

CASE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted:

  offered       the       following  
resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MAY 26, 2016 WORKING  
DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM PROMULGATED BY  
THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE  
ALLIANCE (IHRA) IN THE TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD,  
AND PLEDGING COOPERATION WITH RECOGNIZED  
ORGANIZATIONS WHICH COMBAT ANTISEMITISM, TO  
EDUCATE TOWN RESIDENTS ABOUT IDENTIFYING AND  
RERPORTING ACTS OF ANTISEMITISM WHICH HAVE  
OCCURRED OR MAY OCCUR IN THE TOWN OF  
HEMPSTEAD OR ELSEWHERE

WHEREAS, anti-Semitism is an evil scourge on civilized  
societies throughout the world that must be clearly identified,  
and categorically rejected by all responsible individuals, as  
well as private and public entities; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board categorically rejects anti-  
Semitism, and heretofore by resolution no. 816-2016 adopted June  
21, 2016, enacted a local law which, among other things,  
prohibits Town agencies from entering into public contracts with  
firms that support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)  
movement against the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2016, the International Holocaust  
Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted a Working Definition of  
anti-Semitism, which includes illustrative examples and has  
become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition  
for use by governments and international organizations, which  
states in full:

"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."

"To guide IHRA in its work, the following  
examples may serve as illustrations:"

"Manifestations might include the targeting of  
the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish  
collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to  
that leveled against any other country cannot be  
regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently  
charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it  
is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong."  
It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and

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action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits."

"Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

"Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law."

"Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such

as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries - are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews."

"Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries."

and;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Town of Hempstead to adopt the said IHRA definition and attendant illustrative examples, in order to provide a definitive message for the public, expressly identifying those acts which constitute anti-Semitism and are as such deserving of categorical rebuke; and to aid the Town's government in cooperating with recognized organizations which combat anti-Semitism, and assist them in educating Town residents about identifying acts of anti-Semitism, and available procedures for reporting acts of anti-Semitism which have occurred or may occur in the Town of Hempstead or elsewhere:

Now, therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the May 26, 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of anti-Semitism, including attendant illustrative examples as fully set forth hereinabove be and hereby is adopted by the Town Board as an official declaration of policy for the Town of Hempstead; and be it further:

RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the Town's government to utilize the said Working Definition of anti-Semitism and attendant illustrative examples, in a continuing endeavor to cooperate with recognized organizations which combat anti-Semitism, and to assist such organizations in educating residents about identifying acts of anti-Semitism, and about available procedures for reporting acts of anti-Semitism which have occurred or may occur in the Town of Hempstead, or elsewhere.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by  
and adopted upon roll call as follows:

AYES:

NOES: