

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission was re-established to promote positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status; and to foster mutual esteem, justice, equity, and dignity of every individual; and

WHEREAS, the April 2019 antisemitic shooting at a Poway synagogue that left one woman dead and several people injured was the immediate inspiration for the re-establishment of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is home to approximately 100,000 Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish people have maintained a unique ethnic, religious, social, and cultural identity, and diverse ethnic history for more than 5,000 years, and

WHEREAS, Jewish peoplehood is reflected in a diverse and multifaceted reality that spans continents, wide-ranging religious expressions, political attitudes, ethnic cultures, and histories but is bound by a spiritual and indigenous attachment to the historical Land of Israel, the modern State of Israel, and the Jewish people as a whole; and

WHEREAS, anti-Jewish, antisemitic, and anti-Israel harassment, bullying, vandalism, heated rhetoric, physical assaults, and violence have been on the rise in recent years; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 6 percent increase in hate crimes from the previous year, representing the highest total in 12 years, and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up nearly 60 percent of all religious-based hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents in the United States, a 36 percent increase from the 2,717 incidents tabulated in 2021, and the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking incidents in 1979; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 36 recorded incidents of antisemitism in San Diego, including vandalism, harassment, and assault; and

WHEREAS, some recent antisemitic incidents in San Diego include the vandalizing of a large menorah in front of the Jewish student center on the San Diego State University campus; and in July the assault of a 65-year-old rabbi by a man shouting anti-Jewish and anti-Israel slurs; and further,

WHEREAS, in July 2023, flyers with virulent and malicious antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ messages were placed on car windshields in San Carlos, Santee, and Del Cerro; and

WHEREAS, on March 14 of this year, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution denouncing antisemitic rhetoric and hate crimes against Jews in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County is home to an estimated 115,000 LGBTQ+ people; and

WHEREAS, recent years have also seen an uptick in the incidence of homophobic and transphobic attacks in San Diego, including the vandalizing of the Pride monument in Hillcrest's Pride Plaza, as well as a shooter who, after posting homophobic slurs on social media, fired 2 dozen rounds from a rifle into the Golden Dragon Asian Bistro in Hillcrest; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2023, protestors at a Drag Queen Story Hour at San Diego's New Children's Museum were so threatening that the San Diego Police Department deployed 30 police officers to keep the peace; and

WHEREAS, no individual or group within San Diego County should be a target of discrimination, or fear retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence because of their identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego County Commission on Human Relations denounces the rise in antisemitic rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish people in the County of San Diego; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Diego County Commission on Human Relations denounces the rise in homophobic and transphobic rhetoric and incidents that denigrate LGBTQ+ people in the County of San Diego.