

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: **June 3, 2025** ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Regular**
 ☐ **Ordinance** ☐ **Public Hearing**

Department: County Administration

Submitted By: County Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) condemning the killings of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Pilgrim in Washington DC, denouncing the rising threat of antisemitism and hate, and affirming support for local initiatives promoting interfaith dialogue and community unity.

Summary: The BCC directed staff at the Zoning meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025 to prepare a resolution condemning the killings of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim in an anti-Semitic attack in Washington DC on May 21, 2025. The Resolution denounces the rise of antisemitism and hate in all forms; pledges to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable communities across Palm Beach County; calls for an end to the hate-filled rhetoric that has permeated public discourse; reaffirms the BCC's commitment to civil discourse, interfaith understanding, and public engagement rooted in mutual respect; and supports and commends local initiatives and the American Jewish Congress for their efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue, community unity, and the eradication of hate. Countywide (AH)

Background and Policy Issues: On May 21, 2025, Yaron Lischinsky, an Israeli diplomat, and Sarah Milgrim, an American from Kansas, both cherished members of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) community were tragically murdered outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., following an AJC event organized to foster collaboration among young diplomats from 20 countries, in an act widely recognized as politically motivated and rooted in antisemitism.

Mr. Lischinsky, 30, a research assistant in the political department at the Israeli Embassy, and Ms. Milgrim, 26, who organized and worked with delegations, were both known as peace-seeking bridge-builders, according to their Embassy colleagues.

Attachments:

- ## 1. Resolution

Recommended by: N/A
 Department Director Date

Approved By:  5/30/25
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
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 ☒
Is this item using Federal Funds? Yes ☐ No ☒
Is this item using State Funds? Yes ☐ No ☒

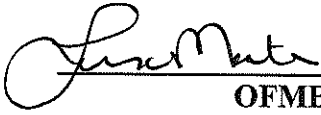
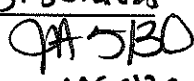
Budget Account No.: Fund ____ Department ____ Unit ____ Object ____

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

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

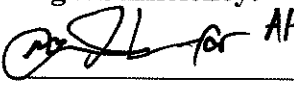
III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

 5/30/2025
OFMB  5/30
ME 5/30

 5/30/25
Contract Dev. and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

 for AH 5/30/25
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

Resolution 2025-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING THE KILLINGS OF YARON LISCHINSKY AND SARAH MILGRIM IN WASHINGTON, D.C., DENOUNCING THE RISING THREAT OF ANTISEMITISM AND HATE, AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES PROMOTING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY UNITY

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2025, Yaron Lischinsky, an Israeli diplomat, and Sarah Milgrim, an American from Kansas, both cherished members of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) community were tragically murdered outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., following an AJC event organized to foster collaboration among young diplomats from 20 countries, in an act widely recognized as rooted in antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, both individuals were dedicated staff members of the Israeli Embassy, committed to fostering diplomacy and understanding among communities, and their loss is deeply mourned; and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a record-high 9,354 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in 2024, marking an 893% increase over the past decade, with 58% of these incidents tied to criticism of Israel, particularly arising from opposition to Israel's military response in Gaza following the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023; and 77% of American Jews say they feel less safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. because of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks, according to AJC's State of Antisemitism in America Report 2024.

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County, home to one of the largest Jewish populations in the nation, remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting all residents from hate, bigotry, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach Center to Combat Antisemitism & Hatred, established by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, leads a county-wide strategy to counter antisemitism, providing strategic and financial assistance to Jewish and non-Jewish partners, exemplifying local leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office has launched a Hate Crimes Task Force to raise awareness about the rise in illegal acts of prejudice, prevent incidents, and provide support for victims, demonstrating a commitment to addressing hate crimes proactively; and

WHEREAS, the School District of Palm Beach County has implemented educational initiatives to promote understanding and dialogue around complex issues such as antisemitism and racism, empowering students to stand against hate and build a more inclusive future; and

WHEREAS, our public discourse has become increasingly polarized, with hate-filled rhetoric dividing communities and undermining the possibility of peaceful dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County affirms that unity is not uniformity, and that we must recommit ourselves to a culture where diverse views can be expressed without fear, and where dialogue replaces demonization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, that:

- 1. The Board condemns the killings of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim as an anti-Semitic attack and an attack on peace, diplomacy, and the fundamental values of human dignity and respect.
- 2. The Board denounces the rise of antisemitism and hate in all forms, and pledges to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable communities across Palm Beach County.
- 3. The Board calls for an end to the hate-filled rhetoric that has permeated public discourse, urging residents, leaders, and institutions to choose dialogue over division.
- 4. The Board reaffirms its commitment to civil discourse, interfaith understanding, and public engagement rooted in mutual respect—even and especially when we disagree.
- 5. The Board supports and commends local initiatives, including the Palm Beach Center to Combat Antisemitism & Hatred, the Hate Crimes Task Force, and educational programs by the School District of Palm Beach County and the American Jewish Committee, for their efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue, community unity, and the eradication of hate.
- 6. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Governor of Florida, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Florida Legislature, and the families of the victims.

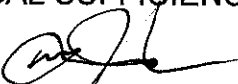
APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida. on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

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:

MARIA MARINO, Mayor	-
SARA BAXTER, Vice Mayor	-
COMMISSIONER GREGG K. WEISS	-
COMMISSIONER JOEL G. FLORES	-
COMMISSIONER MARCI WOODWARD	-
COMMISSIONER MARIA SACHS	-
COMMISSIONER BOBBY POWELL JR.	-

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: 
for Senior Assistant County Attorney

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

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk