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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 28, 2022

Contact: Supervisor's Office (631) 283-6055

**Southampton Town Board Adopts Policy Resolution to Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism**

At its meeting on January 25, 2022, the Southampton Town Board unanimously approved a resolution that adopts the working definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

With evidence that antisemitism is once again on the rise, the IHRA was committed to providing a definition of antisemitism, and to present it to the world for international consensus. On May 26, 2016, the IHRA adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism: "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."

Examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere are highlighted in the Town's resolution. With this definition in place, policymakers and law enforcement officials now have a tool to address the rise in hate and discrimination at both the national and local level. Suffolk County, as well as other Towns across Long Island, have also adopted IHRA's working definition of antisemitism.

Supervisor Jay Schneiderman credits Robin Long, a member of the Town's Planning Board, with bringing this issue to the forefront, and for urging the Town to adopt the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism. Schneiderman noted, "The Town of Southampton is committed to cultivating a culture of openness and acceptance. Adopting this definition of antisemitism helps to ensure the protection of the freedoms and rights of all its residents and visitors alike."

A copy of Town Board Resolution No. 2022-109 is attached.

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**Southampton Town Board**

116 Hampton Road  
Southampton, NY 11968

Meeting: 01/25/22 01:00 PM

Department: Supervisor

Category: Miscellaneous

Prepared By: Janice Wilson

Initiator: Jay Schneiderman

Sponsors: Supervisor Jay Schneiderman

DOC ID: 39402

**ADOPTED**

**TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION 2022-109**

**A Policy Resolution to Further Combat Discrimination by  
Adopting the May 26, 2016 Working Definition of Anti-  
Semitism Set Forth by the International Holocaust  
Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)**

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith is an evil scourge on civilized societies throughout the world that must be identified and categorically rejected by all responsible individuals as well as private and public entities yet remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that the Town of Southampton, has a long history of categorically rejecting discrimination in all its forms, 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, 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 non-legally binding definition reads in full:

"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, as an accompaniment to the definition, "to guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

"Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits."

"Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in 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 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 acts committed by 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 it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel."; and

WHEREAS, further guidance within the definition section sets forth that:

- "**Anti-Semitic acts are criminal** when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries)."
- "**Criminal acts are anti-Semitic** when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property - such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries - are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews."
- "**Anti-Semitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries."; and

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

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Town of Southampton to join the County of Suffolk and other Towns across the Island in adopting the IHRA's definition of antisemitism and attendant illustrative examples, in order to provide a definitive message for the public, expressly identifying those acts which constitute antisemitism and are as such deserving of categorical rebuke; and to aid the Town's government in cooperating with recognized organizations which combat antisemitism, and available procedures for reporting acts of antisemitism which have occurred or may occur in the Town of Southampton or elsewhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, that the May 26, 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

(IHRA) Working Definition of antisemitism, including attendant illustrative examples as fully set forth hereinabove be and hereby is adopted by the Town Board as an official declaration of policy for the Town of Southampton; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the Town's government to utilize the said working Definition of antisemitism and attendant illustrative examples, in a continuing endeavor to cooperate with recognized organizations in educating residents about identifying acts of antisemitism, and available procedures for reporting acts of antisemitism which have occurred or may occur in the Town of Southampton.

**Financial Impact**

None

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jay Schneiderman, Supervisor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Bouvier, Councilman
<b>AYES:</b>	Schneiderman, McNamara, Martel, Bouvier, Schiavoni