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RESOLUTION 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF “ANTISEMITISM”; DENOUNCING HATE CRIMES AGAINST JEWS AND ANTISEMITISM IN ALL ITS VARIOUS FORMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REFUSING TO TREAT JEWS AS POLITICAL EQUALS, PORTRAYING THE JEWISH STATE (ISRAEL) AS A SYMBOL OF HATE AND EVIL, DEMANDING THAT JEWS BECOME STATELESS, TARGETING THE JEWISH STATE THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER CAMPAIGNS AND SEEKING TO STRIP AWAY JEWISH RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ENDING ISRAEL’S EXISTENCE; FURTHER DENOUNCING THE BOYCOTT DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT (BDS) AS AN ANTISEMITIC ATTEMPT TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Beach Gardens seeks to promote an inclusive environment; and

WHEREAS, strong relations between the United States and Israel have led to bilateral cooperation for many years; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism – hatred against Jews – is an ancient prejudice that has appeared in many different societies and comes from across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism is defined 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, contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and 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 a 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 committed 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

1 more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of
2 their own nations; denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by
3 claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor; applying double
4 standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected demanded of any other democratic
5 nation; using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of
6 Jews killing Jesus or of the blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis; drawing
7 comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; and holding Jews collectively
8 responsible for actions of the State of Israel; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, antisemitic slurs and conspiracy theories that originated many centuries
11 ago have survived and mutated into modern antisemitism; a unique element of this hatred
12 is that it remains popular and continues to persist no matter how many times it is disproved;
13 and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice identifies Hate Crimes as having
16 a devastating effect beyond the harm inflicted on any victim, such that they reverberate
17 through families, communities, and the entire nation as others fear that they too could be
18 threatened, attacked, or forced from their homes because of what they look like, who they
19 are, where they worship, who they love, or whether they have a disability; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the “boycott, divestment and sanction” (BDS) movement seeks the
22 “divestment” of university, municipal, church, union, and other portfolios from companies
23 that advocates claim “aid Israel’s occupation”, as well as the “boycott” of Israeli products,
24 professionals, professional associations and academic institutions, and artistic
25 performances (in Israel and abroad); and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the BDS movement mirrors anti-Jewish/antisemitic tactics used by the
28 Nazi regime, for when the Nazis came to power, the lives of German Jews changed
29 drastically; on April 1, 1933, the Nazis carried out the first nationwide, planned action against
30 them: a boycott of Jewish businesses, and Nazi spokesmen claimed the boycott was an act
31 of revenge against both German Jews and foreigners, including U.S. and English journalists;
32 and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the campaign claims to be driven by a principled concern for Palestinian
35 human rights, but the idealistic message is arguably a smokescreen for a nationalist agenda
36 to abolish the State of Israel; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, some supporters of BDS may genuinely believe that these efforts will
39 encourage Israel to change policies with which they disagree; however, the predominant
40 drive of the BDS campaign and its leadership is not criticism of policies, but the demonization
41 and delegitimization of Israel; and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, BDS campaigns promote a biased and simplistic approach to the
44 complex conflict, and present this dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault
45 of only one party – Israel; and
46

1 **WHEREAS**, the BDS campaign does not support Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, if
2 successful, BDS would almost certainly result in the expulsion of most Israeli Jews from their
3 homeland and/or precipitate genocide of Jews in Israel as demonstrated by many BDS
4 supporters who chant “from the river to the sea,” – a chant often used to call for the
5 annihilation and obliteration of the Jewish people; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council have zero tolerance for antisemitism and
8 hate crimes within the City of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, against our Jewish residents
9 and hereby commit to standing firmly with members of the Jewish community against
10 antisemitism in all its forms; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Palm Beach Gardens hereby demands
13 that State and Federal law enforcement agencies aggressively prosecute Hate Crimes as
14 defined by the Department of Justice, as protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI),
15 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the City Council deems approval of this Resolution to be in the best
18 interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and citizens of the City of Palm
19 Beach Gardens and the public at large.
20

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
22 **PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA, that:**
23

24 **SECTION 1.** The foregoing recitals are hereby affirmed and ratified.
25

26 **SECTION 2.** The City Council of the City of Palm Beach Gardens hereby adopts the
27 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of “antisemitism”,
28 including its eleven examples, which is defined as a certain perception of Jews, which may
29 be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism
30 are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish people and/or their property, toward Jewish
31 communities, institutions, and religious facilities.
32

33 **SECTION 3.** The City Council of the City of Palm Beach Gardens hereby denounces
34 and declares zero tolerance for hate crimes against Jews and antisemitism in ALL its forms
35 and further expresses support and solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters in their
36 ongoing struggle against historical and systemic antisemitic hate speech and deeds.
37

38 **SECTION 4.** The City Council of the City of Palm Beach Gardens hereby denounces
39 the “Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions” (BDS) movement as an antisemitic attempt to
40 delegitimize Israel.
41


42 **SECTION 5.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.
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PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of March, 2020.


CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA

BY: 
Mark T. Marciano, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: 
Patricia Snider, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: 
R. Max Lonman, City Attorney

VOTE:

AYE NAY ABSENT

MAYOR MARCIANO	<u>✓</u>	___	___
VICE MAYOR LITT	<u>✓</u>	___	___
COUNCILMEMBER MARINO	<u>✓</u>	___	___
COUNCILMEMBER WOODS	<u>✓</u>	___	___
COUNCILMEMBER LANE	<u>✓</u>	___	___

