

## **ORDER NO. 2023-02**

### **AN ORDER OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

... Directing the Port of Seattle Executive Director, or Designee, to Utilize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of “Antisemitism” When Developing Policies and Training Programs to Help Identify and Combat Antisemitism.

**ADOPTED  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

On May 26, 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (“IHRA”) members which at the time, comprised of 31 countries, including the United States adopted the working definition of “Antisemitism,” as follows:

“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.”

On April 26, 2022, the Port of Seattle Commission passed a proclamation committing to annually commemorate the tragic history of the holocaust and current rise in antisemitism, as well as to reflect on the lessons they hold on our lives today. The Commission, through adoption of this Order, recognizes that annual commemoration and further commits to identifying and combatting antisemitism in the Port’s own policies and training programs.

#### **TEXT OF THE ORDER**

The Port Commission hereby directs the Port of Seattle Executive Director, or designee, to utilize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of “Antisemitism” when developing policies and training programs to help identify and combat antisemitism.

#### **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDER**

January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorating the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Nazi’s largest concentration camp. International Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to not only recognize the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six (6) million Jews and millions and others by the Nazi regime and its allies in World War II, but to also develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

Antisemitism is antithetical to the basic principles of tolerance, pluralism, and democracy, and the shared values that bind Americans and many allies together. An essential tool in combating antisemitism is the ability to define antisemitism in each of its multiple forms. The IHRA's working definition has proven to be an essential tool for government and law enforcement agencies in the United States as they work to identify contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, including the Nazi salute, and respond directly to them by providing training and education. As of November 2022, 30 states and the District of Columbia are using or have recognized the importance of the IHRA's definition.

On June 14, 2021, the US Congress passed Senate Resolution 252 unequivocally condemning the rise of antisemitic violence occurring in the United States and standing in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism and for other purposes. On March 30, 2022, the US Senate confirmed Deborah Lipstadt as a special envoy to monitor and combat the continued rise in antisemitism and to implement policies and projects to support efforts to combat antisemitism.

State and local officials and institutions can play a powerful role in promoting tolerance and pluralism, and in protecting citizens from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus, including antisemitism. The Cities of Tacoma and Bellevue have adopted the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism and the Washington State Senate has resolved to combat antisemitism in all its forms. Hate and bias are not acceptable in our community and the Port of Seattle remains committed to our vision of welcoming the world and recognizing our diversity as a key strength for our region and our character.