

REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 29, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:10 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler, Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin (7:16 PM), George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Deputy Clerk Santiago.

Absent: Borough Clerk Hullings.

Mayor Brill Mittler presented a proclamation in recognition of Pancreatic Cancer Day in memory of Franco Juricic to his family.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meetings held on May 7, 2019, May 21, 2019 and June 11, 2019, were approved as distributed by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Foster-Dublin.

Abstain: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee met last night and there is an interest by residents in pickle ball and they will be looking into that for next season. They are working on survey at the end of the season for participants. The Committee will be gathering questions and they will be launching that soon. Tomorrow from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Community Center, there will be free wireless phone assurance by Virgin Mobile. Enrollment is available to individuals who qualify based on Federal and State assistance programs such as Medicaid or SNAP. The Access Grant Opening Reception will take place on November 5th from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Penstock and the long-awaited Band Aid Bench is finally here and the permanent home for the bench is alongside Rite Aid on South 4th Avenue. The Arts Commission is applying for another Middlesex County Arts Grant to support a spoken word workshop for February through April 2020.

Councilman Hale thanked the members of the Commission for Universal Access and the Highland Park Food Pantry. They recently came together to figure out a creative way to use money dedicated to the Universal Access Committee through handicapped parking fines to purchase and pass out shopping carts to food pantry patrons. The joy and spirit of cooperation in giving to those most needing in our community when the carts were passed out left many people at the event in tears, both recipients and providers alike. He reported with sadness that Leticia Cataldi has decided to step down as the founding Chair of the Immigration and Refugee Committee. She has led the committee with honesty and integrity and with a commitment to the immigrant and refugee committee and all of Highland Park since its founding. He thanked her for her service. Current member Tracy Cangiano is going to serve as the new Chair along with John Adler, who will serve as Vice Chair. He felt it was important to mention those two examples of cooperation and of getting things together because he knows tonight is not going to be a Kumbaya moment in many respects. There are people with passionate interests on both sides of this issue tonight. We received over 100 individual emails/letters and there are 3 separate petitions going around. 2/3 of the emails/letters were in favor of the current resolution. 2 of the petitions are in favor of the resolution and 1 is not. All of the petitions have received over 200 signatures. That is a significant amount of effort and a significant amount of people who are passionate about this issue. As we are having this discussion tonight, he hopes that everyone can recognize and have some humility about their position. There are clearly differences about this issue, it is an important issue, and we have our stances, we have our thoughts and we have our arguments. He hopes that we can all recognize that there are other thoughts and other arguments in this issue. We may not come to a perfect consensus, but he hopes that we can treat everybody tonight with the respect and honor that they deserve from their passionate positions. Over the last several months, we have discussed, we have debated, and we have had this issue back and forth. We have had people argue that one person or another is not good at their faith. We have had people who want to protect the First Amendment more. We have seen attacks on Jews and non-Jews alike about how we define anti-Semitism; its size, its scope and its danger. Specifically, he wanted to point out that his friend Matt Hersh was trolled on Facebook for being a Jew in name only. That is unacceptable. His friend, John Kovac, gave a passionate speech in favor of calling out BDS, of calling out anti-Semitism and as he left the room, he was derided. That is also unacceptable. Throughout this entire discussion, we clearly all agree that anti-Semitism is unacceptable. How we define that and how we get that is a process that we are going through. He knows that this community genuinely believes that anti-Semitism of all shapes and sizes is unacceptable and he does not think that we can afford to hide and say that it only exists in particular areas. We are going to have that discussion and debate tonight and hopes that we can have it as a community where we respect the fact that there are differences in our community. Passionate argument is a good thing. Division may be a good thing in some cases. He hopes that they can do it with respect.

Councilwoman Welkovits thanked Governor Murphy's office, the DOT Commissioner and the NJDOT for prioritizing multi-modal transportation and for appropriating another \$100 million dollars to the fund. Out of that, they have divvied up the funds and allocated monies to different communities to help them move along with some of the grants they have already won. Last week, they awarded Highland Park another \$220,000. Highland Park is up to \$650,000 and another \$150,000 in engineering and these are monies that Highland Park does not have. This is so helpful and the monies will first go for the 2016 grant to improve the neighborhoods around the primary and elementary schools. They will redo curbs and curb cuts so that it is more accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. The second set of funds is for 2018 grant and those monies are to make the same kinds of improvements throughout the entire borough. This set of money is to help them move straight ahead with that first grant. Main Street Highland Park will be

celebrating Halloween on the avenue and the event is rain or shine. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the grant is tremendous for the Borough, especially for seniors and the disabled as well and she is very excited about the funding.

Councilwoman Foster Dublin reported that last night, at the Knights of Columbus, the Public Safety Team received many awards and she is very proud of them. The Police Department, Fire Department and First Aid Squad were honored and thanked for the service that they provide to keep everyone in Highland Park safe. She thanked the branches of Public Safety that received these awards as they do a phenomenal job in keeping everyone safe. Yesterday, they held a trunk or treat event in the Community Center parking lot with a huge turnout. She reminded everyone that this weekend is daylight savings time and it is time to check your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. She will announce when the Fire Department is having their annual open house to learn some safety tips. She received a lovely thank you note from one of our residents regarding the Police Department. She read the note as follows – “We live at 122 Graham Street, and Barry Diamond has a lifeline device and is paralyzed on one side. On many occasions, he has pressed the button and has called the Police for help. Every Officer who has ever answered this call has been compassionate, kind, understanding and just all around wonderful. You are the best at this for our small town. Thank you. We feel blessed to live in a community that has such an amazing Police Department. Sincerely and with much gratitude, Linda and Barry Diamond”.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilman George reported that at his monthly DPW meeting, they discussed the fact that charges for tonnage have gone up significantly and are projected to increase for both recyclables and for trash. They are working very diligently to look at scheduling for 2020 to find some ways to cut that down to avoid some of those costs and to find some alternatives. The Meadows Trail Volunteers, STAC and the Native Plant Sanctuary have already done their budgets for the coming year so that they can start to review them. He hopes on the next agenda, coming out of Sustainable Highland Park and the Environmental Commission, a resolution circulating from the State organizations supporting electric vehicles (EV's).

Borough Administrator Jover reported that draft master plan and land use element review is underway and copies will be available at the Clerk's Office by Friday and it will also be posted on the website for review. Interested residents can attend the next Planning Board meeting on November 14th. They are looking to adopt these items by the end of the year, as required by statute. She reminded everyone that on November 1st, the final phase of the plastic bag ordinance is going to be taking effect. While paper bags are allowed to be distributed, there will be a .10 cent fee charged. Lastly, she reminded everyone to pay their taxes by November 12th prior to the tax sale. Residents can pay taxes online or in person. If Borough Hall is closed, residents can now drop off payments in a payment box located outside the front doors. The deer drone survey will take place the first week in December. Once the study is in hand, there will be a community meeting to discuss the findings and invite Fish and Wildlife to come to speak.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that later on the agenda, they will be discussing a resolution regarding anti-Semitism in Highland Park. Just this weekend, we observed the one-year anniversary of the shooting of 11 individuals while they were in prayer in their synagogue in Pittsburgh. She asked for a moment of silence to remember the 11 innocent people who lost their lives.

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

John Kovac, 3rd Avenue, commented that Mayor and Council members must decide if they have the courage to say no to hate and anti-Semitism in town. We are not just talking about the anti-Semitism of white nationalists. It takes not guts whatsoever in a liberal town to condemn neo-Nazis. It is not neo-Nazis with tiki torches who have been fermenting trouble in Highland Park. BDS is an international hate group, so designated by the United States Congress and the United Nations. Its agenda is set by terror organizations including the popular front from liberation of Palestine. This movement dishonestly corrupts the language of civil rights and social justice in its effort to destroy Israel and render American Jews objects of demonization and discrimination. Enough damage already has been done by and to our public library. The next time, it will be our schools. This is how BDS operates. Whatever allows itself to be touched by it, is tarnished as stated in the September, 2019 UN report on religious intolerance. Anti-Semitism is toxic to democracy and the mutual respect of citizens and it threatens societies in which it goes unchallenged. Quoting from the UN report again, “acts engendered by anti-Semitism which result in social exclusion and harassment of Jews, can violate the right to freedom of religion and belief, in particular the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of one's religion. This is what BDS does at our universities, at Rutgers, and even worse at Columbia. We must not let Highland Park become a cauldron of hateful BDS propaganda like Newton, Massachusetts, where since 2011, high school students have been given material such as a poem by a Palestinian poet containing these lines, “the usurpers flesh will be my food, beware of my hunger”. This will be next for us if we allow it to happen. Reputations will be besmirched if BDS acts of anti-Semitism are condemned in the resolution. Some have even made the claim that the resolution would defame them. Everyone's individual conduct speaks for itself and is to be judged on its individual merits. The equally ridiculous claim has also been proffered that this resolution legally bars BDS supporters from office in town. While I would never vote for a candidate that supports BDS, just as most here would not support a neo-Nazi candidate, the resolution has no legally binding effect whatsoever. Some who complain helped bring this trouble to town and now urges us to believe that this is a geo-political issue unrelated to the education of our children and the spread of hatred against Jews here. Do not be fooled by this. The resolution condemns all forms of anti-Semitism, including BDS tactics that seek to destroy Israel and demonize

Jeff Vardaro, Wayne Street, asked Councilman Hale if he is the liaison to the Human Relations Commission. He asked if the Human Relations Commission has seen the draft of the resolution that has been substituted for the previous draft tonight and have, they been offered an opportunity to opine on it or give any feedback. Councilman Hale noted that they have seen the previous draft. Mr. Vardaro asked if there was some emergency that we need to do this without going through the process of asking the Human Relations Commission for their feedback. Councilman Hale noted that the Human Relations Commission has given quite a lot of feedback throughout the whole process. The language in the current resolution has been in various versions of the many previous resolutions. Mr. Vardaro asked Councilman Fine if this is his version of the resolution that he proposes to substitute tonight. Councilman Fine confirmed that. Mr. Vardaro asked about the bottom of page 1 where it says that the Mayor and Council recognize that the founding goals of the BDS movement and many of the strategies used by BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic. He asked which of the strategies used by BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic. Councilman Fine clarified that the wording used here has a footnote and is from the ADL. Mr. Vardaro commented that for people who support BDS and aren't anti-Semitic, it would be helpful for those of them who are trying to avoid being labeled as anti-Semites in this town to know which of the strategies you are talking about. Councilman Fine noted that he would not say this a perfect resolution. They have been working with so many different versions. One of the things they have said and came to a consensus on October 3rd. When you have a movement such as BDS that ties its economic warfare against the State of Israel specifically to the destruction of the State of Israel and to deny its existence and to deny its legitimacy and to deny the Jewish people's right to natural self-determination, that is anti-Semitic.

Ira Mintz, 143 North 5th Avenue, summarized some points in a letter to the Council signed by 140 Highland Park residents that is supportive of a resolution focused on the core goal of combatting anti-Semitism in our town, but is opposed to a resolution that unfairly labels as anti-Semitic certain forms of criticism and protest of Israel in a way that suppresses free speech and protest. Their letter recognizes that the BDS movement is controversial and that many consider it extreme, but it is not inherently anti-Semitic. Instead, it is a non-violent protest movement supported by individuals and groups with diverse backgrounds and points of view. This includes many who are Jewish as well as many who advocate in good faith for human rights causes all around the world. The letter continues that condemning BDS as an illegitimate form of protest in an official Borough resolution is not fair, not right and may not even be legal. The signers of the letter were concerned that the resolution would bring forth the controversial litigation that will only worsen the fear and division in our town. Finally, the letter urges that while we have been dividing our town with an aggressive stance and hotly disputed issues of international affairs, the Council could pass a very simple resolution that responds to the specific acts of anti-Semitism our town has experienced and inspire through a message of healing, hope and unity and brings all of us together to combat and prevent hatred and bias here in Highland Park and the United States. The letter concludes by asking the Council to revise the resolution to accomplish these goals. That is not what the Council has done. He was at the Library during the P is for Palestine program. He heard some members of the Jewish community screaming at other Jews that they were self-hating Jews and that they were anti-Semites. It was ugly and this new resolution simply enflames those divisions within our community. He also saw members of our community engaged in serious non-confrontational discussions about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Our Council should be encouraging those discussions, not joining those engaged in an international campaign to label as anti-Semitic the views of some members of our community who are seeking peace in a resolution to the decades old conflict in the Middle East. You are not going to solve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in a Council resolution. You should spend your time addressing the problems right here in the community that you were elected to address. The problems of aging infra-structure, downtown redevelopment, racial discrimination and anti-Semitic acts in our local community. You should vote to table this resolution. Allow the Human Relations Commission to see it first and then to respond to it. Have educational programs in the community and then, and only then, if our community reaches a consensus, should this Council offer an opinion on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The resolution condemns the valid goals and strategies of the BDS movement. He asked how many of the Council Members know what those strategies are or which of those strategies are supposedly anti-Semitic.

John Stern, Summit Place, commented that the resolution as written is very divisive and it is dividing our community rather than uniting it. The community would very much back a resolution against anti-Semitism and he thinks they all stand behind that. The paragraph about BDS raises political issues and brings international political issues into this and he does not think it is constructive and it is dividing the community. If he were to make a political stance against Saudi Arabia about the way they treat women and took political action to block that, he would hope that nobody would consider that anti-Muslim. It wouldn't be, it would be anti-certain policies and he thinks if we drop the two paragraphs dealing with BDS, he thinks everyone could come behind this resolution.

Resident, North 4th Avenue, commented that on January 5, 2018, after enjoying a snow day with her kids, she went to sleep and woke up the next morning to find 5 swastikas drawn on their car and all over their walkway. They called the Highland Park Police who came and who reassured them that this concern would be taken very seriously and that their safety would be of utmost importance. Tonight, she will only be reassured if the resolution is passed with all of the language in it and she implored the Council to help her feel safe living in this community and this is the only way she will feel safe.

Shmuel Green, 38 South 4th Avenue, commented that he is one of the only parents who attended the reading of the P is for Palestine book. He understands that he was labeled by the author as a Zionist father that was encouraging his son to ask questions. Yes, he encourages his kids to ask questions and that is why he was there. He is all for free speech and he is all for questions. He is not for lies and there were lies spoken in that room and lies are spoken by BDS. One of the lies that he heard in that room was when his son asked for B is for Bethlehem, can Jews live in Bethlehem today and she said yes, Christians, Muslims, and Jews can live in Bethlehem. That is not true at all. If a Muslim or an Arab sells land to a Jew in Bethlehem, they will be given a death sentence. If I walk in Bethlehem, the Israeli army will stop me from walking in Bethlehem so he is not killed. That is dangerous and that is what BDS supports. He is also here to read one of the petitions that was referred to. There are over 600 signatures on the site, but they only reported the signatures here, 213 from Highland Park, 47 from Edison, and those signatures were verified.

The petition says, “we understand the Council is considering a resolution condemning anti-Semitism. We urge the Council to include in that resolution a statement condemning the BDS movement as anti-Semitic. We do not question the right of any citizen to participate in a peaceful protest or boycott of any entity. We do, however, recognize that the global BDS movement is a specific organization, one with specific originators, organizers, tactics and goals. This specific BDS movement has made widespread use of anti-Semitic hate tricks and intimidation tactics. Furthermore, they do not promote a peaceful negotiated two stated solutions; they promote their goals to delegitimize Israel and to have one state that is not Jewish; that is what BDS stands for.

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

Councilwoman Welkovits noted that there is a serious problem in this Country with people that own puppy mills. They are allowing dogs to have offspring and they are not being well taken care of. They don't have homes and the animals wind up in pet stores for sale and often times it is possible the pet store doesn't realize where they are coming from and they are raised in very inhumane environments. The Borough wants to eliminate that and any other kind of illegitimate dog breeders. This ordinance was brought to them by the Humane Society.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 114 OF THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010” TO ENACT A NEW ARTICLE IV TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS OR CATS FROM “PUPPY MILLS”, had been introduced in writing by the Council as a Whole for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Foster-Dublin.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 10-19-289

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 114 OF THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010” TO ENACT A NEW ARTICLE IV TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS OR CATS FROM “PUPPY MILLS”, has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the “Home News Tribune”, of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 16, “CLAIMS APPROVAL”, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Foster-Dublin.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 10-19-290

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 16, “CLAIMS APPROVAL”, has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the “Home News Tribune”, of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk

have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

Resolution Nos. 10-19-291 through 10-19-315, 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, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.
Opposed: None.
Absent: Councilwoman Foster-Dublin.

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

No. 10-19-291

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-19-158, adopted by the Borough Council on May 15, 2019, a contract was awarded to JADS Construction Company, Inc. of South River, NJ, for the Improvements to North Third Avenue and Hilton Street, Improvements to Merilind Avenue and South Eleventh Avenue, and Improvements to Various Municipal Parking Lots; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 2, filed by CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to JADS Construction Company Inc., the sum of \$191,911.70 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from September 7, 2019 to October 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-971-100 in the amount of \$191,911.70, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay JADS Construction Company Inc, PO Box 513, South River, NJ 08882 in an amount not to exceed \$191,911.70, as certified by CME Associates in Pay Estimate No. 2, subject to the Clerk’s receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and CME Associates.

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-292

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Highland Park Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Highland Park Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$18,689.00
Cash Match	\$ 4,672.25
In-Kind	\$14,016.75
2. The Highland Park Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-293

WHEREAS, TR No. 5 LLC (Thomas C. Renner), and LR 12 LLC (Leon Rozenblat) have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined that said applicant is qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Owner License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-294

WHEREAS, Thomas Charles Renner, Manzoor Batth, and Leon Rozenblat have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of said Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Operator License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-295

Whereas, on April 11, 2019 the Highland Park Planning Board approved the subdivision of Block 22 Lot 6 on the Highland Park Tax Map, otherwise known as 226 Raritan Avenue; and

Whereas, the Borough of Highland Park purchased the newly created lot known as Block 22 Lot 6.01, approximately .161 acres of land, on June 28, 2019; and

Whereas, the assessed value of the improved lot known as Block 22 Lot 6 or 226 Raritan Ave was reduced by \$11,200; and

Whereas, due to the closing date being two days prior to the close of the second quarter property tax period, the Borough of Highland Park shall credit the owner of 226 Raritan Ave, Pramer Real Estate LLC, two days of prorated property taxes to be credited on the third quarter 2019 tax bill; and

Whereas, given the reduction in the assessed value, the third and fourth quarter 2019 bill shall be adjusted down by \$247.58 each quarter and the first and second quarter of 2020 shall be adjusted down by \$247.57 each quarter.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to apply the credit and adjust the taxes as follows:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE CREDITED Q3</u>
22	6	226 Raritan Ave. Highland Park	\$5.42
			<u>AMOUNT TO BE ADJUSTED</u>
22	6	226 Raritan Ave Highland Park	Q3 2019 -\$247.58 Q4 2019 -\$247.58 Q1 2020 -\$247.57 Q2 2020 -\$247.57

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. 10-19-296

WHEREAS, there was a duplication of a 2018 added assessment on Block 53, Lot 6 known as 713 Eden Ave; and

WHEREAS, the duplication caused an overbill for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2019 and 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020; and

NOW, 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 refund the 3rd and 4th quarter overpayment and adjust the billed amount for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020 as follows:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED</u>
53	6	McNeish, Jewel & Scott, Dezrene 713 Eden Avenue Highland Park NJ 08904	\$2,524.50
<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE ADJUSTED FOR 2020</u>
53	6	McNeish, Jewel & Scott, Dezrene 713 Eden Avenue Highland Park NJ 08904	Quarter 1 -\$631.13 Quarter 2 -\$631.13 Total -\$1262.26

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-297

WHEREAS, Merriewold Associates LLC ("Taxpayer"), the owner of 433 River Road, Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 1 and Qualifier 2 on the Borough of Highland Park Tax Assessment Maps (the "Property"), filed an appeal of it 2018 added assessments in the Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket No. 013757-2018; and

WHEREAS, a twelve (12) month prorated added assessment was placed on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 1 (total tax assessment: \$3,685,200) and a six (6) month prorated added assessment was placed on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 2 (total tax assessment: \$4,499,400); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park met and discussed the aforesaid tax appeal and the recommendations of its Borough Tax Assessor and Special Tax Attorney; and

WHEREAS, an acceptable settlement of the aforesaid tax appeal has been negotiated which reduces the twelve (12) month prorated added assessment on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 1 from a total tax assessment of \$3,685,200 to a total tax assessment of \$2,624,300 and which reduces the six (6) month prorated added assessment on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 2 from a total tax assessment of \$4,499,400 to a total tax assessment of \$3,779,000 (prorated tax assessment: \$1,889,500), all as more specifically set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement annexed to this Resolution, which has been reviewed by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer has agreed that any and all refunds as a result of the settlement shall be paid in the form of credits to the next quarterly tax payment due after entry of the Tax Court Judgment;

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer has agreed to waive statutory interest; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid settlement has no general application to other properties within the Borough as a result of the aforesaid specific fact situation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council make this settlement with Taxpayer without prejudice to its dealings with any other Borough taxpayer's request for tax assessment reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Special Tax Attorney is hereby authorized to execute the Stipulation of Settlement, a copy of which is annexed hereto, relative to the tax appeal captioned Merriewold Associates LLC vs. Borough of Highland Park, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket No. 013757-2018, which settlement results in the 2018 added assessment on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 1 being reduced to \$2,624,300 (twelve (12) month prorated assessment: \$2,624,300) and the 2018 added assessment on Block 189, Lot 4, Qualifier 2 being reduced to \$3,779,000 (six (6) month prorated assessment: \$1,889,500), as more fully set forth in the annexed Stipulation of Settlement; and which further provides that the Taxpayer waives the payment of statutory interest; and which provides that any and all refunds shall be paid in the form of credits to the next quarterly tax payment due after entry of the Tax Court Judgment.
2. The settlement outlined above shall be without prejudice to the Borough's dealings with any Borough's taxpayers' request for tax assessment reductions.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-298

WHEREAS, Congregation Ahavas Achim has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct a Casino Night Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on December 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the attached Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Congregation Ahavas Achim, for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-299

WHEREAS, Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc. has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct an On-Premise 50/50 for Cash Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on December 28, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the attached Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc., for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-300

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Recreation Department offers opportunities for kids and teens to participate in full-length theater productions; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department does not have staff that specializes in theater production; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department solicited three competitive quotes from production companies and Fresh Theater Arts was the only company interested in a production of this scale; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account Numbers 9-19-55-150-210 and G-02-18-CD8-205 in the amount of \$7,500, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Finance Department, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Fresh Theater Arts for \$7,500 for the production of "Frozen Jr." in January 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Recreation Department forthwith.

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

No. 10-19-301

WHEREAS, there is a need for a salt spreader for the Highland Park Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited and received as follows:

A&K Equipment Company, Inc.	\$6,765.90
Trius Inc.	\$6,913.85
CPW	\$8,447.20

and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has recommended that said purchase and installation be purchased from A&K Equipment Company, Inc. Rahway, NJ; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 9-01-26-315-2PW for a total amount not to exceed \$6,765.90, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for the purchase and installation of a salt spreader from A&K Equipment Company, Inc., 221 Westcott Drive, Rahway, NJ 07065, at a total cost not to exceed \$6,765.90; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

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

No. 10-19-302

WHEREAS, there is a need for repairs to the bucket truck for the Highland Park Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited and two (2) quotes were received as follows:

Modern Group	\$7,916.65
Baker Aerial LLC	\$7,998.17;

and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has recommended that said repairs be performed by Modern Group, 75 New Street, Edison, NJ 08837; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 9-01-26-315-2PW for a total amount not to exceed \$7,916.65, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for the repairs to the bucket truck from Modern Group, 75 New Street, Edison, NJ 08837, at a total cost not to exceed \$7,916.65; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-303

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase and/or rent items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is in need of replacing photocopiers in the Municipal Building, the Police Department and the Community Services Department, said equipment as more fully described on the proposal; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 40467, the Borough may lease five (5) Ricoh Copiers; one (1) Ricoh MP3554SP; one (1) Ricoh IMC2000G; One (1) MP CW2201SP Large Format Copier; One (1) Ricoh MP C6004EXG and One (1) Ricoh C407G Color Desktop MFP Ricoh USA, 5 Detrick Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006, for a 48-month rental contract, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose shall be made available in Account No. 9-01-20-316-208 in a monthly amount of \$1,245.82 excluding any possible overage charges, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to arrange for the lease of the aforesaid photocopying equipment from Ricoh USA, 5 Detrick Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Borough Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Police Chief, Community Services and Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-304

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is desirous of contracting with the County of Middlesex for the provision of various public health services for the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq., a municipality may enter into a contract with the County for the provision of such services without public bidding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex has agreed to contract with the Borough of Highland Park for said public health services in the amount of \$46,233.68 for the year 2020 and in the amount of \$47,158.35 for 2021; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available upon adoption in the 2020 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$46,233.68, and upon adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$47,158.35, without further resolution of Council, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough a contract with the County of Middlesex for the provision of public health services, in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-Three dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$46,233.68), for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and Forty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred Fifty-Eight dollars and Thirty-Five cents (\$47,158.35), said contract to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Finance Department, the Highland Park Board of Health, and the County of Middlesex forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-304

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is desirous of contracting with the County of Middlesex for the provision of various public health services for the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq., a municipality may enter into a contract with the County for the provision of such services without public bidding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex has agreed to contract with the Borough of Highland Park for said public health services in the amount of \$46,233.68 for the year 2020 and in the amount of \$47,158.35 for 2021; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available upon adoption in the 2020 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$46,233.68, and upon adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$47,158.35, without further resolution of Council, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough a contract with the County of Middlesex for the provision of public health services, in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-Three dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$46,233.68), for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and Forty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred Fifty-Eight dollars and Thirty-Five cents (\$47,158.35), said contract to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Finance Department, the Highland Park Board of Health, and the County of Middlesex forthwith.

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

No. 10-19-305

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need to do Hydrant Flushing/Hydrant Testing throughout the Borough as required under the Water Quality Accountability Act; and

WHEREAS, the following quote was solicited for same:

Utility Service Affiliates, Inc., Iselin, NJ \$32,200.00

and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that said services be provided by Utility Service Affiliates, Inc. based on their quote for same; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 9-05-55-500-423, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for hydrant flushing/hydrant testing from Utility Service Affiliates, Inc., 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, NJ 08830, at a total cost of \$32,200.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator and the Finance Department forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-306

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:

LEAH KAPER-DALE, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective October 1, 2019.

RUNERVI MENDEZ VASQUEZ, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective October 1, 2019.

NIGEL BAILEY, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-307

WHEREAS, Donald Rish, Superintendent of Public Works retired from the Borough of Highland Park effective October 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, per the requirements of the Borough's Personnel Manual, Donald Rish is entitled to unused accrued time payments in the amount as calculated below:

	Calculation	Amount Due
Sick Hours (4,420 hours)	-	\$ 5,000.00
Vacation Hours (2019 – 246)	246 hours x \$54.96	\$13,520.16
Total Payment		\$18,520.16

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the unused accrued time payment in an amount not to exceed \$18,520.16 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-19-308

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of portable radios, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. A83932, the Borough may purchase said radios from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 9-01-25-240-219 in the amount of \$10,947.64, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said radios from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, for a total amount not to exceed \$10,947.64; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Richard Abrams, Chief of Police and the Finance Director, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-309

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of wireless evidence library 4 Web software and hardware for mobile video cameras in the police vehicles, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 17-Fleet-00793, the Borough may purchase said software from Watch Guard, 415 E. Exchange Parkway, Allen, Texas 75002, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-968-202 in the amount of \$7,669.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to purchase same from Watch Guard, 415 E. Exchange Parkway, Allen, Texas 75002, for a total amount not to exceed \$7,669.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Richard Abrams, Chief of Police and the Finance Director, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-310

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park establishes financial procedures annually; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park currently authorizes the Borough Administrator to make, negotiate or award purchases, contracts or agreements up to \$5000 in value; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park has re-evaluated the cost threshold for the Borough Administrator and has determined that an increase to \$8,000 is warranted; and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Section 7 of Resolution 1-19-12, adopted by the Borough Council on January 2, 2019, shall be revised as follows:

7. That the Borough Administrator shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to make, negotiate or award all purchases, contracts, or agreements, the cost of which does not exceed \$8,000.00, without a further resolution of this Council, except those purchases, contracts or agreements approved by the Library Board of Trustees; and that the Borough Council will continue to approve by individual resolutions all purchases, contracts and agreements, the estimated cost of which is in excess of \$8,000.00, except those purchases, contracts or agreements approved by the Library Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Borough Administrator forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-311

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-4.1 (b)(1) provides "...competitive contracting may be used by local contracting units in lieu of public bidding for procurement of specialized goods and services the price of which exceeds the bid threshold, for... the operation and management of a wastewater treatment system or a water supply or distribution facility..."; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administration understands the rigorous standards that must be satisfied using this method of receiving proposals including the requirement that the term of the contract cannot exceed (10) years in duration; and

WHEREAS, Government Management Advisors, LLC has recommended the Borough of Highland Park utilize this method of seeking proposals for the continued operation of the Water and Sewer Utility; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that the Council does hereby authorize the use of competitive contracting for the aforementioned purpose in accordance with the statutory provision of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(b)1 and the regulations contained in N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the following:

Gregory C. Fehrenbach, Principal, Government Management Advisors
Edward J. McManimon, Esquire, McManimon, Scotland and Bauman
Teri Jover, Borough Administrator

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-312

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex wishes to engage a qualified law firm to further develop a scope of services, form of contract and to manage a competitive contracting process for the operation and management of the Borough of Highland Park Water and Sewer Utility; and

WHEREAS, the Borough proposes the use of competitive contracting under Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-4.1 (b)(1) to obtain proposals for the future management and operation of the Utility; and

WHEREAS, the Government Management Advisors LLC previously sought proposals from four (4) law firms who practice in the area of water and wastewater public contracting for the City of Perth Amboy and the City chose McManimon, Scotland and Baumann as the lowest responsible proposal, and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to utilize the services of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann through an unfair and open contract under the Local Public Contracts Law as the work to be performed is similar to that performed for the City of Perth Amboy, at the attorney blended hourly rate of \$245 per hour,

up to an estimated maximum of \$35,000, any increase of which is subject to further Borough Council authorization.

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose shall be made available in Account No. 9-05-55-500-233 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that the Council does hereby authorize the execution of a contract with McManimon, Scotland and Baumann in accordance with the above stated limitations to provide legal support for the preparation of necessary documents and the management of all required legal procedures to develop

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to: Gregory C. Fehrenbach, Principal, Government Management Advisors, Edward J. McManimon, Esquire, McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, Teri Jover, Borough Administrator.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-313

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-4.1 (m) provides "...competitive contracting may be used by local contracting units in lieu of public bidding for procurement of specialized goods and services the price of which exceeds the bid threshold, for...consulting services..."; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is in need of ongoing information systems support; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator recommends that these services can be provided most effectively through the use of a consultant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that the Council does hereby authorize the use of competitive contracting for the aforementioned purpose in accordance with the statutory provision of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(m) and the regulations contained in N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer.

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

No. 10-19-314

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is anticipating entering into a Shared Services agreement with the County of Middlesex for road repairs to Woodbridge Avenue from 10th Avenue to Fox Road, and upgrades to the traffic signals in that area; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of making an application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for a Local Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) grant for the Borough of Highland Park's portion of the work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Engineer is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), for funding to do the necessary road repairs/traffic signal upgrades on Woodbridge Avenue;

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-19-315

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 10/29/2019 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 39.

Councilman Fine read a newer version of the Anti-Semitism resolution.

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

Sam Friedman, Lawrence Avenue, thanked the Library for its support for free speech and he thanked the Police for the really good job they did while they had the library presentations. In the past he has attacked the Police for some of the racist acts they've taken. In this case, he wants to thank them. He also wanted to point out in sympathy with the woman who had the swastikas and was afraid, that on 5th Avenue during that day, not only were people calling people self-hating Jews, they were, in the context of having supported Trump, shouted obscenities at Palestinians on the other side of the street. If you want to talk about being afraid, he felt afraid and he was right to feel afraid. It was only the action of the Police that kept some of those haters from attacking Palestinians and people like him. Some people will call Palestinians, Semitic. For those people, this would be an anti-Semitic action. This motion has simple misstatements of fact in it. Have you ever heard of the Kurds? Have they not had their right of self-determination denied? This denies that. He talked to Councilwoman Foster-Dublin after the last meeting about how many conversations had they had to get the Palestinian perspective. She indicated that they hadn't. You've erased their views; you erased their right to their national homeland by saying Jewish people. You have erased non-Zionist Jews for whom Israel is not our state and we consider its statements that it is to be an absolute obscenity and denial of their right of self-determination. This particular motion keeps changing every time he sees it and fundamentally, you have to consider one other thing. If it passes, what kind of reactions is it going to cause that are going to exacerbate this division.

Melanie McDermott, 230 South 3rd Avenue, commented that this resolution represents a misuse of local government that would divide the community, suppress legitimate free speech, affront and demean her along with her friends and family as an anti-Semite. Thereby alienating use from civic life and leaving her personally no choice but to resign from her Borough appointment. She would abstain rather ever vote again for any of the Council who would vote in favor of the resolution as presently worded. If its purpose is to misappropriate the power and platform of municipal government, in order to advance a political agenda to oppose and suppress the boycott of the sanctions movement and by extension remove all opponents of the current Israeli government and all supporters of Palestinian civil rights as anti-Semitic, then she is opposed to it. It should be voted down and not amended. She is extremely sympathetic and very concerned about the statements of her fellow townspeople who experienced the anti-Semitic incident. This is what we need to hear about and this is what we need to discuss. What this will do is shut off the potential for discussion. It is not the job, and she did not elect them to represent her views on foreign policy or protest movements. Please back off from the precipice. The debate in this room has made it clear. You cannot make us happy. None of us here are experts on BDS, none of us experts and it is not our job to resolve that. Please pass a clean resolution that says that people of Highland Park are united in their opposition to anti-Semitism and that we will stand by each other and defend each other from the very real risk of white nationalism. Please allow us to have this conversation without making threats. This is a bad idea.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens commented that he has listed to every man and woman who came up to speak and he has not heard one person say thank you to our Congress and Assembly for supporting Israel.

Borus, 1158 Raritan Avenue, commented that a previous speaker said that it is outside of the purview of the Council to speak on international affairs or things outside of the purview of Highland Park. He asked if those people said the same thing when the Council made a racist remark against Mexico or Mexicans. He asked if they made the same statements when the Council made a resolution against the Muslim ban that targets a specific race and ethnicity. He asked if anyone made the same statements when the Council made a resolution against the shootings in Pittsburgh last year. Was there any request for comments from the Neo-Nazis that would support such shooting done? He hopes not because when things are objectively wrong, sometimes we don't need to hear both sides. He asked if the BDS movement is objectively wrong. Is killing Jews objectively wrong or anti-Semitic? He hopes everyone here agrees. Is disenfranchising Jews on the basis of their Judaism inherently anti-Semitic? He hopes everyone here agrees. Does the BDS movement do those things? He quoted from the founder and current leader of the Global Boycott Divestment Sanctions Movement, when a one state solution means a unitary state where, by definitions, Jews will be a minority, and a one state solution is a stated goal of the BDS movement. He is completely and categorically against bi-nationalism because it assumes that there are two nations with equal, moral claims to the land. If the refugees were to return, you would not have a two-state solution, you would have a Palestine next to a Palestine. That is the goal of the BDS movement, disenfranchisement of Jews. Some people in the past have mentioned that the BDS movement is non-violent and that is categorically false. The tools that they use are non-violent, boycott, divestment sanctions, used by legitimate civil rights movements throughout the world, throughout the centuries. However, the goals that they are working towards are the destruction of Israel. The three terms that they say under which BDS will stop is full return of 10 million plus refugees, they have to do complete borders, which are against international laws, and if these demands are not met, then that means boycotts and divestment sanctions until they are. He asked what happens when Israel runs out of money to buy iron bonuses and that is a question that anyone here who does not support this resolution should answer.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10th Avenue, thanked Chief Abrams, Capt. Curbelo, Det. McGraw and the entire Highland Park Police Department for doing a wonderful job at the Library protest on Sunday, October 20th. It kept everyone safe and let everyone say what had to be said. He also mentioned something about what a previous speaker spoke and she was very passionate about anti-Semitism and then she mentioned white supremacists. He wanted them to know that he is against white supremacism also and he is against anti-Semitism, but we must understand that anti-Semitism is not a question of left or right, it is a question of wrong and it is disgusting, its racist and its harmful to the Jews of America and all over the world. We have been spending 2,000 years battling anti-Semitism. He does not want them to make this a political discussion, let's make this a discussion on the facts. He spoke about a petition submitted today to the Mayor and Council signed by 286 residents of Highland Park. Is BDS anti-Semitic? Many of the valid goals of the BDS movement, including denying the Jewish people universal right of self-determination, along with many of the strategies employed in BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic. Many divisions involved in the BDS campaigns are driven by opposition to Israel's very existence as a Jewish state. Often times BDS campaigns give rise to tensions in communities, particularly on college campuses, that can result in harassment and intimidation of Jews and Israeli supporters over anti-Semitic expression and acts. This dynamic can create an environment in which anti-Semitism can be expressed more freely. All too often BDS advocates employ anti-Semitic rhetoric and narratives to isolate and demonize Israel. Is that the result you want here in Highland Park that people should be afraid to walk the streets because BDS is coming to our town? What does the ADL's website say about Jewish Voice for Peace, which is the group that brought the speaker to the Library and started this whole thing in the first place and caused this town to be split apart? Jewish Voice for Peace is a radical, anti-Israel activist group that advocates for a complete economic, cultural and academic boycott of the state of Israel. JVP rejects the view that the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is a tragic dispute over land and which has been perpetuated by a cycle of violence and distrust on both sides.

Jeffrey Shreiber, 208 Lincoln Avenue, commented that it is no accident that the holocaust began with German boycotts of Jewish businesses. The BDS is really just an extension of that. It is quite symbolic that in May of this year the German Bundestag passed a resolution in which it recognized that the BDS movement is in fact anti-Semitic. It is anti-Semitic because it singles out the only free country in the Middle East and North Africa, other than Tunisia. It is the only country that embodies our ideals of democratic values in action that provides equal rights to all of its citizens regardless of their race, their gender, their religion, their ethnicity, their sexual orientation and it singles that country out. When you do that to the only Jewish country in the world and there are no people here who are advocating for BDS of countries that rank

well below on the scale of freedom, then you have to look at whether what is driving people is anti-Semitism. When this town gave a platform on a municipal organization like the Library, to someone who says that Israel is a fevering, child murdering, European colony, simultaneously managing to repeat cowardice against Israel to deny the Jewish right to self-determination in the land and the Jewish connection to that land that lasts for four millennia, it is important for the town to take a stand on what that woman stood for, which is the BDS movement. While ordinarily he would say that perhaps the tiny town of Highland Park has no reason to take stands on foreign affairs, this doesn't happen in a vacuum, it happens when you, the government, gave a platform to an avowed anti-Semite to espouse her dangerous and disgusting anti-Semitism, which is done through the BDS movement. He congratulated the Council for considering this resolution and urged them strongly to pass it.

Matt Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, commented that he is here representing the Highland Park Equity Commission and the Human Relations Commission as a designee to the Equity Commission. The Equity Commission expresses deep concern for the Highland Park Borough Council's proposed resolution containing all forms of anti-Semitism based not on the title of perceived of the measure, but because of its persistent labeling of residents with particular geo-political beliefs as anti-Semitic. Members of the Equity Commission hold that local government's job is to bring people together of different beliefs, backgrounds, world views and cultures for a common community cause. Its role should be to establish a culture where residents are not marginalized, disengaged or suppressed from participating in civic life. While this resolution makes an attempt to condemn all forms of anti-Semitism, particularly in light of several recent disturbing and unacceptable anti-Semitic acts in Highland Park and around the country, it falls far short of its community building intent. Instead, the resolution redefines what type of dissent is and isn't acceptable. It embraces legitimate protest that seeks "racial justice and social change" and promoted co-existence to civil rights and political reconciliation. To this end, the Equity Commission agrees. But the resolution quickly pivots. There are economic sanctions, economic warfare, and this is the version that they reviewed. They have not reviewed the resolution that is up for consideration. This is an intentionally and very veiled nod toward the so called BDS movement which is described as a Palestinian led campaign promoting various forms of boycott against Israel until its government meets certain stated conditions. The Equity Commission believes this intentional pivot is in response to the Highland Park Public Library's invitation to a book author to read the book P is for Palestine. Published media reports have indicated that Dr. Bashi is a supporter of BDS. The Equity Commission recognizes that Highland Park's orthodox community and members of other communities are targeted by hate, bias and intolerance. It is not within the purview of the Equity Commission to gauge the legitimacy of those experiences, but whether to examine them and look to a community wide solution. This resolution does not do that and we worry that it does the opposite. Many members of our community feel an existential threat by BDS and Jews around the globe have every reason to watch for the red flags of history amid the rising tide of anti-Semitism. But for a local government to include an extreme reading of BDS when anti-Semitism does indeed exist with local residents as humanitarian concerns around the globe is dangerous and irresponsible. He's said it before, there is a difference between criticizing a domestic or foreign government and calling for the elimination of a people and a sovereign city. There is a difference between having concern for people in danger on a humanitarian level, which is a tradition in Highland Park, and having foreign bodies dictate what is right and what is wrong, especially if we are not educated about those issues. Councilman Hale, the Equity Commission does not have a stance on BDS.

Ethan Schoolman, North 4th Avenue, commented that Councilman Hale expressed confidence that the current draft that everyone just saw this evening for the first time, addresses the concerns of the community that you have heard through email and personal interactions. You told Mr. Vardaro that you haven't discussed this resolution with the Highland Park Commission that were charged with giving you advice on this sort of thing. He wondered who else he heard from about this resolution. Councilman Hale noted that the process has been filled with conversations from across the spectrum. There has been discussion about this issue and he thinks it is time for them to act based on the discussions they have had for the last several months. Mr. Schoolman commented that he seems to have quite a bit of faith that this resolution addresses the concerns of the community. He would suggest, based on the crowd here today and the passions, that your faith in your abilities to assess the concerns of the community may be misplaced in this instance. If you want a resolution that unifies the community, talk to the community together, have community meetings, work through the commissions, and do not launch a final draft in the final minutes of a council meeting and expect this would unite Highland Park. It will do just the opposite. The responsible decision for peace, justice, tolerance and the American way is to table this tonight, revise it and make it a clean resolution.

David Hughes, 330 South 3rd Avenue, commented that he wanted to draw attention to clause #7 which he finds to be reprehensible and nonsensical. It defines as anti-Semitic the denying of the Jewish people the right to self-determination, a right universally afforded to other groups. That is not true. The Kurds do not have self-determination, the Tibetans do not have self-determination as well as other groups. If we embrace the principal of self-determination as universal, lets prepare ourselves for the Lenape to rise up in 2048 and come here and settle and get some allies and wage a war that we fight and lose and wind up in a refugee camp in Pennsylvania and we complain about it and people call us racist. I don't think you would feel comfortable sitting in Pennsylvania because of a universal principal of self-determination. You don't actually believe in self-determination as a principle or as a right, you believe in it as a privilege for people who have been able to act upon it by doing one thing. If you use the anti-Semitic label too broadly, eventually the people accused of being anti-Semitic for supporting Palestinian rights, they are just going to own it.

Hava Freidenreich, 62 Grant Avenue, commented that she is a Jew and a Zionist. There is an evitable overlap between Judaism and Zionism. 6.5 million Jews live in Israel, more than in any other country. Those that call for the destruction of the Jews in Israel are calling for another holocaust. She doesn't know where they think those people are going to go. Jews throughout the world pray facing Israel. It is a fundamental part of their heritage. When her kids go to school every day, they say the pledge of allegiance and they sing the Jewish national anthem because they are Jews and that is what we do. When we are in synagogue, we say a special prayer for the government of the United States and the Borough

Council and then we say a special prayer for the government of Israel. We celebrate Israeli Independence Day in the streets of this town. While there are different Jews with different opinions on how the modern state of Israel relates to our Zionist ideas, the idea that Israel is our ancestral homeland is universal. There is an inevitable overlap between anti-Zionism and anti-Judaism, when they are so incredibly linked. We might disagree about where to draw the line, about where legitimate criticisms of the state of Israel are. It is democracy and it is okay to criticize it; it is okay to have opinions. That's what makes it one of the greatest countries in the Middle East because it is the country where you won't be shot for your opinion. It is the country where Israeli Arabs have equal rights to vote and representation and where all nationalities can pray and practice their religions freely. There is a point where criticism becomes anti-Semitism when you start to defame Israeli's with lies and slurs. It is very important to her that when you have a resolution against anti-Semitism that it addresses the inevitable overlap between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism and defines where that line is. She hopes that we all agree that the line exists and it is a question of how we define it. Is the language in tonight's resolution the best way to defend that line, it is not what she would have personally written, but she will take it, if that is what the council can pass? She does not feel threatened by white nationalists in Highland Park. She knows that as a Jew, she will be defended.

Andrew Gertraer, 801 South 2nd Avenue, commented that he wanted to urge the Council to vote in favor of this resolution. One of the speakers earlier tonight said that if you just take out the section about BDS then we all could unite in condemning all forms of anti-Semitism. He wishes that were true. What that person and others do not recognize is that to the vast majority of the American Jewish community and the vast majority of the Highland Park Jewish community is that BDS is a form of anti-Semitism and it is not his opinion; it can be represented by actual data. Every Rabbi in this town has come together to urge you to accept this resolution, including BDS. That does not happen on a regular basis that all of the Rabbis in our community agree on anything. They represent thousands of people in this community and they are united. You made a mistake in arguing the details of BDS and whether it is anti-Semitic or not because what is a fact is that 82% American Jews believe that BDS is a form of anti-Semitism. 82% of American Jews don't agree on anything; they don't fast on Yom Kippur; they don't have Passover Seder and don't observe Shabbat at all. This is a remarkable thing and it is because we experience BDS however it is intended as an existential attack on us as Jews. If you were to ask somebody who supports BDS do not do it out of anti-Semitism, you do it because you sincerely believe that it is just. He wants this Council to understand that whatever you believe you are doing it is experienced by us in a totally different way. Racism occurs because of policies people support. He has friends that are very supportive of certain immigration policies who say they are not racist. It just happens that the immigration policy has Islamophobic or anti-Latino elements to it. BDS is the same way and he has friends who support BDS and say they are not anti-Semitic. He says they may not feel like they are anti-Semitic, but what they are doing has an anti-Semitic effect that is felt by the vast majority of the Jewish community as anti-Semitism. If this Council sincerely wants to condemn anti-Semitism in all its forms, it must include a reference to BDS. If you do not, you will be sending a message to all in the Jewish community that you do not care about our fears and our concerns.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, expressed his profound disappointment. He has never witnessed rancor in this town like he has seen for the last month. The things that people have said to each other are astounding and some of you who have said these things, are in this room. You know who you are and you have said them to other people in this room and it is profoundly disappointing. At the end of the day, the blame for that lies with the Borough Council. It would have been trivially easy to craft a resolution that everybody in this room could get behind and would not lead to any accusations of anti-Semitism or any instances of actual anti-Semitism propagating on Highland Park's official Facebook page. Instead, we went the route that we did, which all four of you could have stopped at any point over the last six weeks by saying I am not going to support this resolution in this form, instead it has to be more broadly acceptable. He doesn't know whether or not the resolution is going to pass tonight or not, if it does, he hopes they are satisfied with this outcome and you are pleased with where this resolution has led us as a town.

Mark Kolton, 41 North 8th Avenue, commented that he is finding this discussion tonight rather bizarre. He is hearing a lot of discussion about BDS, geo-politics and he agrees that the council is not in the best position and are not experts in being able to define anti-Semitism or what BDS is all about or any of those kinds of things. We have all these people in this room getting all excited about things the council obviously knows nothing about, it would seem. However, it is quite interesting that there is one excepted definition globally about what anti-Semitism is. The international holocaust remembrance association alliance has come out with a definition. You can't get the US Congress to agree on anything but they agreed overwhelmingly that this is the definition of anti-Semitism. Quite amazingly, you can't get the United Nations to accept anything regarding Israel, but yet they come up with a report about what anti-Semitism is. You have Germany, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic, all of which have histories with Nazism and they all agree to the definition of anti-Semitism. You have the denominational Rabbis in this town who agree on nothing, but they agree what anti-Semitism is and how it is defined. You cannot have the whole world agree on what the definition is and say we in Highland Park want to re-debate what that definition is and how it should be articulated. There is one definition. We are not debating the Middle East, we are not debating Israel, we are not debating any of that.

Jeffrey Vardaro, Wayne Street, noted that it is not accurate that the UN has condemned BDS as anti-Semitic. He doubts that the Council has read that report and he is guessing that they are hearing from a lot of people that the UN has condemned BDS as anti-Semitic. He asked Councilman Fine what strategies used by BDS campaigns are not anti-Semitic. Councilman Fine noted that the usage of anti-Semitic tropes and memes in its messaging, the intimidation tactics that go along with that and focusing on delegitimizing Israel, delegitimizing the Jewish people and seeking to single out Israel and only looking for a one state solution. Mr. Vardaro commented that those would fit better as goals rather than strategies but he still thinks it is vague and he does not think the Council can possibly have a good understanding of what those strategies are after one day of consideration in this process. He has been saddened by this process throughout on the substance, but up until today, he was ready to say despite the work he did on the primary campaign this spring criticizing Council for transparency and openness, he was saying to himself that this has been a transparent and open process. We have been able to debate things and have vetted things

through the Human Relations Commission, the Equity Commission had an opportunity to discuss what was previously posted. The one thing good that he can say about this process is no longer true, this is not transparent, this is not open, you cannot post something on the Borough website three or four days ago for everybody to consider and react to and then switch it at the last minute to something else that you are prepared to vote on and pass without going through the Commissions, without getting feedback from people who have volunteered to do this. He does not think it is a good process and he does not think it is fair and he urged the Council to table this resolution so that you can all have a consensus about which strategies there are and maybe list them in the resolution rather than just giving these vague definitions, substituting a paraphrased version of the ADL's language for your own language. He does not think this is a good process and at a certain point leadership is not always taking decisive action on an issue, sometimes leadership means saying enough is enough. We've spent a lot of time talking about this and we are never going to reach consensus. This resolution is not going to reach its goal of unifying the community against anti-Semitism, in fact, it is doing exactly the opposite. We are not going to succeed in this process. Leadership means saying no, we do not need to do this.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that the Council has heard all of them talk for seven months now. You saw all the links and have been sent every petition and every article on one side or the other. No one has addressed how it is going to affect Highland Park. If you know the people he has spoken to privately, he is concerned about how it is going to affect Highland Park today. This past Passover, a Jewish man walking on Raritan Avenue was yelled at by a man asking him why he was killing babies in Gaza. He was told this week that he was a racist, violent Zionist because he supports the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people. The BDS movement and their supporters has infiltrated almost every progressive movement.

Ellen Webb, South 1st Avenue, commented that she is very concerned about the proposed resolution on anti-Semitism. From what she understands what was originally a genuine effort to condemn attacks on Jews in the United States by the Council has morphed into some kind of litmus test on Israel. Her biggest concern is that the fight against anti-Semitism is not being advanced by this process. If your purpose is to sincerely fight anti-Semitism, she asked if this resolution will help to clarify the issues and open up the conversation or will it veer off into a debate over the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and further divide our community. The language towards the end of the resolution refers to those who are participants in the global BDS campaigns as acts of anti-Semitism. The facts around BDS and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are in dispute by all sides. She finds it hard to believe that this Council has reached a consensus on these facts. The reality is that BDS is a tactic, those who participate in it do not all have the same views on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. You cannot characterize most people who participate in it or the tactic itself as anti-Jewish because this would not be accurate. There are also people who oppose BDS and you cannot characterize all those people as anti-Palestinian. Both of these stances are slanders against people live in our community. In putting out these resolutions with these kinds of one-sided stances are reckless and hurt the fight against anti-Semitism by confusing people about who promotes and who benefits from attacks on Jews. She believes that there is a majority in this community and she does not think the petitions register it, that majority includes those who oppose BDs, those who support BDS, and those who do neither, including many who are Jewish and any who are Muslim, and others who are neither, but all of who believe that the Israeli/Palestinian conflict cannot be helped through this resolution, as is completely self-evident by the results that it has already produced. This should give you pause. Bullying our neighbors into taking political positions has never advanced any fight for social justice and it won't this time either.

The meeting was extended past 9:00 p.m. on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

James, Rutgers Student, member of the University's Chapter of Justice in Palestine, he is also involved with a radio station on campus, 61 Gilden Street, New Brunswick. He has covered the Borough frequently, including the ongoing problems of racial profiling and unjust policing that the community is dealing with. While the resolution that the Council will pass tonight is understandably shocking to many, in some ways the systematic racism that still exists in the Borough, in his opinion, based on actions like these are unfortunately, business as usual in Highland Park. Although separated by thousands of miles, the struggle for Palestinian liberation and the non-violent movement for boycott, divestment and sanctions that support the struggle is not very different from the struggles of black and brown residents for transformative justice. The logic that allows the media to show images of Mike Brown after he was gunned down by police in Ferguson, is the same logic that forces Palestinian mothers and fathers to somehow explain how their dead children, shot, were not agents of Hamas, but protesting for freedom and self-determination that every human being is entitled to. The blatant racism of Highland Park Police following teenagers into their own home with their guns drawn is no different from the anti-Black, anti-Arab and Islamophobic racism that allows Israel to maintain its apartheid regime. The racial tensions in Highland Park do not exist in a vacuum, they are the direct result of global systems that have subjugated black and brown bodies for centuries and solving racism in the Borough would involve looking beyond this community's borders. The only people being protected by the silencing of the BDS movement is a government that sees an entire international recognized people as a "demographic" threat. I go to a university where supporters of BDS have been verbally and physically harassed and the legal suppression of this movement does legitimize that violence. He asked all of them to put themselves in the shoes of the Palestinian person. If they are shot or maimed for seeking the UN recognized right of return, eventually every mechanism of international law has been consistently denied to them and if non-violent activism for their own people is deemed anti-Semitic, then what means do they have left to protect themselves from complete and utter elimination? It is why the BDS movement is vital at this moment. He understands that most of this Council has made up their mind on this resolution, but he asked them to consider the precedent they are setting. A better tomorrow is possible for Highland Park as it is for Palestine, but it demands that we get to a place where the achievement of liberation is not dependent on other people's oppression, but rather mutually beneficial and reinforcing.

Itzak Mano, South 4th Avenue, commented about liberals who oppose the resolution and conservatives who support it. He is an avid liberal and he came from Israel 23 years ago. While he was in Israel, he was a supporter of the peace now movement and he participated in demonstrations together with Palestinians and he supports the idea of a two state for two nations solution and he supports the rights of Palestinians to resist with arms against insurgents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, he definitely opposes the BDS movement because he sees it as an anti-Semitic movement. When he came to this country, it was the first time that he confronted anti-Semitism and it took him some time to realize what it is about. To him it seems that it is about a special rage against Jews that you can have the same thing happen to different people but it would be a special rage against the same crimes committed by Jews and this is what he sees in BDS. There are many problems with the behavior of the Israeli government in the West Bank, but he does not see the same rage directed against other nations where there are similar problems and even greater problems. He looked at similar cases that have occurred in other places. He referenced a movement in France of Muslims against Jews. There is a situation where Jews cannot live in France and they are not secured. When anti-Semites come against you, they do not ask you if you are a liberal or a conservative, they just hate you and many times want to kill you. This goes beyond the division between liberals and conservatives.

Randall Solomon, 331 Felton Avenue, commented that the resolution needs to be tabled because he does not know the details of this process, but reading it tonight, it needs editing and vetting. In one sentence it says BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic and then in the previous sentence it says some people who support BDS campaigns are not anti-Semitic. It does pass muster for a resolution and an act of the Governing Body. It also says that all BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic. This is another example where editing matters. There are many boycotts against the State of Israel and we don't know what their founding principles are and we don't know their demands or what they are trying to achieve and we can't brand them all as being anti-Semitic. This needs to be tabled, vetted and edited more. The intent is pretty clear in defining anti-Semitism as support of BDS and then it pledges Borough resources to fight for that definition of anti-Semitism. This definition of anti-Semitism would brand him as an anti-Semite. He lived in Israel for a year and he has relatives there and he intends to go back. He is not an anti-Semite; he is just in the minority in Israel. You can't take a position on a political issue and then say if you are on one side of that issue you are anti-Semitic and then pledge the Borough's resources to promote that message.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she imagines that they would all like something to pass today. You all want this to be over and she imagines everyone in this room wants this to be over in the grand scheme of things. One side is asking you to pass a resolution and the other side is asking you to table the resolution. One of those is the easy one because it is over and the other is the hard one because it means we keep talking, we keep debating and unfortunately, we keep calling each other names. Clearly, there have been many versions of this resolution. She agrees that they have heard many arguments and she has heard a lot of people say things in the past and this has been belabored. She offered another option. She attended many meetings and seen many resolutions passed. You feel that your only two options are to pass or to table. She reminded them that they have on occasion passed resolutions with revisions and passed resolutions with a condition to make revision after. She asked that they remove the paragraph in question and she wants them to pass something tonight, a resolution against anti-Semitism. She would like this all to be over and she would like something passed, but she would like them to consider this third option that nobody has discussed and make a revision.

Matt Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, finished reading a letter from earlier. From a practical standpoint the resolution potentially stifles public comment. Does being philosophically complicit in economic warfare have legal ramifications? The Equity Commission does not have a stance on BDS because it is so far beyond its charter and they believe beyond the purview of municipal government. Just like the Borough should not take a position on sanctions toward China, we should not, nor do we need to weigh in on geo-political concerns of this complexity. If it is going to be a policy of the Highland Park Borough Council to consider such positions, then it should first embark on a robust education campaign that allows the community to arrive at its own conclusions in a way that prioritizes local interests first. That effort should leverage the Borough's vast volunteer network, particularly from Boards and Commissions, such as the Equity Commission, the Human Relations Commission and the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Highland Park prides itself on its activism and intellectual thought on local and international matters. It is the position of the Highland Park Equity Commission that our local government should not be engaged in legislative retaliation against geo-political movements and potentially any residents who support them. The resolution confuses an already confusing complex situation and it is heartbreaking to see the Council consider something that furthers division when we should be educating each other. This issue is pitting us against each other and worse, it is creating a rift in our Jewish community. As appointed members by the Council, the Equity Commission strongly urges the Council to table or vote down this resolution and to start from a better place that truly addresses anti-Semitism in our community. He is Jewish and is not very observant, but he deeply identifies as a Jew. He recognizes his family history and what they have all gone through. When he moved to Highland Park, he did not know many Orthodox Jews. He has gotten to know this wonderful community that helps him understand the world around him and helps him understand himself and helps him understand what it means to be a better, more complete Jew, because he knows the education and he knows the stories. The fact that there are so many people in this room that might be thinking thoughts about because of his stance on this one issue or because of what he is saying, breaks his heart. It is more heartbreaking that his municipal government is leading the fight in driving this wedge whether it is intentional or not. They have been told many times that this is a defensive and divisive subject and we need to do better Mayor.

Hava Freidenreich, 62 Grant Avenue, commented that she wanted to respond to Daniel's comments for admonishing them for their behavior on Facebook. If she typed anything haste fully or in anger that offended anyone, she is sorry. There are a lot of people here that she disagrees with, but she also knows as individuals and she respects them and hopes that they can remain friends beyond this issue. Normally, she is the one standing here trying to tell the Council to not try and save the world, let's just focus on stabilizing our taxes and the issues that immediately face Highland Park. It is interesting to listen to

people who are the ones advocating for Highland Park in other ways saying this is a geo-political issue. For her as a Jew and an Israeli, this is a local issue and she thinks the majority of the Israeli Jewish community in Highland Park feels the same way as it fundamentally relates to their feelings of safety. When we can't leave the doors of our spaces of worship unlocked for fear of terrorism or shootings, it is horrible. Leadership means doing the right thing even when it is unpopular, even when it is divisive.

Mark Kalton, 41 North 8th Avenue, commented that he is surprised by the stance of the Equity Commission and what is going on this evening. This is not a debate about good Israeli's and bad Israel's and it is not a debate about Palestinians or a debate about BDS. The October 3rd version of the resolution did not mention BDS. It is about a definition of what anti-Semitism is. We are not here to debate and not here to second guess the international holocaust remembrance alliance, we are not here to second guess the US Congress, or second guess the United Nations or any other Government or the Rabbis and what they are thinking. It is a very simple thing; it is a definition. We are being dragged intentionally into a discussion we shouldn't be in.

Brian Nelson, 147 North 6th Avenue, commented that he felt compelled to speak tonight because he was late to signing the community petition opposing this resolution. He is profoundly concerned about inaccuracies surrounding the term of self-determination and who that applies to. He does not believe it has been universally applied to the exclusion of the Jewish state. He has concerns over any government determining what is "legitimate criticism". He thinks that is a slippery slope. He is deeply concerned that having these concerns doesn't label him as anti-Semitic in this community. He has very good relations with his Jewish friends and neighbors in this community and it breaks his heart to think that that would be damaged by such a divisive and controversial and unnecessary resolution. It is necessary to condemn anti-Semitism and he stands with anyone who do so and he stands to defend and protect all of the Jewish residents in Highland Park against anti-Semitic hate, speech or violence. This resolution does not achieve that and he strongly urged them to vote it down or table it for further discussion.

Monique Coleman, 407 Lincoln Avenue, echoed her sentiments about the procedural nature of what is happening tonight. She thanked the Mayor and Council for taking serious steps at being more transparent starting with having their 6:30 p.m. meetings in public. Many of them would not have known that there was a change to the resolution if they were not here at the 6:30 p.m. meeting. That is a huge accomplishment that they responded to the concerns of the community members about being more open and transparent. To make changes to one or two paragraphs on the night that you are going to vote on the resolution is wholly unacceptable in terms of procedural responsibility as publicly accountable figures of our government. We cannot have this process go forward tonight knowing that you literally just provided this resolution for the public to be able to make input on and for them themselves to consider. She asked for that reason alone that they table this current version of the resolution, go back to the processes in which we all want to see anti-Semitism pass in this town, it has to be done right. We need a resolution that will bring this community together and not dividing it. She asked Councilman Fine about his comments earlier referencing Lt. Governor Oliver about bigotry and hate. She asked if the Borough has a resolution currently that completely makes a strong stand against all forms and expressions of hate and bias and bigotry in this town. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that there was a resolution passed that led to the formation of the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force. It basically talks about being welcoming and inclusive. Ms. Coleman asked if it states that we are against all forms and expressions of hate and bigotry, and bias. It seems like there isn't a resolution that takes a strong stand against all forms of expression against bigotry, bias and hatred. Marginalized populations experience bias, but that is not a strong statement specifically about bigotry, hate and bias and that is inclusive as well. Councilman Fine noted that earlier this year they did do a specific resolution in regard to the hate that has been experienced by the Sikh community. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that since 2015, she cannot think of one resolution that clearly states what they consider to be hate or bias. Ms. Coleman commented about Congress working on a resolution against anti-Semitism and they finalized a resolution that was truly inclusive of all forms of hate and bigotry. She asked them to consider looking at a very inclusive resolution that addresses anti-Semitism and all forms and expressions of bigotry. She is firmly a believer in representing her brothers and sisters who are Jewish here and experience anti-Semitism in this town and she is also clearly aligned with other community members here that experience different forms of bigotry, hatred and violence. It happens here and it is across the board and we are also personally affected by this hatred and violence and it is certainly impacting our schools. We need to be talking more generally about this and being more inclusive. All this time spent on one resolution that doesn't capture all that needs to be captured needs to be part of the conversation as well.

Seth Kaper-Dale, South 2nd Avenue, commented that he and his wife have been Pastors in Highland Park for 18 years. He asked who he is in Highland Park if this resolution is passed. He is a Pastor of a church where every other week the Highland Park minion, a conservative congregation, has its meetings in their church. He also has aisle parrots that meet regularly in their building and Jewish Voices for Peace. He loves Jewish Voices for Peace because he loves Naomi Kline because he loves the way she speaks about the environment and he has learned about other perspectives from her. A number of years ago he read Jimmy Carter's book "Peace Not Apartheid". He has listened to folks flip out on someone he thought of as a great friend of Israel. We read books like that in his congregation. Are they allowed to talk about things that question Israel? We have a relationship that pumps billions of dollars into certain spots in the world and not to others. We are going to continue to stand against anti-Semitism wherever it is. In the bathrooms of his church there have been more swastikas that he has called the Police then have the synagogues in this town and every time it happens, we call the Police. We brought 10,000 villages to this town and we watched the windows of their shop get cracked open because it is a fair-trade store that is connected with the Mennonites who are standing up for a two-state solution at that time. If you go down the road and say that anyone who supports BDS is anti-Semitic, you are going to start bringing up some hard questions. He is not a member of BDS and has never actually gone on the BDS website until about two weeks. The amount of people who call him and accuse him of being deeply involved in BDS is the kind of witch hunt craziness that goes on when we get out of line about things. We need to stop having Councils make decisions about this kind of stuff and stand up against the local problems of anti-Semitism and continue to do battle about things.

Alan Kaufman, 311 Valentine Street, commented that he is Jewish and he is not a self-hating Jew and is proud of being Jewish. He learned from being Jewish about discrimination and that has informed his whole life in terms of trying to fight against any forms of discrimination. He spent 23 days in the Mississippi State penitentiary as a Freedom Writer and he has been involved and active. He asked them why they think there is such division in this room. He asked them to table this because it is a deeply divisive resolution. Somebody wanted an anti-BDS resolution. He is not somebody that is for or against BDS. He has certainly paid attention to Israel and the Palestinians for a long time. He put in money to buy trees in Israel. He is very aware of the plight of the Palestinians and as a Jewish person growing up fighting discrimination and being told every day at temple that they were slaves in the land of Egypt, he came to hate every form of oppression. The problem here is that there is a line between Zionism and Judaism that gets played both ways. He thinks the real intent of the resolution was BDS and BDS is very divisive.

Henry Schanzer, 29 Brookfall Road, Edison, commented that he survived World War II because there were wonderful Christian ladies who were willing to hide him from the Nazis so he could survive. He expressed his support for why the Council is correct in including reference and opposition to BDS in the resolution. BDS embodies the plot to boycott, divest and sanction Israel and Israel alone. BDS does not go against others for what they have done, only Israel. BDS was birthed as an anti-Semitic hateful organization in South Africa in 1991.

Michelle May, South Adelaide Avenue, thanked the Highland Park Police Department for putting on the trunk or treat. It was great for the kids and it was good to see a lot of people out there. She thanked the Highland Park Police Department for their assistance with a child who reported that their friend was attempting to commit suicide or had a plan to commit suicide. The Police Department was quite professional and quite caring in that situation and she thanked them for that, they saved a child. She has a concern about some of the handicapped parking spaces in her complex that are not painted and she wants to know who is responsible for making them visible. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that the Borough Administrator to look into it.

Lisa Ben Haim, 436 South 5th Avenue, commented that she wanted to address something that keeps coming up about tabling it and why we got to this point. This has been going on for seven months. She is not one to get too involved in ordinances, but when this came out, she was interested and wanted to hear what is being said. She has heard the many different wordings that have been going on. She asked why now all of a sudden, do you come out. If you had something to say earlier in the process you could have done what many have done to send your views and your ideas to the Council. Now, all of a sudden, we get to the deadline that they have imposed, and they have worked hard, and she was impressed by statements made and discussions that went on at the last work session meeting that were civil and productive. Part of this resolution is about the education part. Now is the time to make a stand to say let's move forward, lets have these discussions. She was at the reading and there were at least three different small groups of civil conversation going on at the library. Civil conversation with people that don't agree, but they were civil. This resolution will allow at least many people to feel that they are being heard, that you have an interest in the community and the individuals in the community. It does say in the resolution that not all BDS supporters are anti-Semitic. She believes it is fair and she hopes they pass it tonight.

Bob Miller, South 1st Avenue, commented that against all of his expectations, he found this discussion interesting and informative and he thinks it should continue. If you think that a resolution is going to stop or decrease anti-Semitism, you are mistaken. However, educational work is extremely important toward that goal. He thinks this discussion has been a step forward. People on both sides have said things that he found true and interesting, but he disagreed with people from both sides as well. He thinks it is true that today anti-Semitism is promoted by individuals and groups at both ends of the political spectrum. That does not make the challenge before us easier, it is more complex, more complicated to unwind different ways in which actions and statements are anti-Semitic. It takes work to develop that and that is what this resolution does not do. It does not explain what is anti-Semitic and why and we need more discussions along those lines. He thought the speaker who showed the photographs accurately depicted examples of anti-Semitism on the left. He thought it was an important aspect of the reality that we confront today. But to say something like many of the strategies used by the BDS campaign are anti-Semitic and not to say which are those strategies and why are they anti-Semitic and what are the other strategies that you don't consider anti-Semitic and why. He thinks there is a lot of variation in that and he encouraged them to continue the educational discussion.

Debbie Atlas, 310 Lincoln Avenue, commented that she has lived in Highland Park for 26 years and raised 4 professional children; a doctor, 2 dentists and a speech therapist. Her children always used the Highland Park Library. At one of the Board of Trustees meetings it was implied that the Orthodox are uneducated and are not library users. She and her kids have been library users for years. She is horrified by what has gone on in this community. She is a member of the CJJ Pac Committee. She cannot say how disappointed she is in this town in what has been going on here. Her parents are Holocaust survivors and she has a daughter who moved to Israel last summer with 3 grandsons that are going to fight in the Israeli army. She challenged anybody who has spoken against this resolution to say that they have parents who were holocaust survivors and have a child who moved to Israel who has children that will fight in the army. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart said about pornography, I may not be able to define it, but I know it when I see it. She knows that this is anti-Semitism and she is so disappointed in this town.

Sam Friedman, Lawrence Avenue, commented that his opinion on Israel has fundamentally changed by the son of a holocaust survivor who pointed out to him at the time of 1967 war some of the real parallels between what Israel was doing and classic European racism. He wanted to humanize people who support BDS. He is a person who supports BDS. At the beginning of Israel, 700,000 Palestinians were driven by terror out of that country. He is appalled that as far as he has heard, not one member of the Council has spoken with any of the serious representatives of the Palestinian people and movement who live in this area. This is not serious work on a resolution. You have talked essentially to one side and you are condemning with an effect of self defense non-violent tactic of another. There are, for examples, 2 million Gaza's being subjected by force of arms by Israel and Egypt to living conditions that are absolutely

shameful. The real threat of a holocaust there if things get even more violent and the real threat of an infectious disease outbreak. He says that as a representative and an expert in infectious disease. He has boycotted, divested and sanctioned South Africa and he has opposed racism in this town and others when it has occurred. He has helped stop the HIV epidemic and he hates anti-Semites. The action plan here in terms of education talks about the anti-defamation league.

Michael Ben Haim, 436 South 5th Avenue, commented that he is a resident of Highland Park for 18 years. He was born in Israel and his parents came from Morocco. The resolution is good. People don't understand BDS. It doesn't just hurt Israel; it hurts the Arabs as well. We have to live in peace and support the truth.

Ruth Kalton, 41 North 8th Avenue, commented that she doesn't like public speaking and this forum has saddened her. She is the daughter of a holocaust survivor who survived 3 years in 5 different camps. She is also the daughter of a Jewish Palestinian who lived in Israel in 1932 and during the war was a soldier in the Royal Air Force and was in the Jewish Brigade and fought during WWII in the Sudan for freedom for the world. She stands here today very saddened that after 75 years after the war and also 70 years after the creation of the state of Israel that we need to be debating this. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. The BDS goal is to dismantle it. Anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head and we have it here. She commended Josh Fine and Matt Hale for their diligence, their work, their effort in being respectful to the community of Highland Park. They have done it listening to everybody's input. She commended them and she encouraged the passage of the resolution.

Melanie McDermott, 330 South 3rd Avenue, commented that nobody's heritage or family experience or their identity should give them more or less voice to have a say in this discussion and it should not be about numbers because that is why we have a representative democracy with rights of free speech. If 82% of the community or 95% of the community feels that one political stance is the appropriate one for our Borough does not make it okay. She suggested that they cannot and should not legislate here in this Borough anything about ideology and anything about political alliances no matter how strongly we feel. That is not democratic and that is not American. We can legislate against certain forms of behavior. We need to define a form of anti-Semitism that makes it unacceptable to use violence and use hate speech. We have to keep the conversation going. She has also learned a lot tonight. If we pass a resolution that names BDS and then says that the Borough is going to be doing programming to instruct people about what they should or shouldn't believe about our politics, is wrong and will only bring more trouble upon our heads. If we continue to take the time to listen to each other, then we have the opportunity to learn from each other. Please do not try to obstantiate in a Borough resolution what our political viewpoints should be. Please continue to bring us together and pass a clean resolution against anti-Semitism and all forms of bias and hate.

John Kovac, North 3rd Avenue, commented that he has spoken in anger a couple of times because he is angry about this. He is speaking now with a degree of sincerity and sadness. We need more leadership in this town and it may be that you oppose the way Israel treats their West Bank Palestinians and what's happening in Gaza and the argument can be made on the other side that peace was offered to them and they rejected it and all they are willing to do is eliminate Israel and that is why they are in the quagmire they are in. The answer to that if you are an American concerned about that is to lobby government for a change in policy. It may be that you think too much money is being given to Israel. People are concerned about money from Qatar and Saudi Arabia that is being given to universities to propagandize students with hate. It is okay to advocate for these policies, but don't give comfort or a place to a group that is going to single out Jewish students on college campuses and in our town and apply a system of apartheid to them to discriminate against them. That is what he means by more leadership. Step up and say no, that is wrong. If we have leadership in this town that steps up and stops that, then we will progress and be a better place.

Rabbi Philip Bazeley, Lincoln Avenue, commented that he was referred to as being the liberal or the reformed Jew or Rabbi here who stands in support with his colleagues, and he does stand in support with his colleagues. He thanked all of them because he knows they are coming to this with great care and concern for the town and they want to make sure that everyone is safe. They are wrestling and grappling with some tremendous things. You know that no matter how tonight ends, it's going to be difficult for a lot of them. Regardless of how they vote tonight, they consider how to bring the town together and how they build bridges towards one another so that they can have peaceful conversations. He and Pastor Kaper-Dale stand together on so many issues and this Sunday they will stand together again and they will stand together in the future. He and the Pastor may not agree on this issue, and they don't agree on this issue, but they can have the conversation with one another with love for each other at the same time. When he thinks about Highland Park, that ability to have that communion together is what is really important and he hopes after this vote is over and this is done, that we can return to that lifestyle here in Highland Park because he thinks that is what is really necessary.

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

The meeting was extended past 10:00 p.m. on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was rejected on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

No. 10-19-316

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that anti-Semitism today is being promoted by individuals and groups at both ends of the political spectrum; and,

WHEREAS, Jewish citizens and residents of Highland Park are experiencing a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents, including several incidents of anti-Semitic harassment of individuals on the street, property destruction, and hate speech; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council is aware of the rise of incidents of bias, hate speech and discriminatory behaviors that have impacted our Highland Park youth in our schools on social media, and that hate speech groups are targeting our school age children with messages of hate and sowing division and anti-Semitism among them; and,

WHEREAS, we commend New Jersey's Acting Governor Sheila Oliver for issuing Executive Order No. 78 on August 7, 2019, which establishes an interagency task force to provide advice and recommendations to the Offices of the Governor and the Attorney General, and to other state agencies, on strategies and actions to reduce incidents of hate, bias, and intolerance involving students and young adults in our schools¹; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that following the attacks on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and the Chabad of Poway in San Diego by white supremacists, synagogues in Highland Park were forced to re-evaluate their own security measures to keep their congregations safe; and,

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that to many, including Highland Park residents of multiple faiths, Israel represents the historical, spiritual and religious homeland of the Jewish people, as expressed in Israel's Declaration of Independence and before that the Balfour Declaration; and,

WHEREAS, attempts in both our nation and our community to demonize, dehumanize and de-legitimize Jews, who live in their historical homeland and all over the world, even to the extent of denying historical and archeological evidence is just another form of racism and anti-Semitism; and,

WHEREAS, current efforts to deny the Jewish people their right of self-determination and even their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel, as a homeland for the Jewish people is racist, despite evidence that while imperfect, Israel provides freedom of religion, culture, and economic aspirations even during periods of intense terrorist activities; and,

WHEREAS, in contrast to legitimate protest movements that have sought racial justice and social change and promoted coexistence, civil rights and political reconciliation, movements that co-opt legitimate means to unfairly promote economic warfare against the State of Israel in an attempt to deny its legitimacy, existence and the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination are anti-Semitic and contrary to the essential values of government under which this council performs its obligations to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that there are residents and citizens of Highland Park who may criticize the State of Israel and support economic boycotts against the State of Israel, but are themselves not anti-Semitic²:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park condemn all forms of anti-Semitism, and pledge to work with the Human Relations Commission and other interested parties to develop significant and sustained programming designed to educate our community about all aspects of anti-Semitism and combat its continued spread.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was rejected on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Hale, Welkovits.

Opposed: Councilperson George; Mayor Brill Mittler.

Absent: None.

Abstained (tabled): Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, Kim-Chohan.

No. 10-19-317

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that anti-Semitism today is being promoted by individuals and groups at both ends of the political spectrum; and,

WHEREAS, Jewish citizens and residents of Highland Park are experiencing a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents, including several incidents of anti-Semitic harassment of individuals on the street, property destruction, and hate speech; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council is aware of the rise of incidents of bias, hate speech and discriminatory behaviors that have impacted our Highland Park youth in our schools on social media, and that hate speech groups are targeting our school age children with messages of hate and sowing division and anti-Semitism among them; and,

WHEREAS, we commend New Jersey's Acting Governor Sheila Oliver for issuing Executive Order No. 78 on August 7, 2019, which establishes an interagency task force to provide advice and recommendations to the Offices of the Governor and the Attorney General, and to other state agencies, on strategies and actions to reduce incidents of hate, bias, and intolerance involving students and young adults in our schools³; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that following the attacks on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and the Chabad of Poway in San Diego by white supremacists, synagogues in Highland Park were forced to re-evaluate their own security measures to keep their congregations safe; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize attempts in both our nation and our community to demonize, dehumanize and de-legitimize Jews anywhere in the world is a form of anti-Semitism; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council recognize that the founding goals of the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement and many of the strategies used by BDS campaigns are anti-Semitic. While there are people who support BDS but are not anti-Semitic, the Mayor and Council recognize that the campaign is founded on a rejection of Israel's very existence as a Jewish state. It denies the Jewish

¹ <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases19/EO-78.pdf>

² <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/what-is-anti-israel-anti-semitic-anti-zionist>

³ <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases19/EO-78.pdf>

people the right to self-determination – a right universally afforded to other groups. In the Mayor and Council's view, this differs from legitimate criticism of Israel and is anti-Semitic⁴; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council recognize the Constitutional right of United States citizens to free speech, including the right to protest or criticize the policies of the United States or foreign governments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park condemn all forms of anti-Semitism, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council will work through the Human Relations Commission to have the Anti-Defamation League, faith-based organizations, and other knowledgeable parties, to provide significant and sustained programming they have developed to educate our community about all aspects of anti-Semitism and combat its continued spread.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Alvin Chin to serve as the Alternate #2 Member for a term to expire July 1, 2021.

The above appointment was confirmed 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 below listed Work Session items were not discussed due to the lateness of the meeting. Items will be carried to the following meeting.

- a. 2020 Council Reorganization Meeting (GBM).
- b. 2020 Bulk Waste Pick-Up Program (PG).
- c. Electric Vehicle Resolution (PG).
- d. Government Energy Aggregation Ordinance Next Steps (TJ).
- e. Woodbridge Avenue Repaving (TJ).
- f. Jewish Family Services Program (SKC).

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk

⁴ <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/what-is-anti-israel-anti-semitic-anti-zionist>