

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

Consent Regular
 Ordinance Public Hearing

Department: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: **Staff recommends motion to adopt:** a Resolution adopting the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism and ensuring that the IHRA working definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for local law enforcement and other government agencies.

Summary: Florida has seen a 40% increase in Antisemitic incidents in 2020, with the largest increases in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. Antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, continues to be a problem in American society. Jews remain a targeted minority in the United States and are the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate. Palm Beach County seeks to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and ensure it is available as a resource for local law enforcement and other government agencies responsible for addressing Antisemitism and other forms of discrimination. Countywide (AH)

Background and Justification: The IHRA’s Working Definition on Antisemitism reads “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.” This definition, including eleven contemporary examples, illustrates how antisemitism is used in society and how it manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel. The definition and the eleven contemporary examples can be found at <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism> along with additional information on countries and international organizations that have adopted the working definition.

Attachment:

- 1.IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism Resolution**

Recommended by: _____

N/A

Department Director

Date

Approved By: _____

Nancy L. Bolton
Assistant County Administrator

7/8/21
Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years					
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT					
#ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes No
 Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes No

Budget Account No:

Fund Agency Organization Object

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Lisa Monte 7/7/21
 OFMB At 7/6/21
 (TW) 7/6/21

A. S. Jawala 7/8/21
 Contract Dev. & Control
 7-8-21 TW

B. Legal Sufficiency

Jean-Adel Williams
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review

 Department Director

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE NON-LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM; ENSURE THAT THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM IS AVAILABLE AS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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, Florida has seen a 40% increase in antisemitic incidents in 2020, with the largest increases in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties; and

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; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policy-making 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 adopted IHRA 38-word statement on antisemitism 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, eleven contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere were drafted to help provide guidance for the interpretation of the working definition and include examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel; and

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

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 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

1. Palm Beach County adopts the non-legally binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples.
2. Palm Beach County will ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for local law enforcement and other government agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.
3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

DAVE KERNER, Mayor	-
ROBERT S. WEINROTH, Vice Mayor	-
COMMISSIONER MARIA MARINO	-
COMMISSIONER GREGG K. WEISS	-
COMMISSIONER MARIA SACHS	-
COMMISSIONER MELISSA MCKINLAY	-
COMMISSIONER MACK BERNARD	-

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Sean Ardel Williams
Assistant County Attorney

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
JOSEPH ABRUZZO, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk