

REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 3, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Thursday, October 3, 2019 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:04 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler, Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Deputy Clerk Santiago.

Absent: Borough Clerk Hullings.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the agenda is very short so that they can address items that require Governing Body action before the next Regular Meeting on October 29th. There are items that need to be addressed, such as paying bills, and that is why this special meeting was scheduled. There is a work session following the regular meeting to allow the Council to come to a conclusion on a resolution that they have been debating. There will be an initial 15-minute comment session, limited to 3 minutes each speaker. There will be a second public comment session for the community at the end of the regular meeting as there usually is, but tonight, in order to give the Governing Body time to address the language in the anti-Semitism resolution that will be listed for consideration of passage at the meeting on the 29th, they will also limit comments in the second session to 3 minutes as well so that as many voices can be heard in order for them to make the hard end of 9:00 p.m., which is the regular council meeting required end time unless any emergencies come up and they need to vote to extend past 9:00 p.m. The report by Councilwoman Welkovits on the Rutgers Bike and E-Scooter Program can be provided via email if anyone is interested on the Council or otherwise. It will be posted eventually on the website and no other formal action will be taken at this meeting. She has asked Councilwoman Foster-Dublin to give a brief report because there has been a lot of activity in her area of Public Safety.

Councilwoman Foster Dublin reported that the Public Safety Committee met with the First Aid Squad on June 6th and it was a productive conversation and they made a case for resuming daytime hour coverage Monday through Friday. On June 11th, at the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, the Borough Council rejected RWJ's proposal for daytime coverage Monday through Friday because they did not want to commit to a two-year agreement with RWJ, especially if the squad may be able to take on those hours. RWJ understood the position of the Borough and agreed to keep the daytime response from Monday through Friday while the Borough figured out the next steps with the squad. She mentioned that the Borough does not pay for services or get refunds from RWJ for these services. On July 12th, the Public Safety Committee met to set forth provisions for the First Aid Squad and asked the Borough Administrator to work with the Borough Attorney to draft an agreement. An agreement was drafted on August 12th and was sent to the Public Safety Committee by email. During that same period, some concerns emerged. (1) Starting in late June, Council Members received some seemingly credible reports that the squad was having difficulty covering existing evening and weekend shifts. We had been working with the Police Department to get the necessary data to evaluate the report. (2) More recently, Council learned of an incident where a squad member was inappropriately hostile to Police Officers at a scene in front of a patient in need. The behavior significantly delayed the trip to the ER. The incident was recorded by Police body cameras and the Public Safety Committee was able to see the incident for themselves and they were concerned. They have had similar concerns raised in the past, including one case where a complaint was made against a different member of the squad by nurse at one of our area hospitals. She could have done better with her communication in regards to the First Aid Squad. The Public Safety Committee has had their hands full with a lot of pressing issues lately. With that, she is pleased to report that they have had good responses to the position of an Emergency Services Director. They will work hard on bringing someone on board at the end of the month. The position will closely work with all emergency services, First Aid Squad, Fire Department and OEM. The DeLacey Davis report will be presented at a community forum on October 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. They will make the report available on the Borough website. On October 28th, there will be a Halloween Trunk or Treat in the parking lot of the Community Center.

Mayor Brill Mittler added that the DeLacey Davis report will be up on the website next week.

There were no other Council reports provided at this meeting.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. Comments should be limited to items that are on the Consent Agenda.

David Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, commented that he just listened to a report that is so completely one sided and so completely unfair and so completely unprofessional. If you want to stand up here and say publicly, as you did, that there is a delay in patient care or a delay in getting a patient to the hospital, he wanted to tell the entire Council something. If he goes to pick up a patient and that patient doesn't tell me they want to go to the hospital, and they are conscious and alert, he cannot take that patient, he would be kidnapping that patient if he does so. That patient did not call 911, somebody else did, because that patient was sleeping on a park bench. The Police Officers were not in the back of the ambulance, they were outside. When the patient refused to tell him if they wanted to go, he had to bring the Police Officers in. When they said they wanted to go, he asked the Police Officer what he was taking them for. For those of you that don't know, that we go to RWJ in particular, and they ask why the patient is here. When they say, they don't know, he gets yelled at by them. This time, the Police Office said have them call the Highland Park Police. It is very nice that you got to see body cam that he requested to see and still hasn't seen, because he was the one that initiated the request for a meeting with the Police Department in a private matter. When he went to school, conflict resolution was taught, that when it is a small conflict, you deal with it and you end it. If you make it bigger, it gets bigger, longer and harder. Now, the Chief of Police has been told that he may not meet with the First Aid Squad or the Fire Department without the royal highnesses'

permission first. This is not the way to run a business. There was no problem on that call except the dispatch was incorrect. We were dispatched for evaluation. When we evaluate patients that are EDP's, we do not go lights and sirens. When we evaluate patients that are medical, we go lights and sirens. We were not given that information. He picked up the red phone and called headquarters and headquarters did not answer because they are busy. He got on the radio and called into service and asked what they were going for. He got a response that said call headquarters. He said that he couldn't as he was driving an ambulance. That is when they came out and said it was a medical evaluation and at that point, he knew to light it up and go lights and sirens. Nothing was a major big deal and that is all we wanted to do was talk to the department and quietly end this. Now we have to blow this up into a huge mess for no reason.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

Resolution Nos. 10-19-280 through 10-19-288, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:
Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-280

WHEREAS, Sustainable Highland Park would like to apply for a grant from Sustainable Jersey to support the revitalization of the Environmental Education Center's green roof and train Department of Public Works employees to care for the roof moving forward;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, on behalf of Sustainable Highland, a grant application to Sustainable Jersey.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-281

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to authorize the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for the properties located at and designated as Block 154, Lots 6.01, 10 & 11; Block 191, Lots 6.01 and 6.02; and Block 153, Lots 15, 17, 18 & 19 on the official Tax Map of the Borough of Highland Park (the "Project Area"); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 12-18-362 adopted on December 18, 2018, the Borough of Highland Park (the "Borough") entered into a Professional Services Agreement with Looney Ricks Kiss ("LRK") whose address is 217 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey, to prepare a sub-area master plan for the Cleveland Avenue Corridor ("Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 8-19-236 adopted on August 6, 2019, the Borough authorized the amendment of both the scope and amount of the Agreement to authorize LRK to prepare a finalized Redevelopment Plan for the properties located at Block 154, Lots 6.01, 10 & 11, and Block 153, Lots 16, 18 & 19, with input from an independent traffic engineer, as well as a Summary Memorandum for the Cleveland Area Corridor ("First Amendment"); and

WHEREAS, this Resolution amends Resolution No. 8-19-236 to reflect the correct Project Area as defined above, to authorize the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for the corrected Project Area, and to authorize and approve a revised agreement with LRK to reflect the corrected Project Area, attached as Exhibit A (the "Corrected First Amendment");

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The recitals hereto are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth at length.

Section 2. Borough Council hereby authorizes the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for the corrected Project Area.

Section 3. Borough Council hereby authorizes the execution of the Corrected First Amendment. Notice of the award of this amendment to the Agreement shall be published in an official newspaper of general circulation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i).

Section 4. This resolution amends Resolution 8-19-236.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-282

WHEREAS, emergency repairs are necessary to permit the continuance of Highland Park Fire Department Truck 3 to avoid danger of life and/or property; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a contracting unit to award contracts without public advertising for bids for the immediate delivery of services under emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has recommended that said repairs be performed by Fire and Safety Services Ltd, as more fully described in the attached; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds for the services provided in the following Account No. 9-01-26-315-2FF in a total amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that an award for emergency repairs to Truck 3 for the Highland Park Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 be made to Fire & Safety Services, 200 Ryan Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 for emergency repairs for Highland Park Fire Department Truck 3 as indicated on the attached.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-283

WHEREAS, 101 Raritan Avenue, known as Block 173 Lot 48 on the Highland Park Tax Map, was acquired by the Borough of Highland Park on February 5, 2019; and,

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WHEREAS, the 2019 2nd quarter taxes in the amount of \$4,305.79, the 3rd quarter taxes in the amount of \$4,576.00 the 4th quarter taxes in the amount of \$4,576.00, 1st quarter 2020 taxes in the amount of \$4,440.90 and the 2nd quarter taxes in the amount of \$4,440.89 should be cancelled due to the property attaining tax exempt status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and directed to cancel the amount set opposite the following, the same being the amount of taxes to be cancelled due to the property attaining tax exempt status:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE CANCELLED</u>
173	48	\$22,339.58

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Finance Director and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-284

WHEREAS, the 2019 3rd quarter tax payments were paid by the bank and the title company and, WHEREAS, the title companies named below request a refund for the overpayment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Department is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 3rd Quarter 2019 taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>QUAL</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
181	43	C0604	Settlement Engine Inc. General Escrow 1001 Ardmore Blvd Ste. 103 Pittsburgh, PA 15221	\$4361.37
23	159		Foundation Title, LLC 214 Highway 18 3 rd Fl. East Brunswick, NJ 08816	\$2458.75

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution by forwarded to the Finance Department and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-285

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1997, Chapter 99, a municipality may hold a tax lien sale within the last month of a calendar year for any unpaid taxes or other municipal liens or charges that are delinquent as of the 11th day of the eleventh month of the calendar year; and,

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating a more complete tax sale process.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector solicited three vendors for online tax lien services, Max Spann Real Estate Auction Company, ROK Industries, Inc. Agent for Realauction.com, LLC and Auction Advisors.com; and

WHEREAS, of the three vendors, ROK Industries Inc./Realauction.com has the capability to conduct the sale according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, that the Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to contract ROK Industries/Realauction.com as the vendor for the online tax sale and the amount not to exceed \$10,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Finance Director and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-286

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 2, 2019 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an annual basis, there have been the following changes, to wit: MICHAEL PUCHACZ, Police Officer, at annual salary of \$44,375, effective October 1, 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 2, 2019 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit: LEA KAPER-DALE, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective October 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-287

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works had a need to make emergency repairs to existing storm sewer catch basin, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a contracting unit to award contracts without public advertising for bids for the immediate delivery of services under emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited and only one quote was received as follows:
Fisher Contracting Inc. \$5,800.00

and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that said repairs be done by Fischer Contracting, Inc. based on their quote; and

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WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$5,800.00 in Account No. c-04-55-971-100 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from Fischer Contracting Inc., 10 Short Hills Lane, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Superintendent of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-288

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that all claims presented prior to this meeting as shown on a detailed list prepared by the Borough Treasurer, and which have been submitted and approved in accordance with Highland Park Ordinance No. 1004, shall be and the same are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall include in the minutes of this meeting a statement as to all such claims approved as shown in a Bills List Journal in accordance with said Ordinance.

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 10/3/2019 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 39.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Regular Members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for terms to expire July 1, 2023:

Stanley Fessant Dana Korbman Wolfram Hoefler

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Robert Holzapfel to serve as a Regular Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term to expire July 1, 2021.

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

John Kovac, North 3rd Avenue, commented that some have said it is divisive to include the BDS Israel boycott movement in an anti-Semitism resolution; therefore, suggesting it is only acceptable for Highland Park to oppose anti-Semitism with a generic resolution or with one that identifies only with white supremacist anti-Semitism. To use the term divisive in this context is to express concern about offending some people. Who, other than BDS supporters, are those promoters of social harmony concerned about offending? Apparently, nobody. What is left unspoken, what is ignored, what is pretended not to exist, what is wised away, is the blunt fact that the majority of the Jewish community of Highland Park rightfully seized the BDS movement as an anti-Semitic hate group. The majority of Highland Park's Jewish residents are greatly offended by the fact BDS is pushing on our town and library, a hateful, violent promoted agenda fraudulently disguised as human rights diversity and free speech. To ignore this BDS aggression, is willful blindness at best. It is likewise willfully blind to pretend that admitting the BDS agenda in an anti-Semitism resolution would be any less divisive; it certainly will not be. Offense will be caused to some regardless of what the Council does. You cannot avoid taking sides. Moreover, this decision should not be made based on political considerations. It therefore behooves this Council to make the morally correct choice. Put yourselves on the side of other New Jersey towns, the State of New Jersey, the United States Congress, the Government of Germany, and the United Nations, among others. Affirm that the delegitimization and double standards to Israel is anti-Semitism that demands to be condemned along with other forms of anti-Semitism. To do anything less, is an abdication of moral duty.

Miryam Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that she grew up in Highland Park. She currently works at a holocaust museum in Brooklyn teaching children of today about the horrors of anti-Semitism not so long ago and not so far away. Not long ago, not far away, that is the tagline for the current exhibit at the holocaust museum of Manhattan that she recently visited. At the exhibit opening, Ronald Lauder, acclaimed Jewish philanthropist who focuses on holocaust education made a point of stressing how in that line is a lesson that we need a community to stand up to anti-Semitism that is on the rise today in our American society. She is not suggesting that any of the politics here in Highland Park would ever go that far, but things have certainly been unsettled for the local Jewish community here as of late. It is a frightening time for American Jews from all elements of the political spectrum. We are currently at 341 days of an attack on Jews in Pittsburgh, 159 days since Jews were shot in Halle, and 38 days since a Rabbi Golper had his face smashed with a brick while jogging in Crown Heights and a mere 4 days since a synagogue in Brooklyn was vandalized over Rosh Hashanah. Just the latest in a string of violent attacks on visible Jews less than 1 hour away from this town we call home. Additionally, there have been near constant efforts to prevent Jews from moving into communities in Rockland and Ocean counties as well as attempts to ensure that Jews in those counties do not feel safe or at home there. She has many friends in the UK who she shares anti-Semitism and advocacy education work and beyond who share with her their concerns about their safety in the UK and dire warnings about the safety of American Jewry. Her British friends tell her that they have been pushed out of liberal and progressive groups for their refusal to shut up about anti-Semitism. They urge to never stop, to never shut up and never stop being on guard, to never stop being vigilant for the anti-Semitism that snuck into liberal political systems, most notably under the guise of simply being anti-Israel. Anti-Semitism is on the rise and it seems to be the hottest topic here in our beloved safe haven of Highland Park. She along with many in this room are heartbroken by the turn our town seems to have taken in the past several months. When I heard that the anti-Semitic organizations were managing to infiltrate the library in our town, she was heartbroken. She doesn't need to stand here and reiterate how these various organizations are anti-Semitic and don't want peace. If you care, you realize why that is terrifying for the Jewish community. She understands multi-cultural intersectionality and learning about other cultures. She would be happy to support businesses and organizations that work to ensure that money is actually going to the Palestinian people. She is not here to debate Israel versus

