

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GREENBURGH
CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM AND DIRECTING THE GREENBURGH
POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE THE TOWN BOARD ANNUAL
REPORTS ON ANTISEMITIC ACTS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Greenburgh is committed to speaking out against and opposing racism, prejudice, hate, and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism has been described as beliefs or behavior hostile toward Jews simply because they are Jewish. As the Anti-Defamation League has stated: It may take the form of religious teachings that proclaim the inferiority of Jews or political efforts to isolate, oppress, or otherwise injure them. It may also include prejudiced or stereotyped views about Jews; and

WHEREAS, in January 2022, the world was horrified to learn that a Rabbi and four Jewish congregants attending Sabbath services were held hostage inside a Colleyville, Texas synagogue by a foreign national who falsely believed a Rabbi in New York City could free a convicted and imprisoned terrorist who herself had engaged in extreme hatred of Jews and Israel; and

WHEREAS, a headline on the ABC7NY website (April 21, 2020) reported an “antisemitic Zoom bombing under investigation in Westchester County.” Jewish religious services were interrupted by antisemitic acts, including posting swastikas and other offensive materials for people to see; and

WHEREAS, at Town Hall meetings, antisemitic comments have been made by members of the public, and the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust have been trivialized; and

WHEREAS, during the past few years, antisemitic graffiti has been found at high schools, on Westchester County and Town of Greenburgh-owned property, on playgrounds, at train station parking lots, and at homes throughout Westchester County; Jews have increasingly been violently attacked in the streets of nearby New York City solely because they are Jews by being identified as such by wearing Jewish religious symbols or attire; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, at the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, attendees marched with tiki torches chanting “Jews will not replace us;” and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2018, there was a fatal attack on a Jewish synagogue, Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, where White Supremacist Robert Bowers burst into the Tree of Life Synagogue at that time shouting, “all Jews must die;” and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that “hatred of Jews is getting worse” and urged that “we rise against antisemitism;” and

WHEREAS, there is no justification for acts of hatred and rhetoric that deny Israel’s right to exist or that cast blame on Jewish individuals, organizations and institutions, as they are clear and unacceptable expressions of antisemitism rather than legitimate protest; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust denial and distortion propaganda which advances the belief that the Holocaust did not take place or minimizes the extent of the extermination of Jews and other peoples by the Nazis and their accomplices in WWII and claims that Jews are responsible for causing their own destruction are all forms of antisemitism and therefore, must be repudiated; and

WHEREAS, more recently, from the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jews have been increasingly blamed for the emergence of the virus which has been described as a modern-day blood-libel; and

WHEREAS, at the January 6, 2021, attempted insurrection in Washington, D.C., antisemitic signs and symbols were prominently displayed; and

WHEREAS, FBI statistics show that over 60% of religiously-based acts of hate in the USA in 2021 were against Jews (and this number is consistent over past years) although Jews comprise 2% of the US population; and

WHEREAS, these growing number of incidents and statistics confirm that antisemitism has become both more prevalent and that this old hatred risks becoming mainstreamed if not taken seriously and confronted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Greenburgh, deeply concerned about the dramatic rise in antisemitic hate and bigotry in the public sphere, committed to opposing the threat it poses to the American values of religious freedom, democracy, and tolerance, hereby condemns all forms of antisemitism, and encourages the Greenburgh Human Rights Advisory Committee to work with the Town Board to initiate forums and educational programs about this growing evil; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on an annual basis, the Greenburgh Police Department provide the Town Board at a public meeting with a report of antisemitic acts within its jurisdiction for the prior year — highlighting the reported incidents, whether the person(s) who committed the acts were caught, and the punishments; and that the Greenburgh Police Department report any such incidents to Westchester County, as the County Human Rights Commission records incidents of hate county-wide.