

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 3, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

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

Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler introduced the new Library Director, Kate Jagger. The Library will be hosting an open house on March 22nd.

Mayor Brill Mittler presented a proclamation to the family of Bill Giacalone who was a long time Highland Park resident and Highland Park artist who passed away a week ago. A representative from the family noted that they are beyond thrilled to have shared him with Highland Park. They hear stories from all over town about how important he was to them and to the community. She thanked the Borough for taking such good care of him. She is so moved and thanked them for this honor.

Mayor Brill Mittler presented a proclamation to Jessica Wu, a member of the Arts Commission, in honor of Youth Art Month. She has been commissioned to paint a mural on Woodbridge Avenue on the side of one of the buildings. Ms. Wu noted that she is grateful that they moved here 7 years ago. The Highland Park art community is vibrant and amazing. This is an awesome opportunity for her.

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

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the HP Gives a Hoot group has opened up their summer camp scholarship program. If you and someone you know qualify for free or reduced lunch, they qualify for the summer camp scholarship. Application deadline is March 10th or until it is full. Applications are available at Borough Hall or you can email her and she can email the application. Everyone is afraid of the coronavirus and she encouraged everyone to wash their hands, and to cough in your hands.

Councilman Hale – No report.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that this year Highland Park has been awarded over \$76,000 for community development block grants, which is a huge increase from last year and the past couple of years. The following agencies receive this funding: Dept. of Aging: Senior Outreach; Dept. of Aging: Senior Transportation; Main Street Highland Park: Streetscape Improvement Program; Dept. of Recreation: Summer Camp Program; Dept. of Recreation: Community Youth Outreach Programs; and the Highland Park Community Food Pantry.

Councilwoman Foster Dublin reported that she and the Mayor will be meeting on Thursday with representatives from New Brunswick and the County regarding the Coronavirus. Public Safety will be providing information on the Borough's website.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilman George reported that the Department of Public Works street sweeper needs to be repaired. It would cost \$250,000 to replace, he has worked with the Superintendent of Public Works, and they have found a way to repair and upgrade it with a company for \$40,000. It does not make it pretty, but it completely refurbishes it. They will be exploring more maintenance options with a neighboring town. The native plant sanctuary will be having a cleanup on March 8th. The Environmental Commission will meet tomorrow night at 8PM at the Environmental Center and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday. He used to volunteer his services to schlep Bill Giacalone's artwork around in his pickup truck and he has known him for years. He sees many members of the Art Collective and the art community in the audience. He congratulated Jessica Wu.

Borough Administrator Jover noted that she would be having a meeting with representatives from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, neighboring communities, the County and Rutgers in April prior to holding a community meeting on April 2nd. Water and sewer bills will be going out in the mail shortly and are due by the end of the month.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that last weekend they held the very famous Park Partners program where residents get to vote on ideas conceived by some of the residents to help improve life in Highland Park. There were a total of 16 applicants for the grants and 5 of them received Borough awards of \$2,000 each so that they can make their dreams come true. 338 residents voted on the winning items. This year, there was a 6th winner because the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council decided to raise money themselves to help fund a 6th project and the project, they selected was the project put forward by Penstock. The winners are as follows: The Cave Afterschool Program is a free-of-charge project of Who is My Neighbor for middle school youth in 6th-8th grades; the Open Space Partnership, a collaboration between the Highland Park Meadows and the Highland Park Native Plant Sanctuary; the Robotics: Promoting STEM Diversity – a Highland Park High School science club which will educate children about science, technology, engineering and math; the Highland Park Schools Renaissance – a project of the Highland Park High School Music Department, which will send the choir, band and orchestra to compete in the World Heritage Festival in DC; and Raising Hands Tutoring – a non-profit that provides free reading tutoring by certified dyslexia tutors to low income students throughout Highland Park. The Penstock Program, which was awarded their grant by

the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council, won for their Towards Zero Waste with Huskee, a project of Penstock Coffee and it will enable them to become an officially registered and operating Huskee swap location to eliminate nearly all of their disposable hot cup usage. She congratulated all the winners. Several of the Council have spoken about the Coronavirus. She met with the County this afternoon where they told Elected Officials and Borough Administrators throughout Middlesex County about their plans and how they were prepared. There were representatives from all the area hospitals, as well as the Middlesex County Health Department. They are doing tabletop preparations and they are projecting a shortfall in pharmaceuticals. They will be forwarding protocols that they will be asking each municipality to follow and the CDC has sent protocols to First Responder's and First Aid Squads. They asked that each town get their Health Commissions involved. They will be meeting next week with Public Safety and a representative from the Board of Health to discuss how to prepare in Highland Park. Later in the afternoon, she participated in the Governor's update on Coronavirus and where we are. She shared that as of today, there are no confirmed cases in New Jersey. Testing for COVID-19 in New Jersey has been approved by the CDC. The State is taking very seriously this possible threat and they are focusing on preparedness and resiliency. All municipalities should be prepared and that is what they are working towards. At this point, the risk in New Jersey appears to be low. Person to person spread is possible, but unknown. The Coronavirus can cause pneumonia and that has landed several of its victims into hospitals in other areas. New Jersey has a 24/7 call center that it operates. The Coronavirus is currently present in at least 67 international locations. They have updated testing criteria here in New Jersey and it includes travelers to certain countries will be tested and anyone who is hospitalized in New Jersey for pneumonia will also be tested. They urge that all residents follow everyday smart procedures. Wash hands with soap, use alcohol-based cleansers, stay home if you are sick and please don't touch your face. The Borough has many volunteer organizations in Highland Park that do a lot of good things for a lot of people. On March 21st at 8:30PM at the Highland Park Community Center, she will be holding her first ever Mayor's Main Event, which is put together to help us raise money for HP Gives a Hoot, the Food Pantry and other volunteer organizations in Highland Park. There will be a performance that evening of a murder mystery of Norma Desmond's Palatial Manor and dinner will be provided.

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

Ira Mintz, 143 North 5th Avenue, requested that Resolution No. 3-20-105, resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism, be taken out of the consent agenda and be discussed and voted on separately. Borough Attorney Schmierer advised that the item could be separated from the agenda by a consensus of the Council. Councilman Hale noted that discussion of this item could still be held without removing it from the consent agenda. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the first public discussion is limited to items on the agenda. Discussion can be held on that item can take place now. Mr. Mintz argued that only 7 people would be able to speak due to the time limit. He noted that they are asking that it be taken out of the consent agenda so that they can hear from the community. Councilman George made motion to remove the item from the consent agenda. Mr. Mintz commented that according to the agenda, you only need 1 Council member to ask that it be taken out of the consent agenda and then it is separately considered. Borough Attorney Schmierer agreed that the comment is correct, the agenda does say that if a Council Member wishes to remove something the consent agenda, then the matter should be removed from the consent agenda. The Mayor is asking for a consensus of the Governing Body to do so, so that they can hear comments either now or later. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin asked if the resolution is separated now, they will still be allowed to discuss it now and also during open session. She would agree to separate it from the first public discussion session and put it to the second public discussion. Mayor Brill Mittler indicated that the 2nd public discussion session would come after the vote on the resolution. Councilman George recognized that there will be a lot of comments made, based on number of emails they have received and that people are highly divided on this matter and he moved to extend the public discussion to 36 minutes to allow more speakers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hale and was carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Ira Mintz, 143 North 5th Avenue, commented that he regrets to say that this proposed resolution is racist, it is dishonest and it is divisive. This resolution's only reference to the non-Jewish communities in Palestine is to characterize them as terrorists. The resolution recognizes only a Jewish right of self-determination but not an equal right for Palestinians. That is simply racist. How is it dishonest? The resolution cites to the Balfour declaration, but have you ever read the Balfour declaration, the 3-paragraph statement issued by the British Foreign Secretary issued in 1917. Do you even know that the declaration called for a Jewish homeland, but also stated it being understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine? The resolution cites to the UN Special Rapporteur's Report, but have you even read that report which states that international law recognizes boycotts as constituting legitimate forms of political expression and that non-violent expressions of support for boycotts are as a general legitimate speech that should be protected? The Special Rapporteur protects boycotts, you condemn them. How is it divisive? Open your eyes to what you are doing to our community. This is not a resolution that addresses the threat of anti-Semitism; this is a resolution that has more paragraphs supporting Israel than any other single issue. One brief mention of the White Supremacists who are the real threats to Jews in the United States, New Jersey and Highland Park; 5 paragraphs defending Israel. The resolution labels as anti-Semitic any boycott that seeks a single state in the Middle East for the Jewish, Christian and Muslim residents of Israel and Palestine. Not being a Zionist does not make you an anti-Semite. At the same time that the moderate and progressive Democratic Presidential candidates boycotted the pro-Israel Conference, your resolution takes the side of the minority in our community who side with the Netanyahu/Trump forces that blatantly ignore the Palestinian right of self-determination. Your resolution drives a wedge between the moderate/progressive residents of our community who care about free speech and the rights of both Jews and non-Jews in the Middle East and those who care more about the protection of Israeli policies than they do about democratic rights in our community. A Council resolution should condemn any actions, verbal or physical, that attack Jewish residents and visitors to Highland Park simply because they are Jewish. A resolution should unite all who can be united around the important goal of protecting our citizens. The proposed resolution fails to

achieve either of these goals and will only serve to divide and not unite our community. He urged them to reject the proposed resolution and propose a clear resolution that unites, not divides us.

John Kovac, South 3rd Avenue, commented that there is in town, police directive #42, which expresses disapproval of threats coming out of Washington intended to send fear into the lives of immigrant families, noting that no family should live in fear in America. The directive limits police cooperation with federal authorities. In the same spirit, the Council passed an inclusive community resolution intended to protect Highland Park immigrants. In light of a shocking increase in anti-Semitic hate and violence, that has traumatized Jewish communities nationally, statewide and locally, we ask the Council to show a similar solidarity and concern with us. The Council should fear to express disapproval of the reprehensible BDS conduct set forth in the resolution, despite the objections of those who claim this has nothing to do with our town while they simultaneously assert, it makes them feel singled out. That some feels singled out, shows indeed that this much to do with Highland Park. We have heard plenty of free speech from those who claim their voices are being suppressed. There is the finger-pointing professor who accused Israel of making Arabs pay for Nazi crimes, fulminating against Jewish self-determination; he threatened a really bad day when he owns his anti-Semitism. There is the Rutgers SJP leader who claimed that Israel's racism, which he compared to our Police Department, enables Israel to seek complete and utter extermination of Palestinians. There is the JVP member who claimed that the creation of Israel was a racist act and a more historic mistake. None of these people will be less vocal if this resolution is passed. In fact, they are threatening aggressive future action. However, let us not be deluded or intimidated. A BDS group targeted the Highland Park Library because of the large Orthodox community here, similar to those recently targeted with assaults, terrorism and murder. Jewish Voice for Peace demands to inflict upon Highland Park and the world the genocidal ideas that Israel should have been an abortion and that the world would be far better when it is eliminated. How does this involve Highland Park? Jews are often portrayed as apes and pigs by Hamas leaders and others. He showed a photo depicting Jews as pigs. This photo was on the Facebook page of a leader of the JVP group that brought that author to the library to teach hate to our children. Here in a Facebook photo, posted by the JVP of Central Jersey, is that same individual, standing with Sam Friedman, the man who told this Council that Israel is an historic mistake. They were at a JVP meeting at the Reformed Church in town where the Israel bashing Pastor Seth Kaper-Dale welcomes them. We strive to condemn hate and preach tolerance. We have every right, in fact, the obligation to say that we stand with our concerned Jewish residents and condemn anti-Semitism and all of its forms.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that Josh Pruzansky is handing out something that he will reference during his comments. There are two types of anti-Semitic monsters, one overt and one consumed in cancer. We all know about the white crazies, the Nazis and the white supremacists in Charlottesville and Pittsburgh. We also do not recognize the terror coming from the left. As Dr. Wiseman said in a speech a couple of weeks ago, we must call out hate from our side too, not just pointing fingers at the right, but pointing ourselves on the left. Since Highland Park has been on left, we need to confront hate from the left as much as if not more from the right. We were shocked when the library hosted a children's reading by a BDS supporter, who many of us considered anti-Semitic. We found out this was not to be an isolated incident. He referenced an email to JVP members with the help of Sam Friedman, laying out strategies not just for a book reading, but also for long-term confrontation.

Rob Roesener, Harrison Avenue, commented that he is urging the Council to vote against adopting the resolution as currently drafted. He supports a resolution condemning anti-Semitic behavior in speech. This resolution can do that easily and without division among groups of Highland Parkers if the language about the state of Israel and any criticism of it is removed. With that language removed, it would still be a resolution condemning anti-Semitic behavior and speech. The divisive language is not necessary to the key point of the resolution. Further, how can this Borough or some elements of it, claim authority to dictate what a legitimate protest movement is and, by implication, dictate what is an unfair protest movement that is solely about the denial of Israel's legitimacy. This language offends him because it implicates what might be his solidarity with an oppressed people or another form of anti-Semitism without recognizing that I could support both viewpoints simultaneously. Calling it anti-Semitic and contrary to the essential values of government because I may feel solidarity with those who fight oppression carried out by foreign states is disheartening and frustrating and has no place in the municipal resolution from a Central New Jersey Borough. Reasonable people can have very different opinions about current issues in our world, but that does not mean we do not support each other's basic humanity. Let us have a resolution that denounces anti-Semitic behavior and speech, but does not divide factions of our town, factions of reasonable people who may simply differ in their opinions about Israel. Let us keep this resolution simple and to the point. He again urged them not to vote for the resolution as currently drafted.

Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale, Pastor, Reformed Church of Highland Park, commented that Mayor Brill Mittler, who he has tremendous respect for, rightly called for a resolution to be passed to address the rise in anti-Semitism and violence in this country, the state, the county and even our town. This rise has especially been seen since the last election cycle and he was enthusiastic to support it. The spirit of her initial ask was consistent with the prayers of himself and his church members and consistent with our responses to prayer. For example, they started something called "Prayer and Protest" right after the last election occurred and one of the first nights was dedicated to following what had gone in cemeteries around the country with desecrations and they did a special fundraiser for those cemeteries. That was their response to anti-Semitism played out in a violent way. They have similarly prayed for those that have suffered violence in Pittsburgh, Charlottesville and San Diego and they held and participated in public vigils regarding those horrific events. However, the resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism unfairly, he would argue, lends to anti-Semitism here to opinions about the geo-politics of Israel and Palestine. It has become clear that some would attempt to use this resolution to say our entire Highland Park community should see and understand the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and he appreciates the attempt at some language in this version, but it did not sit well with him, and from the feelings he is getting here tonight, it definitely is not enough. We do not all see the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the same light. Many Jews and non-Jews alike are horrified by the level of Palestinian poverty, hunger and suffering that is sustained, decade upon decade, by Israel's politics, and often with the blessing and backing of the US government. He cannot accept a resolution that lauds Israel and speaks of self-determination and human rights for Israelis, while

never mentioning the Palestinian state of self-determination and human rights. Israel has for many decades occupied a territory by force and kept people from self-determination. It has also, in an ugly way, continued to infringe on the already trapped Palestinians by annexing more and more of an occupied land. The political rhetoric, even today as we speak, suggests that Netanyahu will stay in power partly due to his promises of further annexation. For years, out of deference for Highland Park's neighbors and because he did not see the value of carrying out a fight here, he has been quiet on the matter of Palestine and Israel. It appears now, that his silence must end. With the passage of this resolution, it is clearly time for education on Palestine and Israel that tells the story from both sides and he will encourage and support this kind of honest education. It is time for scholars of the occupation to come and to share. We are going to have to have people here who can tell the truth as it is seen from a variety of perspectives and that will include perspectives that not all in this room will appreciate. With the passage of this resolution, you are inviting more resolutions too, where the Council will be asked to take a stand for the human rights and self-determination of a free Palestine. By passing this resolution, you have opened the door to this. A good and important resolution proposed by a good and honest Mayor, now leaves a sour taste in my mouth.

Susan Gutwill, 224 Valentine Street, commented that her father is a Holocaust survivor and she is a first-generation Jew. She grew up a Zionist, but she is no longer a Zionist and she just came back from Palestine. She was with a group of mental health trauma professionals who went to Palestine, in the West Bank, in order to see what is really happening. She cannot tell you how absolutely traumatized she was by what she saw and which she understands Israelis do not see, nor do Americans. There is a huge separation wall, which is much higher on the Palestinian side and covered in barbed wire than it is on the Israeli side. This separates Palestinians from their farms, and children from their school. That wall also separates roads for the Jewish settlements, which are direct roads, and carefully made roads, which Palestinians are not allowed to drive on. You can see Jewish settlements going up all over, especially in Hebron. Doors to homes have been bolted shut on a main road and Palestinians have to climb out their windows and then climb down ladders to get to the street. At every checkpoint they saw, Palestinians had to wait hours to get through.

Marc Kalton, 41 North 8th Avenue, commented that he has listened with amazement and shock at much of what has been addressed tonight. For some, Jewish hatred by the right and crazies cannot be accepted in a civilized society. However, when articulated by the normally sophisticated left represents unchallengeable wisdom, the cancer that savages the party politics. Those uppity Jews just will not mind their place.

Andrew Getraer, 801 South 2nd Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Borough Council for putting this resolution into the agenda and he knows they have spent months debating this issue, researching this issue and speaking to dozens of people on all sides. He commended them for bringing this finally to a place where we can have a resolution that he believes will be acceptable to all but the most extreme people in the community. He wanted to address not the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, because that is not what Highland Park is about, that is not what this resolution is about, and we should not be debating it. He listened to some of the people who are opposed to this resolution and was trying to take notes on all of the falsehoods and misstatements of fact, but there were too many. He wants to talk about anti-Semitism and how it affects the Jews of Highland Park. The only reason that the international holocaust members association definition is in this resolution is because it is the most widely accepted definition of anti-Semitism in the world. It is accepted by nations and municipalities throughout Europe, Latin America and states across America and some 2 dozen towns in New Jersey. That definition includes the fact that boycotts and sanctions against targeting Israel are anti-Semitic because, in fact, that is how Jews experience those boycotts and sanctions. BDS does not hurt Israel, the Israeli economy has boomed for 25 years with no end in sight, and they have more diplomatic relations with more countries than ever before and Israel is not affected. Who is affected? Us, because when you demonize and delegitimize Israel, it is a half a step to demonizing and delegitimizing people who support Israel and over 90% of America Jews support the right of Israel to exist. When you vote for this resolution, as he urged them to do, keep in mind that as Jews we can help you understand how we feel anti-Semitism affects us. If Black people tell you something is racist, believe it. If gay people say something is homophobic, believe it. If Jews tell you something is anti-Semitic, he hopes, you will believe it too and he urged them to vote for the resolution.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that he has listened to everyone come up and voice their opinion. He has asked members of the Council, the Borough Attorney and the Mayor to please set aside a day to discuss anti-Semitism. This is not the place; there must be a special day to talk about anti-Semitism. Right now, there are issues here in Highland Park that need to be addressed and they are not being addressed. All the issues in Highland Park are finding their way to the curb. This has to stop. Everyone that comes to these meetings must talk about issues in Highland Park. As a Veteran, he has fought and served for "freedom" and everyone in attendance here seems to be forgetting what the word "freedom" means. Freedom is not free; you have to fight for it and you just cannot come up to the microphone and talk about anti-Semitism. There are issues here in Highland Park that have to be addressed.

Don Stern, 317 Summit Place, commented that as they have witnessed everything that has been talked about, we see how divisive this resolution is. He has lived in the town over 30 years, this is one of the most divisive things he has ever seen, and it does not need to be this way. This is a very simple thing. There is massive support in this town for a resolution against anti-Semitism, but the insistence on having Israel injected into this creates the division. It does not have to be this way. Not every iteration of this resolution changes it not at all, a word is tweaked, another word is tweaked, and the problem remains, and the problem is that there is a lot of division over Israel, there is not a lot of division over anti-Semitism. Let us have a resolution about anti-Semitism.

