

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor (At-Large)
Brian Knudsen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Díaz (Ward 3)
Francis Allen-Palenske (Ward 4)
Cedric Crear (Ward 5)
Nancy E. Brune (Ward 6)



City Manager Mike Janssen
City Attorney Jeff Dorocak
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

February 7, 2024
9:00 AM

37. R-5-2024 - For possible action to approve a Resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in America and calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism as an important educational tool to address the problem - All Wards



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
City Council
Meeting of: February 7, 2024

Agenda Item No.:
37

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney
DIRECTOR: Jeff Dorocak

CONSENT

SUBJECT:
RESOLUTIONS:

R-5-2024 - For possible action to approve a Resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in America and calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism as an important educational tool to address the problem - All Wards

FISCAL IMPACT:
None

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:
This item proposes the adoption of a resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in America and calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism as an important educational tool to address the problem.

RECOMMENDATION:
For City Council to consider adoption of this Resolution.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:
1. Resolution No. R-5-2024

RESOLUTION NO. R-5-2024

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM
IN AMERICA AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION
OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO
ADDRESS THE PROBLEM**

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, 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, state and local officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must be given the tools to do so; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policymaking all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a 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 IHRA's definition reads as follows:

“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.”;

and

WHEREAS, the IHRA's definition is followed by additional language of illustration, as follows:

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

1 Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish
2 collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country
3 cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to
4 harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed
5 in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative
6 character traits.

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

- 10 • Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical
11 ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- 12 • Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews
13 as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the
14 myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy,
15 government or other societal institutions.
- 16 • Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed
17 by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- 18 • Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide
19 of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and
20 accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- 21 • Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the
22 Holocaust.
- 23 • Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews
24 worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- 25 • Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the
26 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 (for example, denial of the
Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

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, the IHRA Working Definition has proven to be an essential tool used to determine

1 contemporary manifestations of antisemitism; and

2 WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government
3 and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S Department of State
4 and the U.S. Department of Education.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY
6 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS AS FOLLOWS:

- 7 1. To adopt the non-legally binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven
- 8 contemporary examples.
- 9 2. To ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for
- 10 the law enforcement agencies serving the City and for other City agencies that may be responsible for or
- 11 capable of addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

12 PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

13 CITY OF LAS VEGAS

14 BY _____
15 CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, Mayor

16 ATTEST:

17 _____
18 LUANN D. HOLMES, MMC
19 City Clerk

19 APPROVED AS TO FORM
20 Val Steed 1-23-24
21 Val Steed, Date
22 Deputy City Attorney

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