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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ron Halber Named CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Amid unprecedented challenges for the Jewish community, long-time executive director recognized for more than two decades of strong leadership and effective advocacy

(NORTH BETHESDA, MD) The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington — the leading Jewish education and advocacy organization in the national capital region and one of the largest JCRCs in the United States — announced today that Ron Halber has been named chief executive officer. Halber, whose 27 years with the organization includes more than two decades as executive director, becomes the first chief executive officer in the organization’s history.

“I have proudly dedicated my professional career to the JCRC of Greater Washington, and I am deeply honored to step into the role of CEO at such a critical time for the Jewish community in the United States and around the world,” said Halber. “The resiliency of the Jewish people since the horrific tragedy of October 7th has sustained our work and our spirit. On behalf of the JCRC’s dedicated staff and committed volunteers, we will continue to give our all to this community in the years ahead.”

Halber joined the JCRC in 1997 and served as executive director since 2001. The organization’s budget has increased tenfold during his tenure, bolstered by several hundred committed volunteers and a significant expansion of staff, programming, and advocacy that have positioned JCRC as a leading Jewish advocacy organization in the United States. In that time, Halber has leveraged his extensive relationships among lawmakers and strategic policy acumen to become one of the most influential policy advocates in the DMV region and a frequent commentator in the national media on Israel and other priority issues for the Jewish community. Numerous legislative and policy victories include securing tens of millions of dollars in security funding and social service supports for Jewish institutions, and additional funds for schools to protect against antisemitic attacks. Under Halber’s leadership, the JCRC has also spurred numerous groundbreaking new initiatives, such as the launch of an Israel Action Center, Holocaust remembrance and education programs, and interfaith coalitions.

Halber has also led the JCRC’s swift and resolute response to the October 7th terrorist attacks against Israel, organizing vigils and rallies attended by thousands of people. A series of gatherings organized by Halber outside Qatar’s embassy in Washington, DC to urge the Qataris to help secure the release of the hostages held by Hamas have drawn both national and international press coverage. Halber has also worked relentlessly to block the introduction or passage of several state and local anti-Israel resolutions.

“Ron’s extraordinary talents and passion have helped JCRC flourish for decades, but never more so than in the past year when we needed him most. We couldn’t have asked for a more committed leader,” said Bob Budoff, president of the JCRC Board of Directors. “The entire Greater Washington Jewish community owes Ron a debt of gratitude, and we are beyond thrilled that he will continue at the helm of JCRC as our CEO.”

The JCRC also announced that Guila Franklin Siegel has been named its first Chief Operating Officer. Franklin Siegel joined the JCRC as associate director in 2016 after serving as the Founding Director of the Tikkun Olam Women’s Foundation of Greater Washington. Franklin Siegel manages daily operations for JCRC, including overseeing its extensive work fighting antisemitism in schools and communities, leading on grassroots advocacy — with a particular emphasis on women’s advocacy — and coordinating interfaith and intergroup relations. An attorney by training, Franklin Siegel has nearly 30 years’ experience in Jewish community relations and public policy organizations.

“Guila is a tireless advocate for Jewish families across the DMV, and having worked side-by-side with her for years, I have seen firsthand that nobody fights harder for our community,” said Halber. “Guila’s leadership and work ethic can be felt across so many facets of our organization, and the JCRC is fortunate that she will continue in her leadership role.”

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ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF GREATER WASHINGTON

As the central community relations agency of the organized Jewish community in our nation's capital, the JCRC of Greater Washington endeavors to foster a society based on freedom, justice and democratic pluralism. On behalf of more than 100 constituent agencies, organizations and synagogues throughout the region, JCRC works within our four pillars — government relations, Israel advocacy, intergroup relations, and social justice — to advocate for Jewish institutions and values, educate the community about key issues of concern, and build a better world for everyone. Learn more at www.jcouncil.org