Jeff Vardaro, Wayne Street, commented that he is not an anti-Semite. He lost his grandmother yesterday; she was 97 and in 97 years, he does not believe she let anything go by that, she thought was wrong without commenting on it. He feels his comment tonight might be the most Jewish thing about him. When the Mayor asked this Council in October to come up with a new resolution that focused on anti-

Semitism in Highland Park instead of Israel, he was hopeful. He thought the Council might actually listen, he thought the Council might even acknowledge that the Jewish men who feel unsafe walking down the street in a kippah have something important in common with the Muslim women who feel unsafe walking down main street in a hijab, or the black residents in Highland Park who have been targeted by their neighbors and our own Police Department for walking in their own neighborhoods or driving on main street or the Spanish speakers being told to speak English in our farmers market, or the LGBTQ residents being harassed on the street in our town. Instead of rightly condemning bigots on our streets, in our schools and online who accuse Jewish Americans of having a dual loyalty to Israel, this resolution does the opposite by calling and questioning Israel's status as a Jewish state and an attack on all Jews. It labels all anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism which is not consistent with any mainstream definition of those terms and he even included the IHRA definition in that and it says nothing about anti-Zionism being anti-Semitism. Instead of condemning double standards that promote bias against our Jewish residents, this resolution promotes a double standard that condemns any effort to deny self-determination to Israeli Jews, but excuses those who are denied the same right of self-determination to Palestinians. In these troubled times, he wants all of the residents, including our Jewish residents, to be safe. He wants everyone not just to be safe, but also to feel safe, but those are two different things. Fostering solidarity, building common ground, and increasing understanding can help make our community safer. This resolution does none of those things. Instead, it tries to make some residents feel safer by condemning and defaming other residents whose beliefs make them uncomfortable. This Council should have the courage to say no to this resolution. Not, we don't want to spend any more time on this, not we are going to say this, but don't worry about it, it won't actually be used against any of you, just no. Whether it is posted on the front door of Borough Hall or rammed through on the consent agenda with a towing contract and tax abatement, it is not right to falsely label innocent residents as anti-Semites because they are anti-Zionist or anti-Lucud or anti-Netanyahu or pro-Palestinian or pro-human rights and it is not right to blame them for the violent and despicable acts of true bigots. Please, say no.

Ellen Witt, South 1st Avenue, commented that just as she believes we should stand up against racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ and Islamophobic attacks, we must make it clear that attacks on and the scapegoating of Jews is not acceptable anywhere. Characterizing all Jews in the world or even all Israeli citizens as responsible for all that the state of Israel does, is not right, in her opinion. However, the Israeli government is responsible for its actions, which affect the more than 6 million Arabs and Palestinians who live under its control, especially those who live in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Your resolution condemns campaigns of economic warfare against Israel. However, you completely deny the very real economic warfare carried out by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people. While you reject collective economic punishment of Israeli people, you ignore the more than a decade of collective economic punishment of the Palestinian people that comes in a form of a well-documented economic blockade of Gaza, a naval blockade of Gaza, which prevents Palestinian fisherman from reaching good fishing areas, the destruction of Palestinian farmer's olive groves, the demolition of Palestinian homes, the refusal to grant most Palestinians construction permits to build housing and the massive system of military checkpoints which has strangled Palestinian trade and movement. If you would like to learn more about this, perhaps you could read the 2019 human rights watch report on Israel. Your statement in the resolution, while imperfect, "Israel provides freedom of religion, culture and economic aspirations even during periods of intense terrorist activities" denies the very real, ongoing economic warfare against the Palestinians. She realized that many of those who pushed for this resolution for the community deny the Palestinians even exist, which is probably why the word is not even mentioned in the resolution. Many of them also oppose a two-state solution, which is why you cannot say anything about Palestinian self-determination. Based on this resolution, it looks like your education programs will be simply promoting the legitimacy of Israel without addressing the concerns about Palestinian human rights, which is what gave rise to efforts to boycott campaigns in the first place, that you in turn condemn as anti-Semitic. Without giving context to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the resolution and an honest account of the situation, you will reduce your efforts to a propaganda campaign, so she urged them to reconsider this approach.

The public portion was extended past the 21-minute limit on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Henry Schanzer, 29 Brookfall Road, Edison, commented that it is hard to believe in our supposedly tolerant and liberal community that the proposed resolution on anti-Semitism is being attacked. Anti-Semitism has been around for ages. The Jewish people still have not recovered from the murder of 6 million of the 9 million European Jews at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. In recognition for the communal guilt in allowing, the genocide to occur the world powers recognized the need to establish the state of Israel as a home for the survivors of the Holocaust and for Jews fleeing virulent anti-Semitism. Immediately upon its creation, the state of Israel was attacked by all the Arab nations around it, fortunately it survived. Recently, classic anti-Semitism has mutated into a well-organized anti-Israel agenda. The resolution you are being asked to pass is not going to solve the hatred of Jews, but it will show that each one of you knows right from wrong and is worthy of the position you hold. It is time for to display leadership and to show that there is no place for this type of hatred in our town. Based on what he is hearing today, there are individuals, some claiming to be Jewish, who are so blinded by propaganda and the lack of appreciation for the positive respect of Judaism in Israel that they do not know the difference between right and wrong. These misguided individuals subscribe to the obvious lie that Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is an apartheid state and that it is appropriate to boycott Israel and its products and sanction any communication with Israel and Israeli institutions.

Rabbi Eliot Malomet, Highland Park Conservative Temple Congregation Anshe Emeth, commented that he is not also going to remain silent especially when he hears so many lies being recited tonight, including one lie about APAC, where he heard all sorts of people speak from diverse backgrounds heralding the bi-partisan relationship between the United States and Israel and that it is under attack. The most important person he heard speak was a woman, Shaina Applebaum-Abrams, who spoke about her sister and father who were having dinner the night before the wedding when a suicide bomber came up to the Café Hillel and detonated himself, killing them both. When he thinks about the reason for a wall between the Palestinian territories in Israel, it is only about protecting the lives of Israel. It is only about making sure

that no terror happens. When we watch rockets rain down from Gaza, we watch rockets rain in from Lebanon, we are ourselves feel very threatened by that. We see that there are voices so called for peace in our community that regretfully meet in one of the churches in our community that aid and abet this kind of thing. There is not a dotted line between that proposed anti-Zionism, there is a straight line between anti-Zionism and that will to dismantle the state of Israel by any means possible. He came with another set of remarks, but it is very evident that anti-Zionism is cloaked in lies and anti-Semitism is cloaked in lies too. Anti-Zionism, just like anti-Semitism, is a conspiratorial ideology pitting society's ills on the state of Israel. Anti-Semitism is complicated to understand because it is so adaptable, so old and so tied into patterns of cognitive failure. Anti-Semitism is painful and it is sometimes lethal. The delegitimization of Israel arouses profound traumas in large numbers of the community. He urged them to vote for this resolution to ease this trauma, to state that this is a community that condemns anti-Semitism in all of its forms, including regretfully, anti-Zionism.

Max Wizotsky, 54 North 7th Avenue, commented that there has been an alarming increase in anti-Semitism worldwide and in the United States. As you have heard, anti-Semitism these days is not the same as classical anti-Semitism and takes different forms now; it is called anti-Israel, anti-Zionism, anti-colonialism, BDS and other actions. However, when one people, one state, one religion, one movement among all those of the rest of the world is singled out for attack, that is discrimination, pure and simple. It is not free speech or freedom of expression; these are forms of hate and only covers for anti-Semitism. Many governments at home and abroad have recognized this and expressed support for their threatened Jewish citizens by passing various forms of legislation condemning anti-Semitism. In the past year alone, Austria, Germany, France, the United States and 28 of its states, including New Jersey, as well as other municipalities, have all passed various forms of anti-Semitism resolutions. Highland Park, which has a greater percentage of Jews that any of the other governments he mentioned, and has been specifically targeted because of it, is now wrestling with this problem. Meanwhile, the tidal wave of anti-Semitism is washing ever closer to us. Incidents have taken place in California, Pittsburgh, Monsey, NY and Jersey City, NJ. We have already seen anti-Semitic incidents in the streets and schools of our town. The Library put on a program for toddlers presented by an avowed BDS supporter. These are the facts and are all a matter of public record. Contrary to the signs on many lawns in our town, hate is indeed threatening to rear its ugly head in Highland Park and with it the possibility of violence. He has been a proud resident of Highland Park for over 50 years, but never in his worst nightmares did he ever envision having to go synagogue here and be protected by armed guards, having locked doors, security cameras, designated safe rooms and defensive security protocols. We cannot point the blames elsewhere; our problem is here in Highland Park and it gives this Council the chance to join the global effort to try to reverse the downward spiral into hate. He applauds the earnest efforts of this Council to try to understand and come to grips with this issue and he hopes that they now do the right thing for all citizens and pass this resolution.

Rafi Kornfeld, 427 South 3rd Avenue, commented that he is 16 years old. What he has been seeing around the last couple of months is appalling. He has seen a rise in anti-Semitism, which is also a rise in anti-Zionism. His grandfather was a Holocaust survivor and fought in the war in the Sinai Peninsula and he never said that he believed in killing Palestinians, he said that they were people and the government forced to him. His grandmother was also a Holocaust survivor and hid in Belgium during the war. In 1492 they were kicked out of Spain for being Jewish; they were kicked out of the Byzantine Empire for being Jewish; they were kicked out of Judea for being Jewish; and why, because they didn't accept a different mythology.

Audrey Mandro, 25 Marshall Drive, Edison, commented that she thinks all people should be protected in this community and it is really unfortunate that anyone should have to be protected, we should move freely. She asked about BDS and what they are boycotting, anti-Semitism, or products from Israel. She asked what they are doing here about the hundreds of rockets being rained down on innocent families.

Ed Princz, South 5th Avenue, commented that he did not really want to speak. He noted that BDS and their influence is so insignificant and their ability to affect policy is so minor. The problem that you have here is that there is Israel and anti-Semitism and you are asking Jews to define themselves in a way that is alien to them. Judaism has had multiple parts; it's had a religion, it's had a culture and yes it had a nationality and if you object to the inclusion of the nationality part, you are defining Judaism for us and he would be hesitant to ask any of you to give me the right to define you in a way in which you wish not to be defined. The reason why these things are inseparable to the Jewish community is because this support for Israel, in general, not the individual politician or the individual policy, but the support for it is built into our DNA as how we define ourselves as Jews.

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

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 the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

No. 3-20-97

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2019 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

Description	From	To
Borough Administrator OE		100.00
Planner OE		1,000.00
Economic Development OE	1,100.00	
Total	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 433 CLEVELAND AVENUE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ., for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, was continued to the March 17, 2020 meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

- Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.
- Opposed: None.
- Absent: None.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 230-124 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" TO ADOPT AN UPDATED ZONING MAP FOR THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-199, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

- Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.
- Opposed: None.
- Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 3-20-99

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 230-124 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" TO ADOPT AN UPDATED ZONING MAP FOR THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, Resolution No. 3-20-105 was separated from the Consent Agenda.

Resolution Nos. 3-20-100 through 3-20-108, except Resolution No. 3-20-105, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

- Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan.
- Opposed: None.
- Absent: None.
- Abstained: Councilperson Welkovits (Resolution No. 3-20-103).

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-20-100

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park would like to apply for a \$20,000 grant from Middlesex County to support Code Blue warming center operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit the grant application to Middlesex County, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-20-101

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2019 4th quarter taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
138	16	CoreLogic Tax Services P.O. Box 9205 Coppell, TX 75019	\$3,208.84

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

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

No. 3-20-102

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park contracted with New Tech Water Technology in 2019 to conduct a leak detection survey of its water system; and

WHEREAS, the results of the leak detection survey identified five (5) locations where there are water leaks that the Borough of Highland Park Water Utility is responsible for repairing, specifically: 1) in front of 317 Cedar Ave, 2) in front of 207 So. 5th Ave, 3) No. 7th Ave near Raritan Ave, 4) in front of 106 So. 5th Ave, 5) Alcazar Ave near Parker Rd; and

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

J. Fletcher Creamer & Son Inc.	\$39,845.00
Schilke Construction Company, Inc.	no response
B&W Construction Co. of NJ Inc.	\$39,500.00

and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Department and the Qualified Purchasing Agent have recommended that said services be purchased from B & W Construction Company, South River, NJ based on their quote for same; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 0-05-55-500-423 upon adoption of the 2020 municipal water and sewer utility budget, 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 Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Department is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for water leak repairs from B & W Construction Company, PO Box 574, South River, NJ 08882, at a total cost of \$39,500.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-20-103

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park requires the services of Special Counsel to assist the Borough in its representation in the matter known as JSM at Highland Park, LLC v. the Borough of Highland Park, Docket No. MID-L-4958-17; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional legal services as defined in the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC are experienced environmental attorneys who can provide the Special Counsel services required by the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of said law firm as its Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$50,000.00 without further resolution of the Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$50,000.00 in Account No. 0-01-20-155-2AT, upon the adoption of the 2020 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC to serve as the Borough's Special Environmental Counsel in connection with the above-captioned litigation. Notice of the award of this contract shall be published as required by law and that a copy of the executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 3-20-104

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following schedule of proposed use of CDBG funds allocated to the Borough of Highland Park for the funding period 2020 – 2021 be and the same is hereby approved and a certified copy hereof be submitted to the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Committee for their approval. If there is a reduction in the CDBG allocation, the reduction should be divided evenly to each project.

Dept. of Aging: Senior Outreach	\$13,000
Dept. of Aging: Senior Transportation	\$15,000
Main Street Highland Park: Streetscape Improvement Program	\$20,000
Dept. of Recreation: Summer Camp Program	\$12,000
Dept. of Recreation: Community Youth Outreach Programs	\$13,445
Highland Park Community Food Pantry	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$76,445

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

No. 3-20-106

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 7, 2020 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an annual basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

ADALBERTO PACHECO, Police Officer, at annual salary of \$64,148.00 effective February 11, 2020.

THEO RICHARDS, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$44,375.00, effective March 16, 2020.

ROLAND SAMS, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$44,375.00, effective March 16, 2020.

CAITLYN DEAN, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$50,966.00, effective March 19, 2020.

REMOVE FRAN LEE, Master Librarian, effective March 1, 2020.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-20-107

WHEREAS, Oasis 1711 Auto Repair, LLC (d/b/a Oasis Towing), has filed with the Clerk of this Borough for a Wrecker/Towing License to operate heavy duty wreckers in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such license; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determines that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such License.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue Heavy Duty Wrecker/Towing Licenses to the aforesaid applicant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-20-108

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 3/3/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit: (comments prior to their vote follow the resolution)

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

No. 3-20-105

WHEREAS, Jewish residents of and visitors to 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, the Mayor and Council recognize that anti-Semitism today is being promoted by individuals and groups at both ends of the political spectrum throughout the country; 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, as well as recent attacks on a Kosher super market in Jersey City and at a Chanukah gathering in Monsey, New York, synagogues in Highland Park felt compelled to re-evaluate their own security measures to keep their congregations safe; 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 recognize that to many Highland Park residents, including people of different faiths, Israel represents the historical, spiritual and religious homeland of the Jewish people, as expressed in Israel's Declaration of Independence and before that in the Balfour Declaration; and,

WHEREAS, we denounce current efforts to deny the Jewish people their right of self-determination and even their basic human rights, 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, we note that in contrast to legitimate protest movements that have sought racial justice and social change and promoted coexistence, civil rights and political reconciliation, movements that coopt legitimate means of social action to unfairly promote economic warfare against the State of Israel in an attempt to deny its legitimacy are another form of anti-Semitism 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 of Highland Park who may criticize the political actions of the State of Israel and support economic boycotts against it, but are themselves not anti-Semitic² or anti-Zionist, and still support the right of the Jewish people to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Highland Park Council members, State officials and large members of the community recently attended a lecture by the Wiesenthal Center defining and characterizing anti-Semitism³ which has also been integrated into the United Nations Special Rapporteur's Report on Freedom of Religion or Belief;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Highland Park Council accept and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Association ("IHRA") Working Definition and its

Characterizations by the Wiesenthal Center and its further description in the UN Special Rapporteur's Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Human Relations Commission establish a subcommittee of members to address anti-Semitism in Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, through the Human Relations Commission, establish a series of small group social events that bring together members of the community to build connections over the issue of anti-Semitism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, with the Human Relations Commission, establish a series of educational events about the recent rise in anti-Semitic acts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Highland Park, will embark on a communications campaign featuring different groups in Highland Park explaining how bias against any marginalized group affects all marginalized groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Highland Park will continue to work closely with all houses of worship to ensure that residents feel safe and secure when practicing their religions within the borough, through the establishment of an ongoing House of Worship Security Chairs Committee with representation from the HPPD for guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park condemn all forms of anti-Semitism, just as it condemned hate against any other marginalized population in its Fair and Welcoming Resolution, and the Mayor and Council 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.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that they have been going over and over this decision with the community divided. When she last spoke on this, and from where she sits, she sees division. There are signs in Highland Park that hate is not welcome, and she has one of those signs and over the last couple of months she has felt like she should remove the sign from her property. As the only black person in this room tonight and that sits here, she knows that it is not every place that she goes in Highland Park that she feels safe. She hears the concerns on both sides, but there is always one person in the room that looks like her that is never considered. A number of years ago, there was a survey done in Highland Park. There were break-ins in different parts of the community and we wanted to find out what is going on and they did a study. When they had young white officers go to that particular community, they were offered bottled water, and they were treated kindly, humanely and with dignity. This happened for 3 weeks in Highland Park and with different officers, not in uniform. They had a black officer that went there and in 1 hour the Police Department received 20 phone calls. Her hope when she saw the sign "hate has no place here" was that it would be a wake-up call for everyone. That has not happened and she has been to houses of worship here in Highland Park where she did not feel welcome and she was not welcome, but she still kept the sign. She keeps in her heart that one day we are going to see a better and much more inclusive, much more tolerant Highland Park. She has sat here for months and months and have met with many of the residents and she has received all the emails, for and against, and even received racially laced emails. Now residents look to her for support one way or the other. She does not like this division that she sees in town. When she came here, she worked hard to get the communities together. There is Karsey Street Park up the street from here. It was said that the people using the park were destroying the park and did not belong here and they did not want them here. One of the first campaigns she did was to reach out to the young people that attended Yeshivas and did not go to school in town and to bring them together and work on stamping out graffiti. They went through the town and beautified the town and the park. She felt that all groups worked together beautifully and she was proud. She agrees that hate has no place here, and there should be no anti-Semitism and that you should be able to walk around town and not fear. This is the same Highland Park when she came here 25 years ago that had a confederate flag in the Department of Public Works. This is the same Highland Park where we got into a heated conversation with Public Safety and she was told that if her house was on fire, they were going to let it burn. With all of that said, we need to self-inspection on each and every one of us. Everyone else in this room can walk out there, safely walk, and blend into society; you have white privilege, she does not and never will. She strives to see a better day when we all can be inclusive, when we all can speak civilly to each other and not just shut your door, ignore and walk away. Both sides want the same thing at the end of day to live harmoniously, we want to live in peace and we want humanity to be respected and to be honored. It is very hard for her to come down on one side or the other, but work must go on. She implored everyone to be intentional in the things that they do, in being inclusive, be intentional in respecting each other, be intentional to others opinion. With that, she will vote yes for this resolution, because we must move on.

Councilman George commented that they all heard his comments the last time when he voted no, because the division had gotten so bad that even Council could not agree to adopt the resolution that they had reached consensus on back on October 3rd. He was the one that had challenged them to sit down until all hours of the night and come up with a compromise, and they did. They tried to reach a compromise and they know they are not making everyone happy. The Council's job in enacting a resolution is to enact a resolution that reflects the community. He looks at Council; we have a representation of ethnicity, of religion and of color, just as our community does. He is glad that they reflect the community to that extent, as well as with its thoughts, its beliefs, its dreams and its aspirations. As a result of that inability to reach the compromise, however, they engaged in another discussion, and quite frankly, the discussions he had with several of the Councilmembers in reaching some type of a new compromise and at least moving towards recognizing that anti-Semitism is a problem, that it is a significant problem, that it affects our residents, and as he has said over and over again, it affects the entire community because we are composed just like this council of different ethnicities, of different colors and of different races, but we are all part of the same overall community. When part of it is disenfranchised, when part of it is unsafe, when part of it has a particular position, when we all share our positions, we all share in that fear, because it is part and parcel of this town. He had some discussions with some of the people on the other side and he had a very frank conversation with Rev. Kaper-Dale yesterday. They shared their positions, forcefully at times, and he was reminded that most of the major changes that started in this country, beginning in the early 50's, started in churches. He was not around for the racial meetings, but his father was in a Baptist church in Plainfield. He remembers churches beginning with the anti-war movement. Ultimately, from the discussions with members of Council, they came up with a compromise. He knows that the issue still exists. He knows that

the audience, individually and one on one, respect each other, that the public sentiment and the public statement that becomes part of the public record is divided. It is divided, and we have called each other names. He does not like that. He thinks that everyone needs to reflect. He thinks they need to go back to respect or he thinks that they will end up like the national debate, which is an embarrassment to him. He would not have adopted this resolution. The resolution that he would have adopted was written by a very noted and famous anti-Semite – “have a Jew not eyes, have a Jew not hands, organs, dimensions, senses affections, passions; fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer. That is what he would have adopted, because that is what he would like the town to do. His son graduates high school and he goes off to the Institute of Technology and he hopes that he enters this greater world where all this debate is going on and he takes that message; not this debate. He voted yes.

Councilman Hale commented that this has been a long process and it has been one of a lot of work and he wanted to thank all of his fellow Councilmembers for the hard work that they have put in. He wanted to thank the community for all of the hard work that they have put into the issue and both sides have worked hard to get their ideas, their positions and thoughts out. There has been a tremendous amount of work and they have heard a tremendous amount of words at this meeting, from the dais and at previous meetings. It also comes time for action and this is the action. He voted yes.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan commented that with the resolution, they did not touch much on the educational piece that had been added into the resolution. This year she is chairing the Human Relations Commission and that is the follow up with this resolution. When she initially joined Council, this room was packed on the immigration and refugee resolution. After that, the resolution was filed in the Clerk's office, and empty chairs. She hopes that everyone will join the Human Relations Commission at their next meeting. March 18th, 7PM, to make sure both sides are heard through the process and the educational piece that has been added into this resolution. She voted yes and it is time for everyone to come together and work on educational pieces for all, with the same energy.

Councilwoman Welkovits commented that a lot has been said, so she is going to keep it brief, as she is not feeling well. We have done many drafts of this resolution in an effort really address anti-Semitism. There were some other agenda items on here in the past, but she does not feel this one really refers too much to BDS. There is no reference to Palestine, because we are not talking about Palestine, we are talking about anti-Semitism. The problem that you get here is that for a safe state of Israel to exist, for Jews that are persecuted to feel that they can live safely in a state of Israel, which they lead, is an incredibly important thing. She is not a fan of the current Israeli administration and she may not be a fan of future administrations or future policies, but she reserves the right to comment on such things and she believes other people should have the same right. However, if the existence of the state of Israel is delegitimized or demonized, it has a huge impact to those Jews that feel it is a necessary safe haven. That she believes is the important part here that people think we are not separating out enough. She does not know how they can separate that out any better. She also unanimously voted in favor of the resolution.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and the discussion to end at 9:15 PM. Public discussion was extended past 9:00 PM on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Boris Bronshteyn, 1158 Raritan Avenue, thanked the Council for voting yes on the resolution. He thinks it is an important distinction to make specifically tying anti-Semitism to Israel. Anti-Semites tie Israel to Jews.

Josh Pruzansky, North 10th Avenue, thanked the Council; it has been along 11 months. This all started in April of last year when someone invited someone who is known to be an anti-Semite, who is known to be anti-Israel, pro BDS, to speak to our children in a taxpayer funded library. That precipitated everything here. There was no thought by anyone in our community to come to the Borough Council to pass an anti-Semitic resolution, to include BDS or what is going on in Israel at all, until this library situation happened. We did not want it and we did not think about it, but that is what happened here and that is how we started and hopefully tonight this is the conclusion of it. BDS is dangerous, it is anti-Semitic, and that is why they are so impassioned about it. Now it is time to move on. He was discouraged tonight when the Clergy member got up and said because the Council is going to pass the resolution, he is now going to encourage a campaign in Highland Park discussing the Palestinian side. There was nothing here that necessitates that. What is happening over in Palestine has nothing to do with Highland Park. Tonight's vote was simply on anti-Semitism. He hopes he will reconsider and use patient dialogue before going on a campaign that would further divide the community. It is time now to move on, it is time for the community to move on, and it is time to repair the relationships that were broken. It is time to bring the community back together as Councilwoman Foster-Dublin mentioned.

Hava Friedenreich, 62 Grant Avenue, commented that today they passed words about what they care about in Highland Park. We are not experts here, but we are going to adopt the one international recognized definition of anti-Semitism and we are going to use it. The fact that it is controversial and the fact that it is divisive is exactly why we needed to do it. We would not have had to do it if people who are anti-Jewish under the guise of just being anti-Israel had not targeted us. She appreciates everyone with the diverse opinions coming together to support the Jewish community in Highland Park. She hopes this is the end of this discussion and she hopes that there are no more incidents and she hopes that JVP and other BDS organizations decide we are not worth it and go somewhere else. At least she knows that whatever does happen, the Council has their backs and that means a lot. She was hoping that Rev. Kaper-Dale would stay for the remaining public discussion as he has pledged to amplify this issue now and all she can do is ask Rev. Kaper-Dale and the members of the Reformed Church that if they are going to make the Israeli/Palestinian conflict their flagship issue, she asks that they hold themselves to the highest moral standard.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented about how they are structuring the public comment sessions at these meetings as there are many people here and it is important that they have an awareness of how this has changed. When you combined the working session with this meeting, it took away an opportunity for public comment. She has sat through multiple working sessions and you bring up some very important issues, things that are relevant to the community, and things that they should have the ability to comment. She knows they are concerned about time limits and she knows that many of these meetings have gotten long and have been very tiring. The fact of the matter is that most people do not stay and you know that if people stay and put the time in to wait, there should be a public comment session even if it is devoted just to those topics. Clearly, you are able to limit certain public comments to certain areas of the agenda. She thinks it is limiting the public interaction and she thinks their role should be to allow for interaction that is more public. She knows that it is tiring and late for them, but every time she has stayed, there have been some important discussions and mostly she has no comments, but sometimes there are people in the public who should have the ability to weigh in and get some feedback, especially if they have stayed that late. You should let people know that if they are going to stay, they will not have that opportunity and will have to wait for the next meeting or catch people individually.

Anna Hailey, 135 North 5th Avenue, commented that she has a sense of heartsickness over her community and that you all, in spite of capturing in your comments before the vote, a lot of weights and difficulty and uncertainty and conflict; the heartsickness of your decision to institutionalize profound disagreement in our community. She goes home tonight being very reflective of what she knows about her community and what it now means to her. She will remain hopeful moving forward that it is a place that she does want to have her children live and thrive and that is not how she is feeling tonight. She thanked her neighbor Judy for her comments earlier. There is a proposal to dismantle or dissolve the very new Equity Commission as well as the Commission for Immigration and Refugee Affairs into mirror committees. There was an unusually engaged high voter turnout primary election that was driven by community concerns about transparency of governance in our town and about community engagement and the notion that amidst utterly unresolved, even unnamed to date, issues around police racial profiling in our town. A commission that was just founded, a report that was done, and barely a year into that commission, leaving spots literally wanting to be filled by community members who are well qualified and dedicated, and leaving them unfilled and dissolving those important roots into a less meaningful avenues for community engagement is galling to her, especially on the night when you have taken this other dramatic step in a very different direction. She encouraged them to reconsider an open discussion to the community in a meaningful way about we how structure community engagement in our governance. She thinks they can do so much better than they did tonight and that they can do much better in naming and addressing these issues in our community.

The public discussion session was extended an additional 9 minutes on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Mark Herman, North 8th Avenue, commented that he submitted written comments to his friends who are Councilmembers and he appreciates the fact that they took an affirmative step to adopt the resolution tonight. He is hoping that this is one of long pattern that we are going to engage in with regard to discussion and education. He hopes that we find ourselves in a better place with less hostility, less anti-Semitism, less rife and less discord. He hopes that we do not only focus on this, an issue that concerns the Jewish community, but that we address all issues of division and discord regardless of race, color, creed, or ethnicity. He thanked them for taking the time.

John Saffron, 1009 South Park Avenue, thanked the Council for all the work and consideration that they put into this. He thinks it is really sad that we have to pass resolutions against hate for particular groups one by one. Growing up as the only Jew in his community the confluence of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment was very clear.

Andrew Getraer, 801 South 2nd Avenue, thanked the Council because he knows that it has been really difficult and he knows that even though it is a unanimous vote, doesn't mean there is a unanimity of feeling about the vote, but he wanted them to know that he thinks they did the right thing. He pledged to them that the education efforts, which now have to really take the spotlight for all the different communities in Highland Park that, he wants to be a part of that. He wants to help the Jewish community to educate and be educated and he wants to be a more united Highland Park community.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that tonight they talked about hate and she wants to end tonight by asking each one of them to make a phone call. The United States is 243 years old and it was built on the backs of slaves. Emmitt Till was a 16-year-old boy that was lynched and tortured and started the civil rights movement. This week in Congress, they finally passed a no lynching law. She requested that they make phone calls to the President so that it is signed into a Federal Law.

Mayor Brill Mittler commented that this has been a difficult journey for many of us in Highland Park from all lifestyles and all points of view. The one thing that she asked of each of them is to have your neighbor's backs. We passed an anti-Semitism resolution tonight. A few years ago, we passed an immigrant and refugee fair and welcoming resolution. She hopes that you feel safer with this resolution and that you will help make your neighbors feel safer. When someone attacks your African American neighbor, stand up, do not turn around. When someone goes after a woman in town because she is wearing a hijab, speak up; do not let people go after her. When a young man in our farmer's market is told to speak English along with his mother, do not let people do that to these residents. If they want to speak their home language to one another, they should. Please stand up for every one of our neighbors. That is what she hopes comes out of all of this.

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

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Norma Vargas-Greenberg to serve as a Regular Member of the Human Relations Commission for a term to expire April 17, 2021.

The above appointment was confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, 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.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

Work Session:

Budget Process/Timeline – Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Governing Body would be receiving their budget notebooks by Friday. The Budget Workshop will commence immediately following the Redevelopment Meeting on March 10th at 7:00 PM. On March 17th, before the introduction of the budget, she will provide a power point presentation on the municipal budget. The budget will be introduced at the April 7th meeting and will need to be adopted by May 5th. The CFO will be present at that meeting.

New Police Officer – Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the Borough has hired two new Police Officers. The one Officer comes from Cape May and the other comes from East Orange. There are still vacancies in the Police Department and two additional Police Officers may retire this year. Lewis Middleton, a previous new hire, is still in the Academy. The Chief would like to see the complement of Police Officers at 30.

Police Sergeant Promotions – Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that they put together procedures for promotions. They are going forward with the process and will use this process going forward. There needs to be a succession plan going forward and that Police Officer are trained. She reported that the Public Safety Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss extending or not extending the Acting Chief/Acting Captain titles. They will also meet with Chief Spruill to discuss the progress of the Acting Chief/Acting Captain. Councilman Hale asked about the benchmarks they were given and will there be a report on those benchmarks. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the Chief put together two pages of benchmarks. They are very well articulated and are good goals.

Library Construction Grant – Library Director Jagers reported that she would be hosting an open house on March 22nd at the Library from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The Library is asking for money and they appreciate the funding that they receive from the Borough and recognized the support received. The State has offered money for renovation projects. The State is agreeing to award 50% of the cost of the project. The Library is in desperate need of renovations to the restrooms, the carpeting, reworking the configuration and the outlets. The last renovation was done in 1994. She distributed a listing of the proposal with the cost estimate and design plan. The State needs the application by the deadline, which is April 6th. The resolution must state that 50% of the cost will be met by the Library/Borough. The total cost of the project is \$944,000. A preliminary proposal done in March of 2018 was less, \$650,000. Changes were made to the proposal, costs have gone up, and the scope of work was amended. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the \$650,000 did not include all of the work that leads up to construction. Councilman Fine noted that the agreement was to do 50% of the work at the time. One of the conditions was that the Library was going to engage in a campaign to raise money for the project. Library Director Jagers reported that the intent is to do a capital funding campaign. There are things on the list that have to be done even if they do not get the grant. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the proposal is \$150,000 more than the last time. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Borough could do a bond ordinance for this funding. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the building is a mess and was built in the 90's. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the kids that go to the Library after school do not feel welcome. She also noted that she does not want to see programs duplicated at the Library that are offered at the Teen Center. Library Director Jagers indicated that the Library is welcoming to all and that there is a shift in the culture at the Library. Her background is in teen services and there is some staff that does not embrace everyone and that has to change.

Goals

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that she has to set up a meeting across committees and departments to get together and talk about the Rutgers bike share program.

Councilman George reported that water and sewer is moving along. The responses to the RFP were received and one of the submittals was over 400 pages. He met this afternoon with the Borough Administrator to go over them preliminarily. The review committee will meet on Thursday and the respondents will be part of the review. As it relates to sidewalks, he is putting together preliminary material about the people that are needed to be involved, timeline, etc. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she had asked Code Enforcement to have one of the Inspectors do a preliminary look at the sidewalks in town to see how bad they are. This will fit nicely into the timeline.

Councilman Fine reported on Splash Park and Borough Administrator Jover noted that the priority has to be the track/turf field as there are time constraints to get the work done. A splash ground is not feasible to be done for this coming summer. Goal is to have it sited and constructed for use in summer of 2021. Councilman Fine reported on the 115th anniversary and the fact that the Historical Commission has thrown around some ideas and the latest is at the Arts in the Park in September they will do a booth that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote and incorporate things for Highland Park. Don Beetham has almost 7,000 digitized photos on Highland Park.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that she is working on sight line at the corners throughout town and it is an ongoing project. The Police Department is doing the measurements and the Department of Public Works is painting the lines.

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 3, 2020

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported on the celebration of cultures and she missed February with Black History Month. March is women's history month. She wanted to know if she could start now and keep going forward. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that she not take on this project on her own and possibly involve other committees such as the Historic Commission. Suggestion to use some of the digital images that Mr. Beetham has and put up historical information on the Borough's website. Discussion about the Human Relations Commission and having the Equity Commission be placed as a standing committee under the Human Relations Commission.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk