

Resolution

of the
City of Easton, Pennsylvania

No. 2022

Date: December 14, 2022

Introduced by: Salvatore J. Panto, Jr.

WHEREAS the City of Easton treasures religious tolerance.

WHEREAS Easton's Jewish community has and continues to play an important role in the city.

WHEREAS antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society.

WHEREAS according to the ADL's annual audit, the US continues to experience an unprecedented surge in antisemitic incidents in recent years.

WHEREAS discrimination on the basis of religion, race, and ethnicity is antithetical to the values of Easton.

WHEREAS the City of Easton unequivocally rejects antisemitism, along with all other forms of racism, religious intolerance, and other prejudices both here in our city and around the world.

WHEREAS antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity and blames Jews for "why things go wrong". It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms, and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

WHEREAS defining antisemitism increases awareness in the community, leading to better monitoring and reporting, more informed analyses, and investigation of incidents in order to enhance public safety and policymaking.

WHEREAS this December, our Easton Jewish Community will be celebrating Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, based on a story of survival in the face of religious persecution.

WHEREAS to raise awareness of contemporary antisemitism in the United States, Jewish organizations and communities around the country have planned a week of action to coincide with Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. Through the symbolism of Chanukah, the aim is to shine a light on antisemitism in all its modern-day forms.

WHEREAS together, we can identify and expose the hate that's hiding between the lines and translate it into something positive, turning darkness into light.

WHEREAS Chanukah begins on Sunday, December 18, 2022, and continues for eight days.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF EASTON, that Easton condemns and rejects antisemitism in all its manifestations, so that Easton remains a beacon to all people seeking to live in peace.

The City Council of Easton affirms the City's ongoing commitment to cultivate an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.

The City Council of Easton commits to countering antisemitism and hate through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency, and public information regarding efforts to fight antisemitism, and the investigation and sharing prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.

The City Council of Easton will mark December 18 through December 26, 2022, as a week to SHINE A LIGHT on antisemitism. This Chanukah, the people of Easton will champion the message of light to send a message of support and solidarity to our Jewish friends and neighbors.

The City Council of Easton urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, and denouncing antisemitism, hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.

This is to certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the City Council on the above date.

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Signed: _____
Mayor