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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/15/19**

**Temple Israel Welcomes Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley  
*Annual Sabbath of Justice to Celebrate the Values of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.***

**WHEN:** Friday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Temple Israel of Boston (477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA)

**WHAT:** Temple Israel of Boston welcomes Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley to be our honored guest speaker this year at our Annual Sabbath of Justice, *Shabbat Tzedek*. During our Shabbat service, Congresswoman Pressley will speak to a Sanctuary full of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim clergy and leaders from throughout the Greater Boston area, and members of their church and mosque communities. We look forward to being inspired by her vision and commitment to racial justice and equity.

On November 6, 2018, Pressley was elected to represent Massachusetts' 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Congress, the district in which Temple Israel is located, becoming the first woman of color to represent Massachusetts in Congress. As the largest Reform Jewish congregation in New England, we at Temple Israel feel a particularly weighty obligation to organize ourselves around racial justice, and we have been actively engaged in an intensive racial justice initiative.

We expect over 1,000 people to be in attendance from among our Temple Israel community, as well as our interfaith community throughout Greater Boston.

**About Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley:** Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley is an advocate, policy-maker, activist, and survivor. Raised in Chicago as the only child of an activist mother who instilled in her the value of civic participation, Pressley understands the role that government can play in helping to lift up our communities. After leaving Boston University to help support her mother, she worked for 14 years as a senior aide to Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II and later Senator John Kerry. In 2009, she won the election to the Boston City Council, marking the first time a woman of color was elected to the Council in its 100-year history. On the Council, Pressley has worked in partnership with residents, advocates, and other elected leaders to address the challenges facing our communities. She led the establishment of the Committee on Healthy Women, Families, and Communities; championed the introduction of a comprehensive sexual health curriculum in Boston Public Schools; convened the first "listening-only" hearing in the Council's history, focused on gun violence and trauma; and successfully pushed for the creation of new liquor licenses that spurred economic development in previously underserved communities, among much other work.

**About Temple Israel of Boston:** Temple Israel is a diverse, urban, Reform Jewish congregation where all are welcome to live Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact. We welcome the opportunity to comment further on this story.

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