



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 19, 2020
Item Number: D-15
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Cynthia Owens, Policy and Management Analyst
Subject: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDEMNING ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT TO DENY INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOLOCAUST
Attachment: 1. Proposed Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution condemning any attempts by the Lithuanian government to deny involvement in the Holocaust.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated fiscal impact at this time.

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember John Mirisch has requested the City adopt a resolution condemning any attempts by the Lithuanian government to deny its involvement in the Holocaust.

DISCUSSION

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills has a history of condemning anti-Semitic behavior including, but not limited to, adopting the following resolutions:

- Opposing the United Nations Resolution to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in Jerusalem;
- Supporting Assembly Bill 2844, California combatting the boycott, divestment, and sanctions ("BDS") of Israel Act of 2016;
- Opposing the Court of Justice of the European Union's ruling, which requires European Union countries identify food products made in Israeli settlements on the product's label;
- Condemning the California Department of Education for the then current draft curriculum of the Ethnic Studies Models as it demonstrated a clear anti-Jewish bias that was anti-Semitic; and

- Opposing the decision of the United Nations high Commissioner for human rights to release a list of companies that do business in Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

A Committee of the Lithuanian parliament was drafting legislation in January 2020 declaring that neither the Baltic nation nor its leaders participated in the Holocaust.

Arūnas Gumuliauskas, who is working on the legislation, stated:

“The Lithuanian state did not participate in the Holocaust because it was occupied, just as the Lithuanian nation could not participate in the Holocaust because it was enslaved, but individual representatives are obviously involved and it is up to the court to decide.”

It is estimated more than 95 percent of about 250,000 Jews who lived in Lithuania when the Nazis invaded in 1945 were slain.

In January, the City adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism. Additionally, the City Council honored Mr. Grant Gochin with a proclamation recognizing his work fighting Holocaust revisionism perpetuated by the Lithuanian government. The Council noted and condemned the Lithuanian government's recent introduction of draft legislation, which would have absolved and denied Lithuania's role in killing thousands of Jews.

This resolution aligns with the City's history of condemning anti-Semitic behavior and with the recent support of Mr. Gochin's work in fighting Holocaust revisionism.

Gabriella Yap

Approved By

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDEMNING ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT TO DENY INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOLOCAUST

WHEREAS, as an international destination, the City of Beverly Hills is proud to embrace and celebrate religions and cultures from all over the world;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills and the State of Israel jointly entered into a declaration to promote and strengthen bilateral collaboration, economic development, enhance cultural relationships, and educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills has a history of condemning anti-Semitic behavior, including adopting a resolution to oppose the United Nations Resolution to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills passed a resolution in 2016 to support Assembly Bill 2844, California combatting the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (“BDS”) of Israel Act of 2016;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted a resolution in 2019 condemning the California Department of Education for the then current draft curriculum of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) as it demonstrates a clear anti-Jewish bias that is anti-Semitic;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism in 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted a resolution opposing the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for human rights to release a list of companies that do business in Israeli settlements in the West Bank;

WHEREAS, Holocaust denial and revisionism is an especially insidious form of anti-Semitism;

WHEREAS, the government of Lithuania is engaged in an active campaign to deny the culpability of Lithuanians who murdered Jews during the Holocaust, revising history, and turning perpetrators into national heroes;

WHEREAS, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, an agency of the government engages in Holocaust distortion by publishing false research asserting that Holocaust perpetrators were actually rescuing Jews;

WHEREAS, the Lithuanian government uses intimidation tactics against those that speak out against their Holocaust distortions;

WHEREAS, Lithuania has multiple state honors, monuments, and streets named for Holocaust perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the Lithuanian government misused Congressional documents to falsely declare that a significant Holocaust perpetrator, Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, the head of the Lithuanian Provisional Government in 1941, had been “completely exonerated” and “rehabilitated” by the United States;

WHEREAS, Lithuania has repatriated the bodily remains of Holocaust perpetrators, Kazys Škirpa and Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, from the United States and reburied them in Lithuania with national honors;

WHEREAS, following previous efforts by the governments of Ukraine and Poland, Lithuania’s ruling party publicly floated the idea of draft legislation declaring that neither Lithuania nor its leaders were responsible for the Holocaust and was “just a victim” during World War II,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Beverly Hills resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City of Beverly Hills condemns any attempts by the Lithuanian government to deny their historical state-sponsored, and other official acts facilitating the murder of Jews and others during the Holocaust.

Section 2. The City of Beverly Hills demands Lithuania cease all efforts to advance proposed legislation which declares Lithuania innocent of any crimes in furtherance of the Holocaust, including the murder of Jews and others.

Section 3. The City of Beverly Hills calls upon leaders in Lithuania to discourage any future attempts to pass legislation denying their role in the Holocaust and to instead

acknowledge the culpability of their Interim Government, leadership, and population in the perpetration of the slaughter of Lithuanian Jews.

Section 4. The City of Beverly Hills encourages the government of Lithuania to revoke national honors for those that participated in the Holocaust, including the murder of Jews and others.

Section 5. The City of Beverly Hills calls upon the government of Lithuania to hold accountable officials of the Lithuanian government that are participating in Holocaust revisionism.

Section 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and shall cause this resolution and her certification to be entered in the Book of Resolutions of the Council of this City.

Adopted:

LESTER J. FRIEDMAN
Mayor of the City of
Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:

(SEAL)
HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS CONTENT:

Deborah Hakman

LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

GEORGE CHAVEZ
City Manager


Certificate Of Completion

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