

TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2701.20

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 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 IT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Golden Beach, Florida ("Town") finds that homeownership contributes to economic security and stability; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, 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;

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;

WHEREAS, state 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;

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

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. That definition reads 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 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 (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.”

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition has proven to be an essential tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism;

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. Each of the above-stated recitals are hereby adopted and confirmed.


Section 2. Implementation. The Town Council will ensure that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for the Police Department and other Town agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

The Motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Councilmember Mendal, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Golden Beach,
Florida this 22nd day of September, 2020.



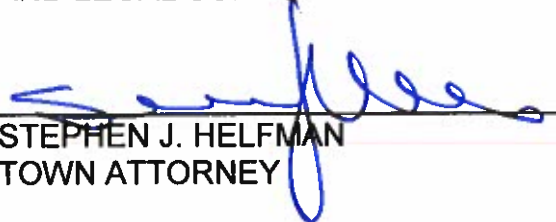
MAYOR GLENN SINGER

ATTEST:



LISSETTE PEREZ
TOWN CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



STEPHEN J. HELFMAN
TOWN ATTORNEY



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &
Town Council Members

From: Alexander Diaz, *Alex B*
Town Manager

Subject: **Resolution No. 2701.20 – A Resolution Adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism**

Item Number:

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Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Town Council adopt the attached Resolution No. 2701.20 as presented.

Background:

It has been the Town's practice to steer away from being an "Advocate Council".

However, when Councilmember Mendal asked the Administration to consider the attached Resolution, we jumped at the opportunity to find a way to adopt the recommendations it sets forth.

This declaration will be our guiding principle as we govern; it will serve as a tool in the application of what is right!

Fiscal Impact:

None