

Policy for Issuing Federation Statements

Definition

At times the Jewish Federation of Durham Chapel Hill (JFDCH) is asked or looked upon to make a statement either in support of or against a particular issue that is considered to be relevant or impactful to the Jewish community. Statements come in many forms including, but not limited to:

- Responding to media inquiries
(Examples: responding to questions about Pride being hosted on Yom Kippur or why we host Mitzvah Day for the community.)
- Letter to elected officials
(Examples: continue financial assistance for Holocaust survivors or thanking representatives for support of anti-BDS legislation.)
- Communications to community
(Examples: raising awareness to Flint water crisis or expressing sorrow for recent terror attacks in Israel.)
- Press release
(Example: statement against HB2 legislation.)

Policy

The JFDCH CEO will consider issuing a statement on a substantive topic after a thorough evaluation. The CEO will evaluate issues in the context of our “Consideration Eligibility Matrix” documented in Appendix A. The matrix is a guideline, not a rule.

The JFDCH prefers to make statements related to local (Durham and Chapel Hill) and North Carolina issues affecting our membership, Jews, or those issues that are seen as affronts to Jewish values (e.g. discrimination, challenges to religious freedom, hate crimes, infringement of civil rights). In addition, the JFDCH will consider issues related to Israel and Israeli-related topics when Jews, their right to a homeland and its defense, and global threats are raised.

JFDCH will not issue statements supporting political candidates and is less likely to issue statements on generic legislative topics, national, or global matters unless they affect the topics identified above (e.g. Anti-Semitism, Anti-Israel or oppressed minorities, civil and human rights).

Process

It is the CEO’s role to represent Federation, advocating and facilitating JFDCH views in the community. When issues arise, the CEO will evaluate the situation using the Matrix in Appendix A as a guide, to determine if a statement is to be made and, if so, in what format. Should questions arise regarding the issuing of a statement, the CEO will seek counsel from the President(s) of the Board of Directors. When issuing statements, when appropriate the CEO will acknowledge that diverse perspectives exist in our community. Any statements issued will be summarized each month in the program highlights shared with the Board of Directors in preparation for monthly Board meetings.

Revisions to Policy

Changes or revisions to this policy require a majority Board approval.