45. 24-55709 Recommendation to adopt resolution condemning all forms of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes, and affirming the City's values of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and acceptance in relation to public meetings.

Office or Department:

Suggested Action: Approve recommendation.

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DAWN A. MCINTOSH
City Attorney

GARY J. ANDERSON
Assistant City Attorney

December 3, 2024

45

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution condemning all forms of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes, and affirming the City's values of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and acceptance in relation to public meetings.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to City Council's request on June 11, 2024, the referenced resolution has been prepared and is submitted for the City Council's review and consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney

By: Erin Weesner-McKinley
Deputy City Attorney

EWM;ag A23-03238
01745424.DOCX

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF RACISM, RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC BIAS, DISCRIMINATION, INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE, AND HATE CRIMES, AND AFFIRMING THE CITY'S VALUES OF INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCEPTANCE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach ("City") has a longstanding commitment to advocating for peace, social justice, equity, safety and fostering mutual respect and understanding among all residents and community members; and

WHEREAS, the City has invested greatly in expanding youth opportunities, violence prevention initiatives, and community engagement strategies to keep our diverse communities and vibrant neighborhoods safe; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and dignity of all Long Beach residents also requires a focus on addressing the growing prevalence of hate-motivated speech and incidents; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, the City condemns all forms of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, violent crimes or threats of violence targeting people of certain religions, races, and ethnicities has increased across the nation; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations ("LACCHR") has issued an annual report of hate crime data provided by law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations in the County; and

WHEREAS, the LACCHR recently issued its 2022 Hate Crime Report,

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showing that reported hate crimes rose 18% from 790 in 2021 to 929 in 2022, the second highest number in more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Hate Crime Report also disclosed that 72% of reported hate crimes were of a violent nature; race was the most common motivation accounting for 57% of all hate crimes; African Americans made up 53% of racial hate crime victims; hate crimes using anti-immigrant slurs increased by 12%; religious crimes increased by 41%, and 83% of such crimes were antisemitic; 18% of hate crimes were motivated by sexual orientation; and other striking statistics; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Hate Crime Report further highlighted that the City of Long Beach is not immune to hate crimes, as it experienced small clusters (i.e., more than 3 instances) of hate crimes motivated by religion, sexual orientation, and race in 2022; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that nearly half of all hate crimes are not reported to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach desires to affirm its opposition to and condemnation of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes within the community and, in doing so, affirm Long Beach's values of inclusivity, diversity, equity and acceptance in relation to public meetings, without infringing on public commenters' freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, to support said commitment, the City Council desires to affirm the City's condemnation of the aforementioned forms of hate, and promote and foster inclusivity, diversity, equity, and acceptance, and provide the Mayor and individual members of the City Councill an opportunity to make clear the City's position on speech that promotes racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, islamophobia, agism, ableism, or any other forms of prejudice expressed in public meetings within the confines of the law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby condemns

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and rejects all forms of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes within the community, and affirms the basic rights of all people to live, visit, and work in a safe environment free from discrimination, intimidation, threats, violence, or fear.

Section 2. During public meetings, before an agenda item, and within the confines of the law, the Mayor or individual members of the City Council may affirm the City of Long Beach's stance rejecting all forms of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement of violence, and hate crimes, and promoting and fostering inclusivity, diversity, equity, and acceptance.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2024, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

_____

_____

_____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

_____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

_____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

_____

City Clerk

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