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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee
Thursday, February 24, 2022 - 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 1: Resolution in support of the confirmation of Deborah Lipstadt to the Office of the Special Envoy To Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

Item 2: Resolution in support of the City of New York and the State of New York to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism

Board Members Present: Vanessa Aronson, Taina Borrero, Rebecca Dangoor, Ed Hartzog, Barry Schneider, and Rami Sigal.

The meeting was also attended by over a dozen members of the public.

Taina Borrero, Rebecca Dangoor, and Rami Sigal co-presented two resolutions addressing antisemitism. They spoke about their personal perspectives as young Jewish members of Community Board 8 and their conviction for taking action as a Full Board to address these issues of hate happening in our community and across the country and world. They also spoke about why they had to present these resolutions in the Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee and about the fact that their intent was actually to not address these in any particular committee as these issues don't fall in any one particular committee's purview.

Below are the resolutions Borrero, Dangoor and Sigal presented for approval.

Item 1: Resolution in support of the confirmation of Deborah Lipstadt to the Office of the Special Envoy To Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan condemns the recent string of anti-Semitic attacks within Manhattan Community District 8 as well as the antisemitic attacks that are happening throughout the country;

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on law enforcement officials and the judicial system to hold those who participated in these hate crimes to be prosecuted to the fullest extent;

WHEREAS, the anti-Semitic attacks experienced by members of the Upper East Side are only the latest in a 275% spike in antisemitic incidences in the month of January 2022 alone;

WHEREAS, in the United States and globally, anti-Semitism is on the rise, leading to significant harm to the global Jewish population, including Jews who live within Manhattan Community District 8;

WHEREAS, the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years and months is staggering and Jews have consistently been victims of slander, violence, and terrorism in alarming rates;

WHEREAS, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism was established by the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004;

WHEREAS, the Special Envoy post is required by statute to be filled;

WHEREAS, the post had been vacant for three years during President Trump's administration, until early 2019;

WHEREAS, President Biden nominated Emory University Professor Dr. Deborah Lipstadt to fill the critical role in the Department of State on July 30, 2021;

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt is one of the world's leading scholars of anti-Semitism;

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt's efforts to combat anti-Semitism have been successful not only in the United States but globally;

WHEREAS, the U.S. cannot afford to leave the post vacant during this critical time of increased hate crimes being committed against Jews;

WHEREAS, Dr. Lipstadt's record proves she is the most qualified person to fill the role;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on our federal representatives to expedite the approval of Dr. Lipstadt to the office of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Yes: V.Aronson, T.Borrero, R.Dangoor, E.Hartzog, B.Schneider, R.Sigal).

Item 2: Resolution in support of the City of New York and the State of New York to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan condemns the recent string of anti-Semitic attacks within Manhattan Community District 8 as well as the anti-Semitic attacks that are happening throughout the country;

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on law enforcement officials and the judicial system to hold those who participated in these hate crimes to be prosecuted to the fullest extent;

WHEREAS, the anti-Semitic attacks experienced by members of the Upper East Side are only the latest in a 275% spike in antisemitic incidences in the month of January 2022 alone;

WHEREAS, in the United States and globally, anti-Semitism is on the rise, leading to significant harm to the global Jewish population, including Jews who live within Manhattan Community District 8;

WHEREAS, clearly defining and using a more all-incompassing definition antisemitism using the IHRA deinition will help shape the prosecution of hate crimes in New York and close loopholes in the current hate crimes law;

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) defines anti-Semitism as: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;"

WHEREAS, this definition of anti-Semitism has been adopted by 33 countries, 4 U.S. states, countless universities, organizations, and departments of the the federal government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on the City of New York and the State of New York to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *that Community Board 8 Manhattan directly calls on our City and State legislators to propose the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism in New York.*

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Yes: V.Aronson, T.Borrero, R.Dangoor, E.Hartzog, B.Schneider, R.Sigal).

The meeting adjourned after a brief discussion about the importance of this topic.

Taina Borrero and Rami Sigal, Co-Chairs