Palestine. As far as she knows, the P is for Palestine event has been postponed and is being rescheduled. She is grateful to the town and its leadership for that, especially at this time of year when Jews are so vulnerable. She prays to God and beseeched all of the Governing Body to not let this happen, to ensure that hate has no home here. There have been people saying that the Jewish community is divided over the anti-Semitism resolution. She does not believe that is true, as far as she can tell, we are united. We are united in our fear for our lives that anti-Semitism can make inroads here disguised under liberal and progressive causes like it has in UK. We are united in our gratitude that the town and its leadership are working to ensure our safety. Mark my words, we are united in the face of those that continue to push for this event and others like it. We are united behind those fail to support us no matter the pressure. Our town needs to be united in hate having no home here and all members of this small town feeling safe. Ensuring that if a group of people say that something here makes them feel unsafe, we take a stand and ensure that hate truly has no home here. Anti-Semitism is alive and well in American society and we need to ensure that we are doing all that we can to put a stop to it. Thank you for your support and advocacy ensuring that Highland Park remains a safe home for all.

Robin Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, commented that she is blindsided by the very twisted facts that were presented tonight about public safety. She asked if the Mayor and Council President specifically believe that the Borough Council are actually meant to represent your constituents. She would also like to know if they recall several months ago when she asked a question and Mayor Brill Mittler said Robin, I really wished you would have emailed me privately about this. She is wondering why, when she emailed on July 31st, with very specific questions, she was completely ignored. When she emailed again, three weeks later and asked why she is being completely ignored, she continued to be completely ignored. She thinks that Councilwoman Foster-Dublin is getting ahead of anybody saying that her communication was lacking by acknowledging it, but she was sending emails, begging for someone to answer her. No answer to the town, no answer to the citizens, no honesty and she is curious to know if they believe they are actually answerable to their constituents, because she thinks there are things that they would like to know. She thinks that there are a lot of things that they have a right to know and we don't have to necessarily like the answers, but to get no answer whatsoever, is unacceptable, inexcusable, and just down right rude. Mayor Brill Mittler asked who she sent emails to on July 31st. Ms. Loewenstein responded that she sent them to the Mayor, Councilman George and a couple of the other Councilmembers. She sent an email on July 31st and again August 20th.

Sam Friedman, Lawrence Avenue, commented that he has lived here since 1974 and his daughter went through the schools and lived in Pittsburgh and he worked in the World Trade Center at the time it was destroyed, so he knows something about a lot of forms of oppression. He has in front of him a resolution against all forms of anti-Semitism and discrimination. He does not know if this is the only bill before them on this topic or not. He has read it carefully, it is full of half-truths, distortions and outright lies and self-contradictions. It talks about Jewish residents being accosted, arrested and attacked. It doesn't talk about Jewish residents being called self-hating Jews, which happens. It doesn't talk about Arabs and Palestinians being called dirty names. It doesn't talk about racism against blacks or any other number of other groups, but it does later on in the document say that if you are saying anything about Israel or Palestine or anti-Semitism, you have to list all the various forms of racism or you are being anti-Semitic. That is a self-contradiction. It talks about Israel as a historic home of the Jews. To be consistent, it talks about the Balfour declaration of white imperialist British conservative representative of an occupying power, which is what was in Palestine at that time. It says that that somehow has a legitimacy when it promises some Palestinian man to Jewish people. It then says the same thing about the UN, and if you look at the countries that voted for that resolution, they were overwhelmingly imperial countries whether it be Britain or France or Russia. It doesn't mention the fact that the Palestinians lived in Israel and had it as their sacred land and homeland and that the first thing that was done in 1948 was to drive 700,000 of them beyond the borders and it then enacted a law of return, which against all international law did not let the Palestinians return, but said any said Jewish person could return and become an Israeli citizen. That is a racist act, that distinction, and we will have further discussions later.

Josh Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, asked why the Highland Park First Aid Squad is only being called to answer 911 calls during the day only after needed RWJ or JFK have an available ambulance to send. Shouldn't this be the opposite? He asked why the Highland Park First Aid Squad is being called only after RWJ and JFK both say they have no ambulances to send to Highland Park during the daytime. He asked if there was an answer to this question. Shouldn't this be the opposite?

Paul Scharf, South 7th Avenue, commented that the squad claims that to date, they have supplied the Council with information that the Council has requested. He asked if that was true? Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that when they met, they had a number of meetings and at the time when there were corrective actions that needed to be done for things that were out of place. There was a checklist that was put together and they have completed the checklist. Mr. Scharf asked why the Council hasn't followed through on the items that they said that they would supply. He noted that they were to provide ID badges, sensitivity training and current emergency operations plan. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that they said they would provide criminal background check for members of the squad, and at any time they could go to the Police Department and get their ID. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the ID badge machine at the Police Department is broken. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin indicated that OEM is working on the emergency operations plan and there is supposed to be a meeting held with all of Public Safety. The Borough is looking to hire a Public Safety Director and that person will be able to pull all the emergency services together and provide all the necessary training, documents and what have you. Mr. Scharf asked if there is any sensitivity training being planned. Borough Administrator Jover to follow up with Human Resources Coordinator on the scheduling of training.

