

Resolution 2023-33

Resolution Condemning the Attacks by Hamas and rising Antisemitism and Islamophobia in our Community

Whereas, the Council of the Borough of Lansdowne unequivocally condemns the attacks by Hamas and any harm that falls upon innocent civilians in Israel, in Palestine, and the occupied territories; and

Whereas, at the end of Sukkot just before 7:00 a.m. local time, a rocket attack perpetrated by the terrorist organization, Hamas, began to hit major cities including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. And, Hamas fighters ferociously targeted civilians, kidnapping, killing, and leaving a trail of terror in the territorial state of Israel precipitating a conflict in which thousands on both sides have been killed; and,

Whereas, the Hamas attacks targeted both Israeli Jews and Arabs, undermining the peaceful coexistence and harmony that must undergird any resolution to the ongoing political conflict; and

Whereas, violence and terrorism can never be justified as means to achieve political goals. Dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful resolutions are the only viable paths towards lasting peace and stability; and

Whereas, the United States House of Representatives passed a bipartisan resolution by a vote of 412-9 condemning the attacks by Hamas on men, women, and children; and

Whereas, the United States President Joseph Biden recognized the right of Israel to defend itself against the Iranian-backed Hamas attacks on men, women, and children and pledged the support of the United States to protect United States citizens affected by the conflict; and

Whereas, the Governor of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro ordered the flags of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to fly at half staff to honor the lives lost in Israel and stated “the attacks on innocent Israeli citizens to be abhorrent and warrant[ing] world condemnation and outrage”; and

Whereas, the conflict initiated in Hamas will result in the further loss of innocent life from both Jewish and Palestinian residents in Israel and Gaza as the conflict escalates; and

Whereas, Council recognizes the importance of supporting the State of Israel, a democratic nation that shares our values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, in its efforts to protect its citizens from acts of terrorism and ensure their safety and security; and

Whereas, Council acknowledges the suffering and loss experienced by innocent Palestinians in the ongoing conflict, and believes that a just and lasting peace can only be achieved through a negotiated settlement that respects the rights and national aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians; and,

Whereas, numerous families in the Borough of Lansdowne are impacted by the loss of life of friends and family in Israel by the attacks, the taking of hostages, and news of the desecration of bodies by Hamas terrorists and the growing reports of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in our region and in our nation; and,

Whereas, the Borough of Lansdowne has endeavored in the past and still endeavors in the present to be a **No Place for Hate** community as designated by the Anti-Defamation League and condemns the targeting of any residents based upon race, religion, sexual identity, gender identity, national origin, age among other groups;

Now Therefore, be it Resolved the Borough Council of Lansdowne supports our residents in condemning the escalation of violence in Israel by Hamas; furthermore, the Borough of Lansdowne joins with our Jewish friends and neighbors in grieving for their friends and family and reject anti-Semitic attacks and rhetoric; similarly, the Borough of Council rejects attacks on Muslims in our community and Islamophobic attacks; likewise, the Borough joins with our neighbors and laments the loss of innocent Palestinian and Jewish life in the escalating conflict.



Benjamin Hover, Council President



Attest: Craig Totaro, Assistant Secretary