

Resolution No. 12 - 22

By: Troy D. Markham

A Resolution unequivocally condemning the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish people, and standing in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism, and for other purposes.

Whereas; Antisemitism remains a serious and growing danger for Jews in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas; Antisemitic incidents and rhetoric have continued to surge in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas; Such antisemitic incidents are part of a broader increase in the number and intensity of antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world, as evidenced by studies by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, finding that Jewish Americans were the target of 60.2 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes in 2019, despite accounting for 2 percent of the population of the United States; and

Whereas; Holocaust denial and distortion, including intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust, dishonors those who were persecuted and murdered and reinforces the need for advancing accurate Holocaust education globally; and

Whereas; Over the course of the past decade, Holocaust distortion has grown in intensity; and

Whereas; Protecting the history of the Holocaust and recognizing and confronting Holocaust denial and distortion are critical to preventing antisemitism; and

Whereas; Much antisemitism today takes the form of "modern" or "new" antisemitism, in which actual bias against Jews is denied while prejudiced attitudes exist and discriminatory statements or acts are engaged in; and

Whereas; This form of antisemitism may be more difficult for its perpetrators to identify and challenge, as their beliefs about themselves may be that they are not biased against Jews; and

Whereas; Every antisemitic act creates a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such, Jews are exposed to suffering the feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization; and

Whereas; The City of Bexley has played a crucial leadership role in combating antisemitism nationally, including by working to promote Holocaust education, improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities, combat online radicalization, ensure foreign public officials and faith leaders condemn antisemitic discourse, and strengthen foreign judicial systems in their prosecution of antisemitic incidents; and

Whereas; These individuals have specifically pledged to denounce antisemitism in all its forms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY:

Section 1.

Our city unequivocally condemns the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish Americans, and stands in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism.

Section 2.

We as a community are recommitted to combating antisemitism in all forms.

Section 3.

Our community calls on elected officials, faith leaders, and civil society leaders to denounce and combat all manifestations of antisemitism.

Passed: _____, 2023

Troy D. Markham, President of Council

Attest: _____
Matthew McPeek, Clerk of Council

Approved: _____, 2023

Ben Kessler, Mayor