



Report Number: [Report Number]
Meeting: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: 2019 November 18

NOTICE OF MOTION

REVISED

RE: COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

Sponsoring Councillors: Carra; Chahal; Chu; Colley-Urquhart; Davison; Demong; Farkas; Gondek; Jones; Keating; Magliocca; Sutherland; Woolley & Mayor Nenshi

WHEREAS:

1. The Holocaust refers to the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of approximately six million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945;
2. Antisemitism and racial nationalism helped produce the Holocaust, in addition to the baseless hatred that contributed to the Nazis' persecution and mass murder of millions of others during this period, including Roma and Sinti peoples, people with physical and mental disabilities, religious minorities, political dissenters, homosexual people and Slavic-speaking people;
3. The remembrance of these past atrocities helps ensure that no similar event occurs in the future, and as such, the United Nations has declared January 27th to be International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the date which commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945;
4. Many governments world-wide have declared city-wide days of remembrance and education, including but not limited to:
 - In 2000, the Province of Alberta declared Yom HaShoah, the Day of the Holocaust as determined each year by the Jewish lunar calendar, to be Holocaust Memorial Day;
 - In 2018, the City of Windsor declared April 15th to be a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day; and
 - In 2019, the City of New York declared January 27th to be a city-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day and also conducts a city-wide Holocaust Education Week.
5. Current research shows that one in five Canadian youth are unaware of the events that occurred during the Holocaust, while 62% of Canadians aged 18-34 are unaware of how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust;
6. Much of the work to protect and shield our community from racism, discrimination and antisemitism happens at the level of municipal government;
7. Statistics Canada reports that Jewish people are the most frequently targeted ethno-cultural group when it comes to police-reported hate crimes, with such crimes taking place once every 24 hours in Canada;
8. Antisemitism can only be overcome by education, increased awareness, strong political condemnation, and enforcement of relevant laws anchored in the IHRA definition as a clear means of identifying hatred toward Jews;

9. According to the 2011 civic census, over 8,000 people of Jewish faith currently reside in Calgary including Holocaust Survivors and families of Survivors; and
10. Research affirms that Holocaust education and awareness promotes empathy for the suffering of others, and demonstrates a willingness to intervene on their behalf when antisemitic and other acts of hatred occur; a greater openness to diverse perspectives, as well as honouring the memory of the millions who suffered and died during the Holocaust.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The City of Calgary formally recognize, commemorate and proclaim January 27th as our annual city-wide International Holocaust Remembrance Day.