

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT HEARINGS TO INVESTIGATE RISING ANTISEMITISM AND RADICALIZATION IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, The people of Chicago affirm their commitment to a city free from hatred, prejudice, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, A significant and rising threat to the peace and security of any community in our city is a threat to every community in our city; and

WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) Hate Crimes Dashboard, the number of hate crimes reported in the city dropped by 25.5% from 2023 to 2024; however, during this same period, anti-Jewish hate crimes rose by 58%; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Chicagoans comprise only 3% of the city's total population, yet anti-Jewish hate crimes accounted for an astounding 37.62% of all hate crimes reported in 2024; meaning more than one third of every hate crime reported in the City of Chicago targeted the Jewish community, a minority in this city; and

WHEREAS, Mere days after the atrocities of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, the City Council's attempt to pass a resolution condemning the attack was met by disruptive and antisemitic chants in the council chambers, prompting the Sergeant-at-Arms and CPD to clear the gallery; and

WHEREAS, Also following the October 7th attack, a national antisemitic and white nationalist group distributed hundreds of hateful antisemitic fliers in Chicago, targeting cars and homes in communities with concentrations of Jewish residents, requiring the City Council to pass an anti-hate-littering ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Also in the aftermath of the attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas War, Chicago saw increasing protests and encampments across college campuses, often creating an environment that was hostile to Jewish students; and

WHEREAS, In January 2024, the Chicago Public School district supported a walkout and march by students that led to Jewish CPS students being harassed and targeted with vandalism and hateful propaganda; and

WHEREAS, In November 2024, two DePaul University students who showed support for Israel were physically assaulted in an alleged coordinated attack that has been charged as a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, Also in November 2024, the President of the Chicago Board of Education was forced to resign following the revelation of his antisemitic social media posts; and

WHEREAS, Anti-war demonstrations across Chicago have frequently featured antisemitic chants, calls for “intifada,” and support for the internationally-recognized terror group Hamas; and

WHEREAS, We have already seen the bloody results of antisemitic indoctrination here in Chicago in that in October 2024 a man was radicalized into shooting an Orthodox Jewish man on his way to synagogue in the West Ridge neighborhood, resulting in hate crime and terrorism charges; and

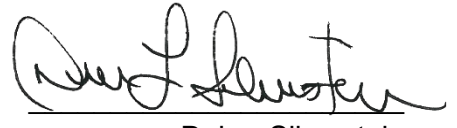
WHEREAS, The radicalization we are seeing on our streets reflects a national trend of violence against Jews, including the recent heinous murders of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim as they left an event at the Capital Jewish museum in Washington, DC, the antisemitic firebombing attack of an Israeli hostage rally in Boulder, Colorado, which injured more than a dozen people, and the arson attack of Governor Josh Shapiro’s residence in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, In these cases and others across the nation, the alleged attackers used solidarity for Gaza or the Palestinian cause as a pretext for carrying out acts of violence against Jews, often while shouting the same slogans and rallying calls that we are hearing on the streets of Chicago, calling further attention to the grave dangers of unfettered antisemitism and radicalization; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-120-518 of the Chicago Municipal Code of the City of Chicago empowers the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), the city’s civil rights agency, to address patterns of bias and recommend preventative policy measures; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Chicago calls upon the CCHR Commissioner to invoke the agency’s power under Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code to call a hearing or hearings to address the pattern of anti-Jewish hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate-based tensions; to receive evidence and hear testimony from victims, witnesses and experts, including the following organizations that represent the Chicago Jewish community—the Jewish United Fund, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee Chicago, and Simon Wiesenthal Center; to invite all relevant state, county, and federal partners to participate and collaborate on solutions as needed; to issue subpoenas as needed; and to commence any and all such hearing or hearings within sixty (60) days of introduction of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council calls on the CCHR to produce a report summarizing its findings and recommendations pursuant to such hearing or hearings within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of its final hearing, to make said report available to members of the public, and to present said report to the City Council Joint Committee on Public Safety and Health and Human Relations, and to issue progress reports regarding said findings and recommendations as part of its annual hate crimes and hate incidents report, as required under Section 2-120-518 of the Chicago Municipal Code, starting with its annual report due July 1, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Silverstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Debra Silverstein  
Alderman, 50th Ward