

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has consistently been at the forefront of efforts to uphold the human rights of all people and has specifically condemned historic events such as, the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, the genocide in Biafra, Darfur, and others; and

WHEREAS, over many years the City of Los Angeles has worked to expand protections and rights of all Angelenos, advocated for fair and humane treatment of immigrants, and stood against the defamation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community, and Asian and Jewish communities, among others; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) tabulated 2,717 antisemitic incidents in the United States, a 34 percent increase from the 2,026 incidents tabulated in 2020, and the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest report released by the California Attorney General, hate crimes reported statewide increased 32 percent from 2020 to 2021 and are at their highest reported level since 2001, and among hate crime events involving a religious bias, anti-Jewish bias events were the most prevalent and increased by 32 percent in 2021; and

WHEREAS, contemporary manifestations of antisemitism may include: calling for, aiding, or justifying the harming of Jews; making dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews; denying the fact, scope, mechanisms, or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people during the Holocaust; accusing 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; applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation; using symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism; drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; accusing Jews of being responsible for wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group; or holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), an international, intergovernmental organization, has established a non-legally binding definition of antisemitism that has been adopted by 37 United Nations member countries, including the United States, and 320 non-federal government entities, including 22 States within the U.S. and several cities; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA definition of antisemitism serves as an important tool for law enforcement, public officials, and community members to help identify, measure, monitor, and ultimately combat antisemitism;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the Los Angeles City Council adopts the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which reads as follows: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;" and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles City Council requests City departments, staff, elected and appointed officials, and contract agencies to familiarize themselves with the IHRA definition of antisemitism, associated IHRA reference materials, examples, and articles, and incorporate their use where appropriate.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: Bob Blumenfeld

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