

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R- 13290

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDEMNING ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT TO DENY INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOLOCAUST

WHEREAS, as an international destination, the City of Beverly Hills is proud to embrace and celebrate religions and cultures from all over the world;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills and the State of Israel jointly entered into a declaration to promote and strengthen bilateral collaboration, economic development, enhance cultural relationships, and educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills has a history of condemning anti-Semitic behavior, including adopting a resolution to oppose the United Nations Resolution to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills passed a resolution in 2016 to support Assembly Bill 2844, California combatting the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (“BDS”) of Israel Act of 2016;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted a resolution in 2019 condemning the California Department of Education for the then current draft curriculum of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) as it demonstrates a clear anti-Jewish bias that is anti-Semitic;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism in 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills adopted a resolution opposing the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for human rights to release a list of companies that do business in Israeli settlements in the West Bank;

WHEREAS, Holocaust denial and revisionism is an especially insidious form of anti-Semitism;

WHEREAS, the government of Lithuania is engaged in an active campaign to deny the culpability of Lithuanians who murdered Jews during the Holocaust, revising history, and turning perpetrators into national heroes;

WHEREAS, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, an agency of the government engages in Holocaust distortion by publishing false research asserting that Holocaust perpetrators were actually rescuing Jews;

WHEREAS, the Lithuanian government uses intimidation tactics against those that speak out against their Holocaust distortions;

WHEREAS, Lithuania has multiple state honors, monuments, and streets named for Holocaust perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the Lithuanian government misused Congressional documents to falsely declare that a significant Holocaust perpetrator, Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, the head of the Lithuanian Provisional Government in 1941, had been “completely exonerated” and “rehabilitated” by the United States;

WHEREAS, Lithuania has repatriated the bodily remains of Holocaust perpetrators, Kazys Škirpa and Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, from the United States and reburied them in Lithuania with national honors;

WHEREAS, following previous efforts by the governments of Ukraine and Poland, Lithuania’s ruling party publicly floated the idea of draft legislation declaring that neither Lithuania nor its leaders were responsible for the Holocaust and was “just a victim” during World War II,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Beverly Hills resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City of Beverly Hills condemns any attempts by the Lithuanian government to deny their historical state-sponsored, and other official acts facilitating the murder of Jews and others during the Holocaust.

Section 2. The City of Beverly Hills demands Lithuania cease all efforts to advance proposed legislation which declares Lithuania innocent of any crimes in furtherance of the Holocaust, including the murder of Jews and others.

Section 3. The City of Beverly Hills calls upon leaders in Lithuania to discourage any future attempts to pass legislation denying their role in the Holocaust and to instead

acknowledge the culpability of their Interim Government, leadership, and population in the perpetration of the slaughter of Lithuanian Jews.

Section 4. The City of Beverly Hills encourages the government of Lithuania to revoke national honors for those that participated in the Holocaust, including the murder of Jews and others.

Section 5. The City of Beverly Hills calls upon the government of Lithuania to hold accountable officials of the Lithuanian government that are participating in Holocaust revisionism.

Section 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and shall cause this resolution and her certification to be entered in the Book of Resolutions of the Council of this City.

Adopted: May 19, 2020

Lester J. Friedman  
LESTER J. FRIEDMAN  
Mayor of the City of  
Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:

Huma Ahmed (SEAL)  
HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deborah Hakman  
LAURENCE S. WIENER  
City Attorney

APPROVED AS CONTENT:

Nancy Hunt Coffey for  
GEORGE CHAVEZ  
City Manager *GC*

## Certificate Of Completion

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Envelope Id: B9F27B6ECD3544F5B10556E6ED19F720  | Status: Completed           |
| Subject: Please DocuSign: Resolution Condemning Lithuanian Holocaust Revisionism.pdf |                             |
| Source Envelope:   |                             |
| Document Pages: 3  | Signatures: 4               |
| Certificate Pages: 3   | Initials: 1                 |
| AutoNav: Enabled   | Envelope Originator:        |
| Envelope Stamping: Enabled   | Cindy Owens                 |
| Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)                                    | 455 N. Rexford Drive        |
|  | Beverly Hills, CA 90210     |
|  | cowens@beverlyhills.org     |
|  | IP Address: 198.245.188.139 |

