as a capable and effective Executive Director, earning our trust and confidence. Appointing someone in the same mold would be welcomed by the Jewish community and would strengthen the office's credibility and effectiveness.

As this process moves forward, we would welcome the opportunity to advise you in the search for a qualified candidate who can carry out the full duties of the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism. We believe meaningful community input will help ensure the selection of a leader who is trusted, effective, and prepared to meet this moment.

We respectfully urge you to weigh these considerations carefully as you make decisions about this critical position. The safety, confidence, and cohesion of Jewish New Yorkers depend on strong, credible, and trusted leadership.

Sincerely,

The NYC Public School Alliance, Parents Against Antisemitism, Safe Campus, Park Slope Jewish Affinity Group, End Jew Hatred, Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan Parents Alliance, Hannah Senesh Community Day School, NYC Jewish Parent Leadership Council, Progressives for Israel