



David B. Cohen Mayor

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Department of Health & Human Services**

**Human & Volunteer Services Division**

Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

Beverly Droz, Division Director, 617-796-1290

Marianne Ferguson, Human Rights Commission Chair

Statement for the November 23, 2008 Community Event at Temple Shalom

The Newton Human Rights Commission extends its sympathies to the congregation of Temple Shalom for the recent desecration of its property. This hate crime is not just a crime against an individual congregation but a crime against our entire community. We deeply regret that you have been subjected to such an ignorant and offensive act, and we share your rage.

The goal of this perpetrator was to make us feel powerless, but he has failed. The perpetrator of this cowardly act does not and will not represent our community. Hate crimes and intolerance have no place in our community. As a community we stand together to denounce this act. We will fight to eliminate all acts of hatred and prejudice. We will work tirelessly to ensure mutual understanding and respect for all. Together we will succeed.