A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council denouncing antisemitism and all hateful speech and bias-motivated violent actions in the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Condemning Antisemitism Resolution of
2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) 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 contemporary American society.

(2) Antisemitism is a challenge to the basic principles of tolerance, pluralism, and
democracy, and the shared values that bind Americans and many allies together.

(3) Antisemitism threatens public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the
religious sphere.

(4) The Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL’s) data shows that antisemitic incidents are at a
historic high – three of the last four years have seen the highest number of antisemitic incidents
in the United States on record since ADL’s Center on Extremism began tracking this information
in 1979.

(5) According to the American Jewish Committee’s 2021 State of Antisemitism in
America report, one in four American Jews has been the target of antisemitism over the past 12
months including verbal or physical attacks, harassment online or on social media.

(6) Antisemitism is multifaceted and multiform, manifesting in many ways, making it
easier to spread and harder to combat.

(7) Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and blame
Jews for “why things go wrong,” it is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and
employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

(8) Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about
Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the
myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or Jews controlling the media, economy, government, or
other societal institutions – is antisemitic speech.
(9) Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews is an example of antisemitism.

(10) Accusing Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust is an especially hurtful example of this hatred.

(11) The use of symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis, drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis, and holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel are antisemitic actions.

(12) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations, echoes antisemitic tropes of dual loyalty.

(13) The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, adopted by over 30 countries, and embraced by the United States under both Republican and Democratic administrations, provides a road map to defining and rooting out Antisemitism.

(14) The District of Columbia’s officials and institutions can play a powerful role in promoting the values of tolerance and pluralism and in protecting citizens from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus, including antisemitism.

(15) The District of Columbia is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law within the limits of the First Amendment.

(16) The District of Columbia wishes to affirm its commitment to cultivating an inclusive community, including within the District’s operations and institutions.

(17) The diversity of our community is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger and more resilient.
Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia affirms its 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 District of Columbia commits to countering antisemitism and hate through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight antisemitism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections. The District of Columbia 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.

Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.