Rabbi Philip Bazeley, 423 Lincoln Avenue, commented that he is the senior Rabbi at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick which represents over 500 families, many of whom live in Highland Park. He thanked Highland Park for bringing up the anti-Semitic resolution. He asked that they also include language for anti-BDS. Many who embrace BDS see it aimed primarily at ending Israel's occupation on the West Bank. Its demands sound innocuous enough, withdrawing from Palestinian territory would create

space for a coherent Palestinian state. He too believes that the only real hope for peace is with a two-state solution, however BDS does not help this occur, it only ferments the hatred of Jews. We all know that goals do not always equate into reality. BDS is a magician's form of anti-Semitism. Look over here, this is what it's about, but over here the real goal is happening and unfolding in front of us and even getting people to buy into it who don't realize what the actual goal and nature of BDS is. The main organizing body and many of its affiliates buy into and then try to pass what is under a false choice that if you support peace you must support BDS and if you don't, then you support a genocide. This not a true choice. When he was a college student, he walked past some of these BDS rallies and he has seen firsthand the encouragement of the painting of swastikas onto Israeli flags and he has seen anti-Israel imagery that looks straight out of Nazi propaganda. He has heard their stock chants about pushing the Jews into the sea and completely eradicating the state of Israel. Anti-Semitism often takes the form of anti-Zionism. The way you oppose Jews in every generation is different. We live in the age of the state of Israel; therefore, the attacks of anti-Semites will focus on that. Anti-Semitism is like racism, it is not fashionable and it is illegal in many places of the world. Anti-Zionism is not, so it becomes the proxy for anti-Semitism. He is not saying that any criticism of the Jewish state is therefore anti-Semitic, there is a legitimate critique of the state of Israel, however, there is a way of telling whether what is being said is in fact a legitimate critique or anti-Semitism. If the statements being made delegitimizes Israel, like the statements from BDS that claim that it is a separate colonial country and has no right to exist or that the Zionist state of Israel is a crime against humanity, which are quotes directly from a recent BDS rally. This delegitimizes Israel. There are also statements that demonize Israel or has a double standard for Israel. This is what makes it anti-Semitic. This is the anti-Semitism of our time and the BDS movement is the largest example which embodies all the different tell-tale signs of anti-Semitism. The BDS movement itself acknowledges that few foreign governments actually impose sanctions from its work and investment in Israel is at an all-time high.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that he is speaking on behalf of Rabbi Malomet from the Highland Park Conservative Temple who could not attend tonight. Everything has changed. There is a different mindset on issues of anti-Semitism. We have always known that anti-Semitism exists in America. The Pittsburgh and the palace shooting brought it front and center in our consciousness and in a way that was very close and deadly. There is a lot of anti-Semitism under the radar and that is not in the media. There is daily incidence of violence and harassment of Jews in Brooklyn. They are defacing synagogues, vandals in the cemeteries, tweets against Jewish personalities and the constant harassment of Jewish students with anti-Zionism and BDS on college campuses and the organization of anti-Semitism in America where nobody sees a problem with anti-Semitic cartoons in the nation's largest newspaper. If you are pro-Israel, you get disinvited from speaking. If you are an anti-Semite, you are invited and protected and important to hear your side in the name of free speech. Last week, Columbia University hosted a Malaysian Prime Minister, an anti-Semite.

Joyce Orenstein, South 2nd Avenue, commented about the resolution and she is in favor of including anti-Semitism, but not BDS. She thinks anti-Semitism has to do with hate actions and hate speech. She thinks BDS is a much larger question and she thinks there are many people who support BDS who probably are anti-Semitic. There are also many people who support BDS who are not. It is a very large issue and an international issue and she feels that by including that in the resolution we are going somewhat beyond where maybe we should be going as a town and also that it would limit freedom of speech.

Rabbi Philip Bazeley, 423 Lincoln Avenue, commented that he wants to make clear what BDS is doing. This isn't a conversation about the rights of Palestinians and the land and this isn't a conversation about a two-state solution. In fact, bringing all that diverts from what this argument is, what does BDS do. Does BDS work? If the goal is to encourage a two-state solution, the answer is no. Despite scattered pullouts from Israel by some companies, foreign direct investment in Israel is at an all-time high. The BDS movement itself acknowledges that few foreign governments have imposed any sanctions. If the goal is to end the conflict, the goal is failing. If the goal is to spread anti-Semitism through a population that may not even be aware that what they are saying, doing or arguing is anti-Semitic, then the answer is clearly yes. As the BDS rallies and protests have increased, so have the reports of anti-Semitism. He has congregants who are now afraid of wearing a Jewish star around their neck on college campuses because of the BDS rallies and the vile remarks that are being made to them about being Jewish and they are supporting the state of Israel, whether or not they are in support of the state of Israel. BDS is anti-Semitic and we need to pass legislation that halts its spreading and condemns it. He does not think that it takes away from the fact that we need to include language that also talks about hate in general. BDS, the movement as whole, as its intended, not through how the affiliate sometimes enact, is in fact anti-Semitic and ferments hate.

