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September 3, 2020

Sent via email to: roman.baber@pc.ola.org

Attn: Roman Baber, Chair, Standing Committee on Justice Policy

RE: International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition on Antisemitism

I am writing to advise you that at the meeting of August 31, 2020, Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

Whereas the Town of Newmarket has established diversity and inclusivity as a strategic priority for the Town at Council; and,

Whereas, in February 2019, the Inclusion Charter for York Region was endorsed as a community initiative, bringing together businesses, community organizations, municipalities, police services, hospitals, school boards, conservation authorities and agencies who share a vision to foster a welcoming and inclusive community; 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,

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, the Town of Newmarket is enriched by its active and engaged Jewish and Israeli residents.

Therefore Be It Resolved by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Newmarket as follows:



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1. That the Remote Deputation regarding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition on Antisemitism provided by Jason Grossman be received; and,
2. That Council 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,
3. That all York Region municipalities as well as the Chair of the province of Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy be advised of this resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Kiran Saini
Deputy Town Clerk

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Copy: Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Justice Policy