

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has one of the largest Jewish populations in the United States, second only to New York City, and the fifth largest Jewish population of any city in the world; and

WHEREAS, acts of violence against Jews and Jewish institutions in the United States have spiked significantly in recent years – as former Department of Homeland Security Secretary and White House Chief of Staff, John Kelly, observed, “the country has seen unacceptable and escalating threats and actual harassment directed at faith-based communities around the country, with a particular focus on threats to Jewish Community Centers.”; and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League’s most recent Audit of Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States recorded 1,879 acts in 2018, with a dramatic increase in physical assaults, including the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, a wave of anti-Semitic robocalls targeting Jewish schools, JCCs and synagogues, and a significant number of incidents at K-12 schools and on college campuses; and


WHEREAS, the FBI, which compiles hate-crime data based on reports from local law-enforcement agencies, found the number of such incidents rose 29 percent in 2018 from 2015 and in California alone, anti-Semitic hate crimes surged by 21 percent from 2017 to 2018, and reports of anti-Semitic incidents have continued to make headlines in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Anti-Defamation League has linked the growth of anti-Semitism to a global white supremacist ideology that has fueled the rise in hate crimes in both the United States and in countries across Europe; and


WHEREAS, recently, Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of Simon Wiesenthal Center, called on President Trump to direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to create a special task force in response to a series of attacks against Jews and Jewish religious institutions, stating, “[t]his ongoing epidemic of anti-Semitic attacks needs to be treated. Enough is enough. Jews should not have to fear for their lives in America to go to their houses of worship.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 ^{Federal} State Legislative Program SUPPORT of legislative and/or administrative action establishing an FBI-led task force to address the unprecedented upsurge in anti-Semitic assaults and violent attacks against the Jewish community.

PRESENTED BY: 
DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 
Paul Kootz

ORIGINAL


1-22-20