

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RE-AFFIRMING THE CITY'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE, AND JUST SOCIETY AND CULTURE; DENOUNCING ANTISEMITISM, WHITE SUPREMACY, HATEFUL SPEECH, EXTREMIST CONSPIRACY THEORIES, AND DISINFORMATION; COMMITTING TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE CITY THAT DOES NOT TOLERATE WHITE SUPREMACIST, RACIST, ANTISEMITIC, AND OTHER HATEFUL SPEECH AND ACTIONS; AND ALLOCATING A TOTAL OF \$100,000 FOR DIVERSITY INITIATIVES, WITH \$50,000 OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CITY'S PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND THE REMAINING \$50,000 TO FUND A DIVERSITY INITIATIVE ENTITLED "COMBATING THE RISE OF ANTISEMITISM TODAY," DETAILS OF WHICH ARE SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THIS RESOLUTION.

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, the fliers 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 City of Miami Beach is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, and any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, however, merely re-affirming the City's commitment to cultivating an inclusive community is not enough; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach represents a unique blend of communities of Holocaust survivors, and political exiles from repressive communist regimes in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission must not only condemn bigotry and extremist conspiracy theories, but actively combat their spread, and spearhead initiatives to make Miami Beach, and by extension, the world around us, an inclusive and welcoming place; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of the City is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission wish to allocate a total amount of \$100,000 to fund diversity initiatives in the City of Miami Beach, with \$50,000 of the funds allocated to the City's Park and Recreation Department for diversity programming, and \$50,000 allocated to a diversity initiative entitled "Combating the Rise of Antisemitism Today," spearheaded by Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff; and

WHEREAS, as further detailed in the proposal attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A," the program's goal is to confront the rise of antisemitism and to assist schools in the City of Miami Beach in sustaining and promoting a more inclusive, empathetic, and welcoming community for all; and

WHEREAS, the allocated funds in the amount of \$50,000 will be used to pay for program development, teacher stipends, student transportation for related events, supplies, and substitute teachers to be able to release teachers from their daily teaching duties to attend professional development.

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 re-affirm the City's ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture; denounce antisemitism, white supremacy, hateful speech, extremist conspiracy theories, and disinformation; commit to fostering an environment within the City that does not tolerate white supremacist, racist, antisemitic, and other hateful speech and actions; and allocate a total of \$100,000 for diversity initiatives, with \$50,000 of the funds allocated to diversity programming to be determined by the City's Park and Recreation Department, and the remaining \$50,000 to fund a diversity initiative entitled "Combating the Rise of Antisemitism Today," details of which are set forth in the attached exhibit "A" to this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Attest:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

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



City Attorney FA 1-31-22
Date

Exhibit A

Proposal Submitted by Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff

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University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida

District Education Specialist / Holocaust Education

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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Program Name: Combating the Rise of Antisemitism Today

Program Goal: To confront the rise of antisemitism and to assist in sustaining and promoting a more inclusive, empathetic, and welcoming community for all.

Program Initial Objectives:

1. To develop and deliver to schools in the City of Miami Beach professional development for teachers and school site administrators focused on the program goal.
2. To develop and deliver student programs focused on the program goal.
3. To evaluate the impact of the program once implemented for consideration of wider implementation outside of the City of Miami Beach.

Proven History: The University of Miami's (UM) Holocaust Education Teacher Institute and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS), Division of Academics, Department of The Department of Social Sciences has been teaching about the Holocaust and providing professional development to teachers, inclusive of the topic of Antisemitism, for the past twenty-five years. As a result, M-DCPS' Department of Social Sciences and UM's Holocaust Education Teacher Institute is well-placed to implement and deliver the program described.

Expert Partners: As has been accomplished with UM's Holocaust Teacher Institute, M-DCPS' Department of Social Sciences will utilize partnerships with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and other local organizations, such as the Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach, to ensure the approaches and content provided during teacher professional development are the best-practices currently available in the field of Holocaust Education and combatting anti-Semitism.

Program Vision: If funded, M-DCPS' Department of Social Sciences, in partnership with the University of Miami Holocaust Education Teacher Institute will collaborate with the City of Miami Beach Commission and the commissioner submitting this proposal to develop a myriad of programs aimed at educating the Miami Beach community's students and staff and on the history of antisemitism, historical trends to assist in identifying antisemitism, and methods to combat its rise.

Brief Funding Description: Funds will be used to pay for program development, teacher stipends, student transportation for related events, supplies, and substitute teachers to be able to release teachers from their daily teaching duties to attend professional development.

Looking forward to helping develop a better world for our beloved community