

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

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: November 22, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: City Representative Peter Svarzbein 915.212.1002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: (Goal 2.9 -Promote building safety, Goal 2- Set the standards for a safe and secure city, Goal 2.1-Maintain standing as one of the nation's top safest cities.)

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? **OR AUTHORIZE** the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

In 2021, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) tabulated 2,717 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, a 34 percent increase from the 2,026 incidents tabulated in 2020 and the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking anti-Semitic incidents in 1979. according to the latest report released by the Anti-Defamation League, the number of anti-Semitic incidents has increased in the state of Texas in 2021, making Texas one of the top five highest incidence rates in the U.S. by state. There were 112 antisemitism incidents reported in the state of Texas in 2021, 42 incidents were reported in 2020. Statewide hate crimes increased 167 percent from 2020 to 2021. the City Council of El Paso affirms its commitment to the well- being and safety of its Jewish community members and to ensuring Jewish residents and organizations know they are not alone and that the City Council of El Paso is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso condemns any act of racism and discrimination such as the terrorist attack that occurred on August 3, 2019, at the El Paso Walmart where 23 people were killed and 23 people were injured; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso signed a statement by “Mayors United Against Antisemitism”, declaring that antisemitism is incompatible with the democratic values of our society; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso has developed policies and resources that expand the protections and rights of all people by advocating for the fair and humane treatment of immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and other minority communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Anti-Defamation League tabulated 2,717 antisemitic incidents in the U.S., which is a 34% increase from the 2,026 incidents tabulated in 2020 and is the highest number on record since 1979 when the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest report released by the Anti-Defamation League, the number of antisemitic incidents increased in the state of Texas in 2021, with Texas having one of the top five highest incidence rates in the U.S. by state; and

WHEREAS, there were 42 antisemitic incidents reported in the state of Texas in 2020 and 112 antisemitic incidents reported in 2021 – an increase of 167%; and

WHEREAS, contemporary manifestations of antisemitism may include: calling for, aiding, or justifying the harming of Jews; making dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews; denying the fact, scope, mechanisms, or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people during the Holocaust; accusing 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; applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation; using symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism; drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; accusing Jews of being responsible for wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group; or holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of El Paso affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Jewish community members and to ensuring Jewish residents and organizations know they are not alone and that the City Council of El Paso is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), an international, intergovernmental organization, has established a non-legally binding definition of antisemitism that has been adopted by 37 United Nations member countries, including the U.S., and 320 non-federal government entities, including 22 states within the U.S. and several cities; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA definition of antisemitism serves as an important tool for law enforcement, public officials, and community members to help identify, measure, monitor, and, ultimately, combat antisemitism;

WHEREAS, cities such as Los Angeles, California; Austin, Texas; Durham, North Carolina; and New Orleans, Louisiana have adopted similar resolutions combating antisemitism.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the El Paso City Council adopts the non-legally binding IHRA definition of antisemitism, which 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."

That the City Manager will familiarize City departments, City staff, elected and appointed officials, and entities contracting with the City, with the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

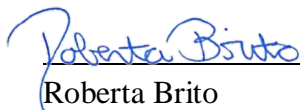
CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leaser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Roberta Brito
Assistant City Attorney