## Record Tracking

|                     |                         |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Status: Original    | Holder: Cindy Owens     | Location: DocuSign |
| 5/8/2020 2:23:23 PM | cowens@beverlyhills.org |                    |

## Signer Events

| Signature   | Timestamp  |
|---|--|
| <p>Deborah Hakman<br/>dhakman@beverlyhills.org<br/>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)</p> <p><i>Deborah Hakman</i></p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style<br/>Using IP Address: 47.154.20.98<br/>Signed using mobile</p> | <p>Sent: 5/8/2020 2:29:07 PM<br/>Viewed: 5/8/2020 3:23:00 PM<br/>Signed: 5/8/2020 3:23:34 PM</p> |

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Cindy Owens<br/>cowens@beverlyhills.org<br/>Sr. Management Analyst<br/>City of Beverly Hills<br/>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)</p> <p><i>CO</i></p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style<br/>Using IP Address: 198.245.188.139</p> | <p>Sent: 5/8/2020 3:23:35 PM<br/>Viewed: 5/21/2020 10:40:27 AM<br/>Signed: 5/21/2020 10:40:36 AM</p> |
|---|--|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Nancy Hunt Coffey for<br/>nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org<br/>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)</p> <p><i>Nancy Hunt Coffey for</i></p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style<br/>Using IP Address: 76.91.11.45</p> | <p>Sent: 5/21/2020 10:40:37 AM<br/>Resent: 5/29/2020 9:37:49 AM<br/>Viewed: 5/29/2020 11:19:25 AM<br/>Signed: 5/29/2020 11:19:55 AM</p> |
|--|---|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Lester J. Friedman<br/>lfriedman@beverlyhills.org<br/>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)</p> <p><i>Lester J. Friedman</i></p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style<br/>Using IP Address: 172.90.252.10</p> | <p>Sent: 5/29/2020 11:19:56 AM<br/>Viewed: 5/29/2020 2:05:00 PM<br/>Signed: 5/29/2020 2:05:09 PM</p> |
|--|--|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

| Signer Events   | Signature  | Timestamp  |
|---|--|--|
| Huma Ahmed<br>hahmed@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <i>Huma Ahmed</i><br><br>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style<br>Using IP Address: 198.245.188.136 | Sent: 5/29/2020 2:05:10 PM<br>Viewed: 5/29/2020 3:18:08 PM<br>Signed: 5/29/2020 3:18:21 PM |

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

| In Person Signer Events | Signature | Timestamp |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|

| Editor Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|
|------------------------|--------|-----------|

| Agent Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|

| Intermediary Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|

| Certified Delivery Events | Status | Timestamp |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|

| Carbon Copy Events | Status | Timestamp |
|--------------------|--------|-----------|
|--------------------|--------|-----------|

|   |               |                             |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Adrienne Tarazon<br>atarazon@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 11:19:56 AM |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|   |               |                             |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Dorina Mohan<br>dmohan@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 11:19:56 AM |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| Jason Lawrence<br>jlawrence@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 2:05:10 PM<br>Viewed: 5/29/2020 2:05:56 PM |
|--|---------------|--|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|   |               |                            |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|
| Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez<br>lsyrodriquez@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 2:05:10 PM |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

|  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| Michael Dunn<br>mdunn@beverlyhills.org<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 2:05:10 PM<br>Viewed: 5/29/2020 3:35:59 PM |
|--|---------------|--|

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
Not Offered via DocuSign

| Carbon Copy Events   | Status        | Timestamp                  |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| Michelle Ramos-Vergara<br>mvergara@beverlyhills.org<br>City of Beverly Hills<br>Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) | <b>COPIED</b> | Sent: 5/29/2020 3:18:22 PM |
| <b>Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:</b><br>Not Offered via DocuSign   |               |                            |

| Witness Events | Signature | Timestamp |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
|----------------|-----------|-----------|

| Notary Events | Signature | Timestamp |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|---------------|-----------|-----------|

| Envelope Summary Events | Status           | Timestamps           |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Envelope Sent           | Hashed/Encrypted | 5/29/2020 3:18:22 PM |
| Certified Delivered     | Security Checked | 5/29/2020 3:18:22 PM |
| Signing Complete        | Security Checked | 5/29/2020 3:18:22 PM |
| Completed               | Security Checked | 5/29/2020 3:18:22 PM |

| Payment Events | Status | Timestamps |
|----------------|--------|------------|
|----------------|--------|------------|

