

RESOLUTION 2023-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALM BAY, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADOPTING THE NON-BINDING INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society, and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data, Jewish Americans are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate in the U.S., and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate, and

WHEREAS, municipal officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must adopt the tools to do so, and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policymaking all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions, and

WHEREAS, in May 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA"), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism, including eleven (11) contemporary examples, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations, and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism has proven to be an essential tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is used by agencies of the United States Government and has been adopted or endorsed by more than 1,212 entities across the world including by 45 countries, over 478 municipalities and regional governments, over 345 educational institutions, and 310 other organizations, and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education: and has been adopted by 34 U.S. States and more than 87 U.S. counties and cities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Bay values religious diversity and interfaith tolerance, and the Jewish community is an inseparable part of our social fabric, culture, and heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM BAY, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and by this reference are hereby incorporated into and made an integral part of this resolution.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Palm Bay hereby recognizes the growing problem of antisemitism in the U.S. and adopts the non-binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven (11) contemporary examples, incorporated herein as Exhibit 'A', as an important tool to address it.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the enactment date.

This resolution was duly enacted at Meeting 2023-XX, of the City Council of the
City of Palm Bay, Brevard County, Florida, held on _____, 2023.

Rob Medina, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Terese M. Jones, CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT 'A'

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.