

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #308

Introduced by Legislator: William Gouldman at a Regular Meeting held on November 6, 2024.

Seconded by Legislator: Erin Crowley.

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APPROVAL - RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF A NON-LEGALLY BINDING, WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

WHEREAS, the staggering and concerning rise of antisemitism within the United States necessitates a formal and updated definition of antisemitism for the purposes of protecting those who may be victimized by antisemitic practices; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted the following non-legally binding, working definition of antisemitism:

“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

WHEREAS, this working definition has been adopted, endorsed, or recognized by 43 countries, as well as by a wide range of other political entities, including a large number of regional/state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13899 of December 11, 2019, signed by the President of the United States of America, set a policy that this working definition shall be considered in enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam adopts the IHRA’s non-legally binding, working definition of antisemitism, including the contemporary examples of antisemitism as set forth therein, exclusively as a tool and guide for training, education, recognizing, and combating antisemitic hate crimes or discrimination, and for tracking and reporting antisemitic incidents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the provisions of this resolution shall not be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the New York State Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Putnam County District Attorney and the Putnam County Sheriff, and to other government agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations throughout the County, as appropriate and/or upon request; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CHAIRMAN JONKE WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

APPROVED

State of New York

ss:


County of Putnam



COUNTY EXECUTIVE DATE 11/15/24

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on November 6, 2024.

Dated: November 8, 2024

Signed: 

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County