RESOLUTION NO. 20-5314

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DENOUNCING LITHUANIA FOR ITS EFFORTS TO DISTORT THE HOLOCAUST AND ATTEMPTS TO REHABILITATE THE REPUTATIONS OF SOME OF ITS LEADERS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE MASSACRE OF MILLIONS OF JEWISH INDIVIDUALS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood was incorporated on November 29, 1984. That milestone was the culmination of a community-driven effort that at its core involved LGBT people, renters, seniors, Jewish-emigrates and people who had suffered persecution because of their religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or national status. That day in November 1984 led to the realization of many progressive and humane policies and the championing of values that promote and celebrate diversity, embrace people and cultures from different parts of the world, and reject divisiveness, racism, anti-Semitism, and hate; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the City worked relentlessly to expand protections and rights of LGBT people, advocated for fair and humane treatment of immigrants, and took several stands against the defamation of communities like the LGBT community, Jewish individuals, and others. The City, too, denounced efforts by anti-Semitic groups to advance the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) initiative, which was aimed against the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City has not only strived for an accurate depiction of the atrocities of the Holocaust, it has also denounced attempts to deny the Holocaust by countries like Iran. In part with these efforts, the City of West Hollywood has also worked diligently to remember the victims of the Holocaust by hosting a yearly Yom HaShoah memorial and the remembrance of the massacre of Babi Yar, Ukraine in 1941, where more than 33,000 Jewish people were massacred. In addition, the City periodically hosts the Human Rights Speakers' series, an event that features authors, social scientists and advocates for human rights and tolerance from different walks of life; and

WHEREAS, for some time now, some European politicians and their respective political parties have attempted to rewrite history surrounding their parties' and countries' support and collaboration with Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. One of those nations is Lithuania, where it is estimated that more than 95 percent of about 250,000 Jews who lived in the country when the Nazis invaded in 1941, were slain; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, Arūnas Gumuliauskas, leader of Lithuania's ruling party Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union, and who serves on a committee of the Seimas (unicameral parliament) announced that his party would sponsor legislation

Resolution No. 20-5314  
Page 2

declaring that neither the state of Lithuania nor its then-leaders participated in the Holocaust. This is consistent with other statements made by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and other Government representatives; and

WHEREAS, in a statement, Gumuliauskas, who is working on the legislation, stated: “The Lithuanian state did not participate in the Holocaust because it was occupied, just as the Lithuanian nation could not participate in the Holocaust because it was enslaved, but individual representatives are obviously involved and it is up to the court to decide”; and

WHEREAS, it is also clear from Lithuanian court cases about Jonas Noreika and other Holocaust perpetrators that Lithuanian Courts are unwilling or unable to address this subject, as proposed by Gumuliauskas; and

WHEREAS, Lithuania, however, is not the only European nation trying to reinvent its past and rewrite history. Poland and Hungary have also embarked on efforts to rehabilitate their images. In March 2018, Poland adopted a law that punishes anyone who “falsely accuses” the Polish nation of war crimes committed by Nazi Germany. This law explicitly prohibits the use of the term “Polish death camps” when referring to concentration camps that were built in Poland during World War II; and

WHEREAS, leaders and members of the right-wing Law and Justice Party have embraced the narrative that as Poland was occupied by the Nazis, Poles were prisoners without the freedom or ability to decide who lived or died. This is, however, not true as many Poles actively collaborated with the Nazis in the massacre of thousands of Jews at concentration camps in Poland; and