John Kovac, North 3rd Avenue, commented that walk through any college campus and you will see the videos on YouTube. Students will hear comments and see swastikas on Israeli flags. There is an agenda that they have imposed on many college campuses and now they have brought it into this town and they are trying to bring it to our library. We need to just say no. This is not acceptable in this town.

Rabbi Yaakov Luban, Congregation Ohr Torah, commented that half of his congregation lives in Highland Park and the other half live in Edison. He is a resident of Highland Park and he appreciates the Council considering this matter. He is in favor of including anti-BDS language in the resolution and he believes that is the strong sense of the majority of his congregation. It is extremely obvious that the BDS movement is highly anti-Semitic. The fact that they single out the State of Israel to have a BDS movement makes it very obvious that it is about anti-Semitism. As a proud Jew, he feels that tolerating anti-Semitic behavior is legitimizing it and they have had a number of anti-Semitic acts in the last year. Anti-Semitism in America is on the rise and he hopes that the Council will include language which would not allow the BDS to operate in this area. In addition, as a proud American, he feels that BDS is a form of terrorism. If the BDS movement had its way, the state of Israel economy would be weakened, the state of Israel would not be able to defend itself against its enemies. If the state of Israel could not defend itself, it would be invaded. He lived through 9/11 and was at the World Trade Center when the first plane hit. He crawled out of a manhole and ran over one of the bridges as the second plane was hitting. He saw the effect firsthand of terrorism. Terrorism in Israel has been exploited to other countries.

David Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, commented that several years ago when a competing organization came into Highland Park competing with the EMS system he was told by the Borough Attorney that if in fact someone ran into the Police Department and handed them a piece of paper saying they need an ambulance, call this number, they were obligated to call that number. Borough Attorney Schmierer indicated that they can ask for preference for who can pick them up. Mr. Loewenstein asked if anyone calls the Highland Park Police Department at any time and says they want the Highland Park First Aid Squad; they are the first to be called. There is one particular resident who specifically asked for RWJ during the night and they were called instead of the HPFAS. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that if they are not on duty when a call comes in, the caller would be told that they are not on duty and another ambulance would be called. Borough Administrator Jover clarified that they did not move forward with the proposal that came in for a two-year agreement. RWJ agreed to continue the status quo until the Borough had time to work things out. Mr. Loewenstein wants to know who told them they had trouble getting their calls answered during the day on the weekends. He told the Council to check their records, because in 18 months they have missed exactly four calls. Twice because they couldn't get a crew and twice because they already had one ambulance on the road. He asked them to count how many times RWJ hasn't supplied them with an ambulance. He guarantees that it is four or five times that number. He asked how many in the audience are aware that your schools were put on lockdown last week. The Highland Park First Aid Squad and Fire Department were never notified. That is really dangerous and is a problem that he has talked about for 18 months.

Barry Wolf, 128 North 8th Avenue, commented that he has been a resident for 31 years and he appreciates the Borough taking up the anti-Semitic and anti-BDS legislation. He is strongly in favor of including anti-BDS language. He read a statement from Rabbi Kaufman, one of the Rabbis of a large synagogue in our neighborhood, Ohav Emeth. Anyone who has even a cursory knowledge of the state of Israel from 1948 appreciates that the true lack of peace in the Middle East, which is extremely unfortunate, has brought a lot of suffering to the Palestinian people and is very simply the result of the nation in general not being able to tolerate the state of Israel in any form and any size along its borders and anyone who doubts that, doesn't know history. The Arab nation has tried to destroy Israel for well over 70 years of its existence from when it was declared a state in 1948 and five surrounding nations attacked Israel in 1967 and 1973. They have not been able to destroy it militarily and BDS is simply another iteration of trying to destroy it economically and politically what they could not accomplish militarily. Rabbi Kaufman's statement "In order to determine if criticism in Israel is anti-Semitic, we put it to the litmus test of the 3 d's. Israel is held to a double standard to which no other nation is held. Israel is delegitimized and it is demonized. Attempts at bringing BDS into our town falls under the litmus test and is unequivocally anti-Semitism. The Congress has overwhelmingly defined BDS as an anti-Semitic effort and overwhelmingly voted for that resolution. The House and the American people have the clarity and understanding to see BDS for what it is and voted to condemn the BDS movement as anti-Semitic. He encouraged the Elected Officials in the Borough to adopt what is right and what is true and most of all is moral. To do anything else would be against what is right and true."

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and the Council for their continued vigilance to try to make Route 27, Raritan Avenue, a safe place for pedestrians to cross and to walk. Unfortunately, there were 2 incidences last week, a motorcycle and a vehicle crash and a child from the school that got clipped by a car. It underscores the importance of proceeding with this rapidly with the State to get the road to be shrunk into 2 lanes instead of 4 lanes so that it can be safe like the rest of the town. Last night, his wife came home from a lecture and said that there were policemen outside their house. The Highland Park Police Department was there because a neighbor's door was open and their lights were out. They went above and beyond to speak to other neighbors to get that neighbors phone number so that they could contact them. Due to a rash of burglaries in town he wanted to thank them for their vigilance in making sure everyone is safe. Anti-Semitism is not an action of either the right or the left or the center, it is an action of hate and it is a hate that goes across the bounds of political life or anyone's political views. Hate is hate; and we have to condemn hate just like we have signs all over town that says "hate is not welcome here". Hate against Jews is not welcome here either. The BDS movement has been condemned and had legislation passed against it in New Jersey. There are 25 towns that have anti-BDS resolutions passed at the municipal level. There are twenty-something states across the country that have passed anti-BDS resolutions. The United States Congress has passed an anti-BDS resolution. Last week, the United Nations came out and said BDS is an anti-Semitic movement. There is no reason our town can't join the United Nations, Congress, 20 other states, our state, 20+ plus municipalities in our state, by saying anti-BDS is anti-Semitism.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that tomorrow afternoon she will be meeting with the new Commissioner of the NJDOT. The good news is that steps have started to be taken to improve the upper Raritan Avenue situation with the inclusion of electric capabilities for the new signage in the area. The Borough Administrator has been working on that. She is hoping that tomorrow she will be able to reinforce the need for them to move as quickly as possible on it.

Sam Friedman, Lawrence Avenue, commented that people are living in a fantasy world. BDS is an alternative to violence. The Palestinians are not going to take oppression without struggling against it. Ghandi said that he preferred violence to passivity. When you argue against BDS, you are arguing for Palestinian violence. When you argue against people like him who are anti anti-Semitic and pro BDS, you are breaking the possibility of a considerable unity to fight the real anti-Semitism because we stand ready to fight the real anti-Semitism.

Matt Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, commented that he gave his thoughts at the last Council Meeting about the resolution. Leading any discussion through fear will not end positively. He knows what the UN and the Legislature has done and he believes why they have done it and he understands the motives and he understands why they acted the way they did, to have a more intellectual more honest discussion. He is surprised to hear from members of the faith community not leading a discussion through a lens of fear. We need to do better and the Human Relations Commission asked the Council to consider starting from a different place and are not objecting to any language. His main objection is to something Mr. Loewenstein

said. It is really disconcerting to hear a member of the First Aid Squad speak publicly about how our kids are in danger at the district. That is not the kind of thing you just blurt out in public, particularly someone of is standing, expertise and knowledge of public safety in the community. That is reckless and irresponsible and that is how he planned to deliver it to the community.

Miryam Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, spoke about the comment of not leading discussion through fear. We are past the point of pre-emptively doing anything. The BDS conversation is specific to Israel and Palestine, but it is a larger conversation on anti-Semitism in America. It is a fearful time for American Jews as she previously mentioned. She read a thread of some attacks on Jews in Brooklyn. In January and February there were 33 anti-Semitic hate crimes in New York City. Extending through April 2019, the number rises to 82 anti-Jewish hate crimes in New York City.

Matt Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, commented that this debate should not be about whether or not anti-Semitism exists on the left or right, it obviously does. We live in a time where anti-Semitism is on the rise. Governments on all levels need to be examining this and looking at this, but they need to be educating the public. This discussion can't be had in the public comment period at Council Meetings and he knows that certain members of Council have promoted this from a good place. The fact that the Borough is having this very complicated, difficult, heated discussion, in the 15-minute public comment periods is poor governance. He apologized to Councilmen Hale and Fine and noted that they need to do a better job in leading this discussion and educating the public on this issue, because this is not how it should be discussed.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that education is a critical piece and the Human Relations Commission has also noted that education is important and needs to be done outside of the Council Chambers.

Steve Salit, 402 Valentine Street, expressed his support for the First Aid Squad which saved his mother's life many times. He has no fear. If this legislation is not passed, he will no longer feel welcome as a Jew in Highland Park.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10th Avenue, noted that he does not believe a statement that the majority of the Jewish community does not support Israel. Israel is the homeland for all Jews. He thinks the Jewish community has been subject to anti-Semitism for thousands of years and has been thrown out of countries.

John Kovac, North 3rd Avenue, spoke about comments made with respect to this being an inappropriate topic for this Council even though it is appropriate for the United Nations and the Congress. That is just another way of saying they are opposed to the resolution. The Human Relations Commission sent a draft resolution and frankly that is the resolution that said nothing about what BDS is doing. To come up here and to say it is complicated and shouldn't be discussed is disingenuous. This Council needs to take a stand.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Mr. Hersh's comments about education is critical to the community. Prior to these discussions, many people didn't even know what BDS was. Many people did not know about the incidents of anti-Semitism in our own community. Education is the key for us to move forward beyond the resolution. We must be able to understand each other and we must be able to know more of where we are coming from and people need to hear what everybody is saying. This is not the right forum for us to get together as a community and we are not going to solve everything, but at least hearing each other in a different kind of setting, understanding where we are coming from and learning more about what we are each experiencing and talking about is critical.

Robin Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, commented that she has been reeling since the Public Safety report and she thinks that Matt made her figure out where some of that information was coming from and what it means because they were not given the courtesy and were blindsided. This is not the right forum for this discussion, but they have begged and pleaded for 16 weeks and the committee has been unable to find 1 hour to get together and have these conversations in the appropriate forum. She does honestly believe that four separate council members overlooked two separate emails. They asked specific questions that they don't know or don't wish to answer, one of them being the date and the members in attendance at the meeting. Things are being misrepresented. They are being told the Council decided and they want to know when and who was present. Any question asked is not answered. If you don't love the players, or you don't love their personalities or their way of dealing with things it doesn't take away your responsibility as a public official to do your job, to respond to your citizens, to fulfill your responsibilities as the public officials. It is your job, if you don't like the players involved, you signed on for this. This might not be the right forum, but they begged for the right forum and she personally is done begging. It is very sad that nobody sitting up there feels responsible to this community.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that New Jersey has the 3rd highest increase in anti-Semitism in the United States according to the ADL. The majority of that was on college campuses and the majority of that was driven by the BDS supporter student groups. It is not theoretical to say that they are reacting out of fear, we see the wave coming. Progressive groups have been overtaken and hijacked by this.

Lisa Ben Haim, 436 South 5th Avenue, thanked the Council for putting time and effort into this resolution. She is interested in the Country, the State and the Region, but she lives in Highland Park and is concerned about Highland Park. Someone mentioned the wave of anti-Semitism happening. She is concerned about our reaction to it. We can fight it with education, we can fight it with protest, we can come out and speak. She wanted to know the difference between anti-Semitism and anti-LGBTQ, anti-African American. If that was happening in our region, in our County, and in our little Borough, she is positive that the Council would stand up and make a statement. We haven't had too many anti-Semitic incidents. What are we waiting for? It is happening, we see it, we hear it, there are reports on television about incidents happening in the State and in New York. What are we waiting for? For something to happen in our

community and then we come back and say where was our support. We are asking for it now. We are for our Council Members and our community, both Jewish and non-Jewish alike, to come forth and say enough is enough. We do not allow any racism, anti-Semitism. We do not allow hatred. By passing the resolution, you will be saying a lot.

Andrew Gertraer, South 2nd Avenue, thanked the Council for considering and hopefully pass a resolution against anti-Semitism. You know the pain that anti-Semitism acts in our schools have caused and the anti-Semitic discussions online in our own community have caused. He thinks they have gone out of their way to educate themselves as to the wave of anti-Semitism that is sweeping our nation and our world. Many of us sitting here are terrified of that wave because we see that wave is killing Jews throughout the world. We want to make sure our Borough does everything in its power, including letting the Jewish community know that it cares and to make sure the wave doesn't engulf us here. There has been some controversy over the last couple of weeks and months about the concept of BDS. We need to speak out against anti-Semitism in every form, no matter what you think about BDS. It needs to be done and it needs to be spoken and said clearly. He thanked Sam Friedman because he clarified something by saying he supports BDS and he thinks the creation of the State of Israel was a racist act. He thinks that tells you what BDS is and who supports BDS, people who believe the return of the Jewish people to our homeland after 2,000 years of being conquered and slaved and wandering and oppressed to our homeland to finally regain control our lives. There are people who believe that that is racist and should never have happened and should probably be reversed. Most of these people also believe that BDS is a legitimate form for making that happen. To him, that tells him that BDS is a deep form of anti-Semitism. He hopes that in whatever resolution they can come to that condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms, you can address the fact that there are those who want to divest and bring sanctions against the only Jewish state in the world.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she hopes whatever resolution comes out of tonight's meeting is only the first step towards allaying some of your fears and concerns that the community has, but also stopping as much as they can of the rise of anti-Semitism in our community.

Sam Friedman, Lawrence Avenue, commented what happened when a group of Jewish people moved to Palestine, which they had every right to do, he believes in open borders. He believes that the refugees from Latin America have a right to the United States. When people moved to Palestine and armed themselves and said they would not hire Palestinians and then drove 700,000 out of Palestine and wouldn't let them in, that was a racist act. That was an act of violence. The boycotting of the Arabs, you can argue was non-violent. The use of military force to drive 700,000 people out, an act of ethnic cleansing, was violent and it was racism and it was supported by racist, imperialist countries. You claimed that he is only attacking Israel and he is at the moment. There is nothing in what he is saying that is anti-Semitic because he is not. If you pass this resolution, you are going to have to in some way enforce it. You are creating a situation of division and they are saying it is going to make them feel more comfortable, it is not, it is just going to give you a situation where you are constantly reminded that the Jewish are divided on this issue.

Ann Sheryl White, 56 North 6th Avenue, commented that there have been a lot of comments about fear and acting out of fear and she would like to make a distinction between acting out of fear and learning from things that have gone on that make us afraid, but then acting in a calm and a thought out manner. She thinks that many of the people here have talked about incidents both local and in the area. They are talking about things that make us feel afraid, but they are talking about things they have stopped and thought about and are not acting out of fear. People are trying to say that there are situations that are making them think and act. She thanked the Council because there are a lot of activities that they support that try to work on building relations between different groups in Highland Park. There is the art program, there are other programs supported by the Council throughout the year over the last few years. She does not think it is sufficient and the resolution would also be helpful.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk