PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims - six million were murdered, Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments, and for reminding Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the City of Newport News should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the City of Newport News should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society, and

WHEREAS, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside to remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all people; and

WHEREAS, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has designated "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?"" as the theme for the 2011 observance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday, May 1 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, Sunday, May 1, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, McKinley L. Price, Mayor of the City of Newport News, do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, May 1 through Sunday, May 8, 2011, as*

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE WEEK

in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of Newport News, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be duly affixed the Seal of the City of Newport News, Virginia, this 1st day of May 2011.

McKinley L. Price, DDS, Mayor
City of Newport News, Virginia

ATTEST:

Mabel Wa[illegible] Jenkins
City Clerk