WHEREAS, Hungary, too, is grappling with its past of collaborating with the deportation of thousands of Hungarian Jews to concentration camps. As in Poland, some of Hungary’s political figures have also pushed the narrative that the Nazi Germans, not Hungarians, were responsible for the hundreds of thousands of Jews that were murdered during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, according to the Holocaust Remembrance Project (Echikson, et al., 2019), a research study conducted by researchers from Yale University and Grinnell College, historical revisionism is rampant in West Central Europe, whereby Croatia, other Baltic nations, and the previously mentioned countries continue to diminish their participation and even deny their past involvement in the Holocaust. The study, which was published on January 25, 2019 to coincide with the United Nation’s Holocaust Remembrance Day is endorsed by representatives from the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ); and

WHEREAS, as the City nears its fourth decade of existence and continues to push progressive policies and lead discussions in several national forums, the City must denounce Lithuania’s efforts to rewrite history and minimize their very real participation. This action is well justified based on the City’s historic record and trailblazing efforts to denounce hate and reject hateful speech, including defamation of Jews, LGBT people,

Resolution No. 20-5314  
Page 3

immigrants, and other minority groups. The efforts by Lithuania and other Western European nations should not go unchecked.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood finds that Lithuania's efforts to minimize or even deny its historical involvement in the Holocaust is contrary to the City's long track record of supporting an accurate depiction of the Holocaust and its atrocities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood denounces Lithuania's efforts to distort the historical record, which shows many Lithuanians actively collaborated with Nazi Germany in the assassination of Jewish nationals.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2020 by the following vote:

|          |                |   |
|----------|----------------|---|
| AYES:    | Councilmember: | D'Amico, Duran, Meister, Mayor Pro<br>Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Horvath. |
| NOES:    | Councilmember: | None.   |
| ABSENT:  | Councilmember: | None.   |
| ABSTAIN: | Councilmember: | None.   |

DocuSigned by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 LINDSEY P. HORVATH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has consistently been at the forefront of efforts to uphold the human rights of all people and has specifically condemned historic events such as the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, the genocide in Biafra, the genocide in Darfur and others;

WHEREAS over many years the City of Los Angeles has worked relentlessly to expand protections and rights of all Angelenos, advocated for fair and humane treatment of immigrants, and taken stands against the defamation of communities like the LGBT community, Jewish individuals, and others; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council also have opposed efforts by anti-Semitic groups to advance the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) initiative, which was aimed against the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City has not only strived for an accurate depiction of the atrocities of the Holocaust, it also has taken actions against attempts to deny the Holocaust by countries (07-0002-S17); and

WHEREAS, in recent years some European politicians and their respective political parties have attempted to rewrite history surrounding their parties' and countries' support and collaboration with Nazi Germany during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, one of those nations is Lithuania, where it is estimated that more than 95 percent of about 250,000 Jews who lived in the country when the Nazis invaded in 1941, were slain; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, Arūnas Gumuliauskas, leader of Lithuania's ruling party Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union, and who serves on a committee of the Seimas (unicameral parliament) announced that his party would sponsor legislation declaring that neither the state of Lithuania nor its then-leaders participated in the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, this is consistent with other statements made by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and other Government representatives; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Lithuania has been joined by Poland, Hungary and other nations in such efforts to reinvent their pasts, rewrite history and rehabilitate their images; and

WHEREAS, according to the Holocaust Remembrance Project (Echikson, et al., 2019), a research study conducted by researchers from Yale University and Grinnell College, historical revisionism is rampant in West Central Europe, whereby Croatia, other Baltic nations, and the previously mentioned countries continue to diminish their participation and even deny the documented past involvement of local collaborators with the Nazis in the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, denial, revisionism, distortion, or falsification of facts about the Holocaust robs the victims of justice and due recognition of their suffering, protects the perpetrators, and possibly facilitates the committing of similar crimes against humanity in the future; and

WHEREAS, as part of the City's ongoing efforts to denounce hate and reject hateful speech, including defamation of Jews, LGBT people, immigrants, and other minority groups, the efforts by Lithuania and other European nations should not go unnoticed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council finds that Lithuania's efforts to minimize or even deny its historical involvement in the holocaust is contrary a truthful depiction of the Holocaust and its atrocities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council denounces Lithuania's efforts to distort the historical record, which shows many Lithuanians actively collaborated with Nazi Germany in the assassination of Jewish nationals.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_