

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF “ANTISEMITISM”; DENOUNCING HATE CRIMES AGAINST JEWS AND ANTISEMITISM IN ALL ITS VARIOUS FORMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REFUSING TO TREAT JEWS AS POLITICAL EQUALS, PORTRAYING THE JEWISH STATE (ISRAEL) AS A SYMBOL OF HATE AND EVIL, DEMANDING THAT JEWS BECOME STATELESS, TARGETING THE JEWISH STATE THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER CAMPAIGNS AND SEEKING TO STRIP AWAY JEWISH RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ENDING ISRAEL’S EXISTENCE; FURTHER DENOUNCING THE BOYCOTT DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT (BDS) AS AN ANTISEMITIC ATTEMPT TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony seeks to promote an inclusive environment; and

WHEREAS, strong relations between the United States and Israel have led to bilateral cooperation for many years; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism – hatred against Jews – is an ancient prejudice that has appeared in many different societies and comes from across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism is defined as 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, contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and 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 a 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 committed 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 Israel a behavior not expected demanded of any other democratic nation; using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or of the blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis; drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; and holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, anti-Semitic slurs and conspiracy theories that originated many centuries ago have survived and mutated into modern antisemitism; a unique element of this hatred is that it remains popular and continues to persist no matter how many times it is disproved; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice identifies Hate Crimes as having a devastating effect beyond the harm inflicted on any victim, such that they reverberate through families, communities, and the entire nation as others fear that they too could be threatened, attacked, or forced from their homes because of what they look like, who they are, where they worship, who they love, or whether they have a disability; and

WHEREAS, the “boycott, divestment and sanction” (BDS) movement seeks the “divestment” of university, municipal, church, union, and other portfolios from companies that advocates claim “aid Israel’s occupation”, as well as the “boycott” of Israeli products, professionals, professional associations and academic institutions, and artistic performances (in Israel and abroad); and

WHEREAS, the BDS movement mirrors anti-Jewish/anti-Semitic tactics used by the Nazi regime, for when the Nazis came to power, the lives of German Jews changed drastically; on April 1, 1933, the Nazis carried out the first nationwide, planned action against them: a boycott of Jewish businesses, and Nazi spokesmen claimed the boycott was an act of revenge against both German Jews and foreigners, including U.S. and English journalists; and

WHEREAS, the campaign claims to be driven by a principled concern for Palestinian human rights, but the idealistic message is arguably a smokescreen for a nationalist agenda to abolish the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, some supporters of BDS may genuinely believe that these efforts will encourage Israel to change policies with which they disagree; however, the predominant drive of the BDS campaign and its leadership is not criticism of policies, but the demonization and delegitimization of Israel; and

WHEREAS, BDS campaigns promote a biased and simplistic approach to the complex conflict, and present this dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault of only one party – Israel; and

WHEREAS, the BDS campaign does not support Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, if successful, BDS would almost certainly result in the expulsion of most Israeli Jews from their homeland and/or precipitate genocide of Jews in Israel as demonstrated by many BDS supporters who chant “from the river to the sea,” – a chant often used to call for the annihilation and obliteration of the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners have zero tolerance for antisemitism and hate crimes within the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony, Florida, against our Jewish residents and hereby commit to standing firmly with members of the Jewish community against antisemitism in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Commissioners of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony hereby demands that State and Federal law enforcement agencies aggressively prosecute Hate Crimes as defined by the Department of Justice, as protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), U.S.C. 2000d et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Commission deems approval of this Resolution to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and citizens of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony and the public at large.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby affirmed and ratified.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Town Commission of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony, hereby adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of “antisemitism”, including its eleven examples, which is defined as 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 people and/or their property, toward Jewish communities, institutions, and religious facilities.

SECTION 3. The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony hereby denounces and declares zero tolerance for hate crimes against Jews and antisemitism in ALL its forms and further expresses support and solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters in their ongoing struggle against historical and systemic antisemitic hate speech and deeds.

SECTION 4. The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony hereby denounces the “Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions” (BDS) movement as an antisemitic attempt to delegitimize Israel.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2021.

TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA

Mayor Daniel J. Comerford, III

Vice-Mayor Milton J. Block

Commissioner Michael A. Armato

Commissioner Cynthia A. Keim

Commissioner Richard D. Busto

Attest:

Town Clerk Jude M. Goudreau