

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: June 8, 2021

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Rep. Peter Svarzbein (915-212-1002)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL:

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action for the Mayor, on behalf of the city council, to sign a letter by Mayors United Against Antisemitism, united against hate and declaring unequivocally that antisemitism is incompatible with the fundamental values of democracy.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Intent is for the mayor to sign onto a letter by Mayors United Against Antisemitism, united against hate and declaring unequivocally that antisemitism is incompatible with the fundamental values of democracy.

<https://www.ajc.org/mayors>

<https://www.ajc.org/mayors#signatories>

MAYORS UNITED AGAINST ANTISEMITISM Five years ago, U.S. mayors from all fifty states issued a call to action to combat antisemitism in Europe. Not alone in their concern, mayors from across Europe joined in the fight and signed onto the pledge. Since then, vicious attacks on American soil have demonstrated that antisemitism must be confronted with the same urgency in the United States. In October 2018, eleven Jews were killed in the deadliest attack against the Jewish community in U.S. history at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jews have also been murdered in Poway, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; and Monsey, New York simply for being Jews. We witnessed chants of “Jews will not replace us” in Charlottesville and “Camp Auschwitz” and other antisemitic messages displayed during the assault on the U.S. Capitol. According to the FBI 2019 Hate Crimes Statistics, American Jews—who make up less than 2% of the American population—were the victims of 60.2% of anti-religious hate crimes. And so we gather again, as leaders of our cities and communities, to jointly say: “Enough.” We, the undersigned Mayors, express our deep conviction that antisemitism is not only an attack on Jews but an assault on the core values of any democratic and pluralistic society. In a world of global communications, where antisemitic ideas spread rapidly, a concerted and principled response is required to raise awareness, to educate, and to ensure decency prevails. As Mayors and municipal leaders, we have a unique responsibility to speak out against the growing menace of antisemitism by affirming the following: We, the undersigned, ● Condemn

antisemitism in all its forms, including hatred and prejudice directed toward Jews, stereotypes or conspiracy theories about Jews, Holocaust denial or distortion, and denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination and/or the Jewish state's right to exist; ● Support national, state, and local government efforts directed at eradicating antisemitism and preventing extremist indoctrination and recruitment; and support expanded education programs, including Holocaust programs, to counter intolerance and discrimination; ● Reject the notion that opinions about the policies, actions, or existence of the State of Israel can ever justify or excuse antisemitic acts; ● Recognize the ever-present need to be vigilant about efforts to prevent and report acts of antisemitism and other hate crimes; and ● Affirm that a climate of mutual understanding and respect among all citizens is the bedrock of pluralistic communities. We therefore commit to working within and across our communities to advance the values of respectful coexistence. We call upon mayors, municipal leaders, and other elected officials in the United States and around the world—and all people of good faith—to join us in declaring unequivocally that antisemitism is incompatible with fundamental democratic values.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

No.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

No Funding Needed.

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****



MAYORS UNITED AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

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THIS IS AN INITIATIVE OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE (AJC) AND THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (USCM).