

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM**

INITIATED BY: **COUNCILMEMBER LINDSEY HORVATH**
COUNCILMEMBER JOHN M. ERICKSON

PREPARED BY: **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
(Yvonne Quarker, Director)
(Andi Lovano, Community & Legislative Affairs Division, Manager)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will consider adopting a resolution to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which serves as an important tool for law enforcement, public officials, and community members to help identify, measure, monitor, and ultimately combat antisemitism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 22-_____, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM”
- 2) Direct staff to send copies of the resolution to President Joseph Biden, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Adam Schiff, California Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Ben Allen, and State Assemblymember Richard Bloom.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and

remembrance and to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration. The IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Today, the IHRA's membership consists of 35 member countries, each of whom recognizes that international political coordination is imperative to strengthen the moral commitment of societies and to combat growing Holocaust denial and antisemitism.

IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is. The IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial worked to build international consensus around a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism. The definition as adopted is:

“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.”

The IHRA definition of antisemitism has been adopted by 37 United Nations member countries, including the United States, and 320 non-federal government entities including 22 U.S. States and several cities. The United States Department of State has been the lead organization to push for the adoption of this definition worldwide and it has been in use by the United States Government since the Obama Administration.

The City of West Hollywood has a longstanding tradition of supporting diverse cultures and adopting policies to protect and advocate for marginalized peoples. The City has been on record in support of the Jewish community and in opposition to antisemitism, violence, hate, and racism. The City Council has adopted several resolutions in opposition to the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) initiative. More recently, in August 2020 the City Council passed a resolution denouncing state-sponsored Holocaust distortion and in February 2022, adopted community safety protocols and support for Jewish people, community centers, and places of worship.

At its August 8, 2022 meeting, the City of West Hollywood Public Safety Commissioners in attendance (two Commissioners were absent from the meeting) voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism by the City Council. This 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. City departments, staff, elected and appointed officials, and contract agencies are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this non-legally binding definition of antisemitism and incorporate its use where appropriate.

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-2: Institutional Integrity.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood General Plan:

- HS-1: Maintain and pursue humane social policies and social services that address the needs of the community.
- HS-3: Promote a community with strong social networks and cross-cultural interaction.

EVALUATION PROCESSES:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

N/A

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT / COMMUNITY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
DIVISION

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A - Resolution No 22-_____, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM"

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WEST HOLLYWOOD ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF
ANTISEMITISM

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has been a leader in expanding protections and rights for all people, and has adopted several resolutions denouncing defamation and hate towards the Jewish community and Jewish individuals, including efforts to advance the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) initiative; and

WHEREAS, in January 1994, the City adopted WHMC 3.08.020, opposing the Arab League Boycott of Israel; and

WHEREAS, in July 2014, the City sponsored an initiative in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles to establish the Israel-West Hollywood HIV/AIDS task force; and

WHEREAS, in May 2016, the City passed a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 2844, authored by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, which prevents the state from contracting with any entity that violates the Unruh Civil Rights Act in support of discriminatory boycotts, including those targeting Jews or Israelis; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, the City passed a resolution in opposition to the antisemitic aspects of the State's proposed new Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, the Governor agreed with this action and the curriculum was ultimately revised to remove the antisemitic aspects of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, in August 2020, the City passed a resolution denouncing the Republic of Lithuania, and other European governments, for engaging in state-sponsored Holocaust distortion and rewriting the histories of Holocaust perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the City adopted community safety protocols and support for Jewish people, community centers, and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest report released by the California Attorney General, overall hate crimes reported statewide increased 32.6% 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 32.2% in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an international intergovernmental organization established through treaty among 35 member countries; and

WHEREAS, IHRA has established a non-legally binding definition of antisemitism (IHRA definition of antisemitism) which has been adopted by 37 United Nations member countries, including the United States, and 320 non-federal government entities including 22 U.S. States 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; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2022 the City of West Hollywood Public Safety Commission voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism by the City Council;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Hollywood City Council adopts the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance 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."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Hollywood City Council urges City departments, staff, elected and appointed officials, and contract agencies to familiarize themselves with this non-legally binding definition of antisemitism and incorporate its use where appropriate.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th day of September, 2022.

Lauren Meister, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk