

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES, AND URGING THE FLORIDA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND DIVERSITY IN FLORIDA SCHOOLS.

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

WHEREAS, Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest attack against the American Jewish community took place on October 27, 2018 at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers and injuring several more; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2022, antisemitic fliers were left at hundreds of homes in Miami Beach overnight; and

WHEREAS, the flyers contained in a plastic bag with small pebbles, and listed the names of a Jewish officials who work at government health agencies and for pharmaceutical companies, spewing antisemitic conspiracy theories and attributing the on-going COVID-19 pandemic to Jewish people ; and

WHEREAS, similar flyers were left in neighborhoods in Surfside, and Broward County; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2022, a neo-Nazi rally that took place near Orlando, Florida, in which some two dozen people in neo-Nazi gear waved swastikas and yelled antisemitic epithets at passersby; and

WHEREAS, the fliers in Miami Beach, and the neo-Nazi rally in Orlando appear in the wake of high-profile attacks on Jewish people in January 2022, including a gunman's hostage-taking at a Texas synagogue and a woman's arrest in New York after she allegedly spat on an 8-year-old Jewish child and made hateful statements; and

WHEREAS, the recent targeting of Jewish people around the country reminds us that the Jewish community remains a target for violence and hate, and we must not only condemn bigotry and extremist conspiracy theories, but actively combat their spread, and spearhead initiatives to make the world around us, an inclusive and welcoming place; and

WHEREAS, schools and teachers are in a unique position to teach our youth and young generation about tragic, bigoted history and where it leads- from the transatlantic slave trade to the Holocaust – and giving future leaders of our society tools to recognize prejudice & prevent atrocity; and

WHEREAS, under §1003.42 of the Florida Statutes, the state of Florida mandates the Holocaust to be taught across the curriculum through all grades, in ways that are age-appropriate, interdisciplinary, and consistent with other required instruction; and

WHEREAS, given that Florida already requires this as part of education, the Mayor and City Commission urge the Florida Education Association (“FEA”) to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (“IHRA”) working definition of antisemitism as an important educational tool, and train their teachers appropriately to not only satisfy statutory requirement of Holocaust history, but moral imperative of tolerance and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA’s Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Working Definition of Antisemitism describes antisemitism as “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

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

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby recognize the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States, and urge the Florida Education Association (“FEA”) to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (“IHRA”) working definition of antisemitism as an important educational tool for promoting tolerance and diversity in Florida schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.


ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**



City Attorney *FA* 3-8-22
Date