

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, in the month of October 2021, several incidents involving  
3 antisemitic, racist, and homophobic vandalism and hate occurred in Austin, Texas;  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of Austin is fully committed to the safety,  
6 security, and equal treatment of its residents; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of Austin has previously approved Resolution  
8 No. 20161013-009, condemning violence and hate speech, and expressing  
9 solidarity with Muslims and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race or religion,  
10 Resolution No. 20200409-076, condemning violence, hate speech, racism, and  
11 misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and expressing solidarity with  
12 Chinese and Asian Americans, and Resolution No. 20210204-064, denouncing the  
13 January 6, 2021, domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol and affirming  
14 an ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and  
15 culture; and

16 **WHEREAS**, antisemitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of racism  
17 faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews; and

18 **WHEREAS**, antisemitism includes blaming Jews when things go wrong;  
19 calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a  
20 radical ideology or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious,  
21 dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotyped allegations about Jews; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Jewish people are subject in the media and political campaigns  
23 to numerous other dangerous antisemitic myths as well, including that Jews control

24 the United States Government or seek global, political, and financial domination  
25 and that Jews are obsessed with money; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 14  
27 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that  
28 attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent of all religious-  
29 based hate crimes; and

30 **WHEREAS**, according to records in the Austin History Center, Jewish  
31 settlers began to arrive in Austin as early as the 1840s; and

32 **WHEREAS**, in 1876 Austin was reported to have a Jewish population of  
33 188 individuals and the Jewish population is estimated to be nearly 30,000  
34 individuals today; and

35 **WHEREAS**, hate groups like the ones that have targeted Austin recently  
36 seek to attract attention, seed fear, and provoke confrontation; and

37 **WHEREAS**, it is critical that the City Council of Austin take leadership and  
38 stand in solidarity with its Jewish communities to send a message that  
39 discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated; and

40 **WHEREAS**, each individual has the ability to promote inclusiveness,  
41 celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, and reject hate and  
42 bias in all forms; and

43 **WHEREAS**, all persons are encouraged to report any such antisemitic  
44 incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of Austin affirms its commitment to the well-  
46 being and safety of its Jewish community members and to ensuring Jewish

47 residents and organizations know they are not alone and that the City Council of  
48 Austin is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry; **NOW**  
49 **THEREFORE,**

50 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

51 The City Council of Austin condemns antisemitic acts and statements as  
52 hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define  
53 the people of Austin.

54 The City Council of Austin denounces antisemitism and all hateful speech  
55 and violent action that casts blame, promotes racism or discrimination or harms the  
56 Jewish community.

57 The City Council of Austin joins cities, counties and states across the  
58 country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of all community  
59 members, including the Jewish communities, and in combating hate crimes  
60 targeting Jews.

61 The City Council of Austin pledges to support the inalienable rights of all  
62 people in our community, who should be treated with respect. We call upon all our  
63 residents to treat each other with respect.

64 The City Council of Austin urges residents to join us in calling attention to  
65 these harms and denouncing antisemitism.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

67 The City Council of Austin will strengthen its efforts to protect residents and  
68 targets and victims of hate, and to prosecute and curb hate acts in partnership with

69 nonprofit organizations, the Travis County District Attorney’s Office, the Austin  
70 Police Department and other law enforcement partners.

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

72 The City Council of Austin directs the City Manager to research best  
73 practices from peer cities and to collaborate with local community groups,  
74 including Shalom Austin and the Anti-Defamation League, to review, and then  
75 identify and implement improvements to the City’s response to hate.

76 The improvements should include training for relevant city staff that  
77 educates participants in how hate manifests, how to effectively respond to  
78 incidents of hate, and how social media is used to propagate hate.

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

80 The City Council of Austin directs the City Manager to report his findings  
81 and recommendations to Council within 120 days.

82

83 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

84

85

86

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk