

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM AND ALL FORMS OF HATRED OR BIGOTRY AGAINST ETHNIC, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, OR OTHER MINORITY GROUPS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Mayor Michael Udine)

WHEREAS, in 2021, the number of antisemitic incidents in the United States reached an all-time high at 2,717 incidents, which represents a 34% increase over the prior year;

WHEREAS, Jews are regularly targeted by purveyors of hate, including because of Jews' actual or perceived support for the State of Israel and Zionism;

WHEREAS, Jewish institutions, such as synagogues, Jewish community centers, and Jewish schools, are often targets of antisemitic incidents, including vandalism, harassment, assaults, and deadly violence;

WHEREAS, antisemitic acts of hate are regrettably all too common in Broward County, including vandalism of a Chabad house last year, antisemitic propaganda at the beginning of this year criticizing actions taken by various officials to protect the community against COVID and identifying those officials as Jewish, and antisemitic graffiti in Broward County public schools earlier this month;

WHEREAS, antisemitic acts are not limited to vandalism and anonymous pamphlets, but also include calling for the killing or harming of Jews, often in the name of a radical ideology; dehumanizing or making stereotypical allegations about Jews as a collective, such as the myth about a worldwide Jewish conspiracy controlling the media,

1 economy, government, or other societal institutions; and denying the existence,
2 magnitude, or horror of the Holocaust;

3 WHEREAS, South Florida is home to one of the largest populations of Jews and
4 Holocaust survivors in the United States, and basic tenets of moral decency require that
5 we protect and respect these friends and neighbors who have experienced and survived
6 some of the most horrific acts of hatred and violence;

7 WHEREAS, hate crimes are not limited to targeting Jews, and there has been a
8 significant recent increase in hate crimes against Black individuals and Black institutions,
9 including bomb threats against historically black colleges and universities earlier this year.
10 In many instances, the perpetrators are motivated by their hatred of both Black Americans
11 and Jewish Americans. Hate crime incidents against Asian Americans increased 339%
12 in 2021, and such incidents against Latinos are also on the rise. The most recent crime
13 that garnered national attention and condemnation was a hate-based, racist attack
14 against members of the Black community at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, by a
15 white supremacist who espoused the “replacement theory” conspiracy that Jews, Black
16 individuals, and members of other minority communities are attempting to replace white
17 people in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, it is critical to stand against antisemitism, bigotry, and hatred, and to
19 condemn all forms of hatred and bigotry targeting ethnic, racial, religious, or other minority
20 groups, NOW, THEREFORE,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
22 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

23 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida
24 (“Board”), abhors and rejects antisemitism, racism, and bigotry in all its forms.

1 Section 2. The Board, on behalf of itself and all residents of Broward County, is
2 committed to combating hatred and bigotry targeting ethnic, racial, religious, or other
3 minority groups, in any form.

4 Section 3. Severability.

5 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
6 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
7 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
8 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
9 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
10 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

11 Section 4. Effective Date.

12 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

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14 ADOPTED this day of , 2022. **PROPOSED**

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16 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

17
18 By Nathaniel A. Klitsberg 05/23/2022
Nathaniel A. Klitsberg (date)
19 Senior Assistant County Attorney

20
21 By René D. Harrod 05/23/2022
René D. Harrod (date)
22 Chief Deputy County Attorney

23
24 RDH/NAK/mb
Reso re Antisemitism
05/23/2022