



City Manager Office
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Item # 27

City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
January 18, 2022

TOPIC: Resolution Condemning Antisemitic Violence

AGENDA TITLE:

Resolution Condemning the Recent Rise in Antisemitic Violence and Harassment Targeting Jewish People, and Standing in Solidarity with those Affected by Antisemitism

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt a resolution condemning the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish people, and standing in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism.

DISCUSSION

Background

At the June 3, 2021 meeting, Councilmember Lopez added the following councilmember requested item: Discuss and consider directing the City Manager to direct staff to prepare a resolution condemning antisemitic violence. There was consensus among all members of the City Council to proceed with the agenda item.

Antisemitism: Definitions

In 1998 the international Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was founded in order to unite governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research, and remembrance worldwide. The members of the IHRA approved an authoritative definition of Antisemitism for use by governments and international organizations worldwide. This definition reads as follows:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish and community institutions and religious facilities.”

In the United States, this definition is used by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. Despite these efforts of training and education,

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antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, and faith, remains a persistently disturbing problem in society. Members of the Jewish community continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and around the world, and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victims of hate crimes, with these crimes increasing at quite an alarming rate.

Modern examples of antisemitic violence include the following:

- Aiding or justifying violence against Jewish people in the name of radical ideology or an extremist religious view.
- Making dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jewish people as such or the power of Jewish people as a collective - especially but not exclusively, the myth about Jewish people controlling the media, economy, government, and other social institutions.
- Accusing Jewish people of being responsible for wrongdoings committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, and even for acts committed by non-Jews.

Increase in Antisemitic Violence

There has been an increase in the number and intensity of antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world, as evidenced by the following: (1) studies by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, finding that violent antisemitic attacks worldwide rose 18 percent in 2019 and shifted online in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in antisemitic conspiracy theories related to the pandemic proliferating; and (2) hate crime statistics collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, demonstrating a 14 percent increase in antisemitic hate crimes in the United States in 2019 and that Jewish Americans were the target of 60.2 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes in 2019, despite accounting for two percent of the population of the United States.

Resolution

Attached for consideration by the City Council is a resolution (Exhibit 1) condemning the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish people, adopting the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of Antisemitism, and pledging to be active allies of the Jewish community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

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1. Resolution

Submitted By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager