

Resolution of Council

24 August 2026

Item 14.3

Recognising Rabbi Kamins

Moved by Councillor Weldon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Rabbi Jeffrey B Kamins OAM has recently retired as Senior Rabbi of Emanuel Synagogue, following 37 years of service
- (ii) in his time at Emanuel Synagogue, Rabbi Kamins made significant impact and contribution to the community. He advocated for interfaith relations and social cohesion, fighting against dehumanisation; he encouraged people to speak respectfully, listen attentively and truly hear each other's perspectives and stories
- (iii) Rabbi Kamins preached putting political difference aside to focus on achieving a better life for all Australians – no matter their faith background. He dedicated countless hours to environmental issues and the importance of caring for the planet for future generations
- (iv) under Rabbi Kamins leadership, Emanuel Synagogue was the site of Australia's first religious same-sex wedding in May 2018
- (v) from 1 July 2026, Rabbi Kamins has transitioned into the role of Rabbi Emeritus, recognising the unique and enduring contribution he has made to Jewish and broader Australian communities

- (vi) in his role of Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Kamins continues to contribute to the community, through environmental advocacy and continued engagement with interfaith dialogue
- (vii) Rabbi Kamins led with compassion, wisdom and integrity. A great teacher, mentor and friend – his tenure at Emanuel Synagogue will be remembered for his deep commitment to serving the community
- (B) Council further note Rabbi Kamins' profound impact and service to Sydney's Jewish community, as well as the broader Australian community
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Rabbi Kamins congratulating him on his retirement and recognising his lasting impact on Sydney's community.

Carried unanimously.

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