

Remarks of Greg Maurer, ADL Board Member  
Congregation Shaarey Tefilla Solidarity Gathering  
July 30, 2018

My name is Greg Maurer, and I am here this evening as a board member of the Anti-Defamation League, as a member of this synagogue, and as a Hoosier.

I wish I did not have to be here this evening but, alas, here we all are. This horrific incident of anti-Semitism is shocking, but not surprising. The ADL has tracked anti-Semitism for decades, and in 2017 reported a 57% rise in anti-Semitic incidences nationwide and a horrifying 113% increase in the Midwest. This hate comes from all types of people from all walks of life with all kinds of political views.

So, what can we do? I have been asked that question many times over the last 48 hours. One, we can catch these perpetrators. To that end, the ADL is offering a \$2500 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this act. Two, when we catch them, we can throw the book at them. And now with today's noble act from our Governor, we are closer than ever to having a Hate Crimes statute that will treat this crime with the severity it deserves rather than as petty vandalism. Three, we can stand up and shine a light on hate whenever we see it. Regular people coming together in common cause is a powerful weapon. Act! Speak out when you hear hateful words spoken, whether at the office water cooler or at a dinner party. Stand up for a bullying victim. Be an ally, not a bystander. Keep your eyes and ears open, and act bravely.

Thank you again for coming tonight.