

December 8, 2017

The United States recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital

On Wednesday, for the first time, the United States formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital city. President Trump also instructed the State Department to begin the process of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The decision is more than an important benchmark—it is a milestone that corrects a historical wrong. Until now, Jerusalem was the only capital city in the world that the United States neither recognized nor declared as the location of its embassy. And critically, Wednesday's announcement reaffirmed America's commitment to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The decision to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital in no way precludes future negotiations over the city's final status, borders, or the goal of two states for two peoples. Rather, that choice is consistent with bipartisan U.S. policy established in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995. Moreover, both the Democratic and Republican party platforms have consistently, and explicitly, acknowledged Jerusalem as Israel's capital for the past several decades—including most recently in 2016.

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.