



Sent Via Email

July 14, 2020

Roman Baber, Chair
Standing Committee of Justice Policy
Legislative Assembly of Ontario
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M5H 3C6

Email: comm-justicepolicy@ola.org

Dear Mr. Baber:

Re: Members Motion of Mayor Barrow regarding Adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism

Richmond Hill Council, at its meeting held on July 8, 2020, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the City of Richmond Hill is rooted in the values of democracy, equity and inclusivity; and

Whereas, on September 24 2018, the Richmond Hill Council endorsed the York Region Inclusion Charter; and

Whereas, we have a shared responsibility to stop antisemitism in all its forms through education and public consciousness as antisemitic demonstrations continue to threaten communities and undermine democracy; and

Whereas, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 that consists of 34 countries, including Canada, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism; and

Whereas, six per cent of York Region residents identify themselves as Jewish, which is a higher representation than Canada and Ontario, and Vaughan is home to one of the largest Jewish populations outside of Israel, which includes many Holocaust survivors; and

Whereas, on February 27, 2020, Bill 168, the Combating Antisemitism Act which directly mentions IHRA, unanimously passed a second reading in the Ontario legislature with all-party support; and

Whereas, on April 30, 2020, Regional Council adopted adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as adopted at the IHRA plenary on May 26, 2016; and

Whereas, City of Richmond Hill is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the City of Richmond Hill adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as adopted at the IHRA plenary on May 26, 2016 as follows:

"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

That this decision be forwarded to the Chair of the province of Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

Carried Unanimously

In accordance with Council's directive, please find attached a copy of the Member Motion submitted by Mayor Barrow regarding Adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-771-8800.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen M.A. Huycke
Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

Attachments

**Extract from Council Meeting
C#29-20 held July 8, 2020
Confirmatory By-law 95-20**

13. Other Business

Mayor Barrow transferred the Chair to Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli to consider Item 13.1.

13.1 Member Motion - Mayor Barrow - Adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism

Moved by: Mayor Barrow
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

Whereas, the City of Richmond Hill is rooted in the values of democracy, equity and inclusivity; and

Whereas, on September 24 2018, the Richmond Hill Council endorsed the York Region Inclusion Charter; and

Whereas, we have a shared responsibility to stop antisemitism in all its forms through education and public consciousness as antisemitic demonstrations continue to threaten communities and undermine democracy; and

Whereas, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 that consists of 34 countries, including Canada, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism; and

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Whereas, on February 27, 2020, Bill 168, the Combating Antisemitism Act which directly mentions IHRA, unanimously passed a second reading in the Ontario legislature with all-party support; and

Whereas, on April 30, 2020, Regional Council adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as adopted at the IHRA plenary on May 26, 2016; and

Whereas, City of Richmond Hill is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities.

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That this decision be forwarded to the Chair of the province of Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Barrow assumed Chair following consideration of Item 13.1.



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting:	Council X
Meeting Date:	July 8, 2020
Subject/Title:	Adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism
Submitted by:	Mayor Barrow

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That this decision be forwarded to the Chair of the province of Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

Moved by: Mayor Barrow

Seconded by: