

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 3, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers Room, Memorial Municipal Building, 309 Main Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

**PRESENT :** Mayor Sokolich, Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

**ALSO PRESENT :** Alfred Restaino, Borough Administrator  
Evelyn Rosario, Borough Clerk  
Nadine Drumgoole, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

In accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 adequate notice informing the public of the time and place of this meeting was duly published in the Record issue of December 22, 2020 and the Jersey Journal and Star Ledger issues of December 24, 2020. Said notice was also posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board and Borough website.

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS:**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council woman Kasofsky** and approved **unanimously**, the meeting moved into closed session.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that:

1. This body shall hereafter discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act, certain items which may generally be described as follows:

1. **Personnel:**
  - a. Barrymore Film Center & Museum
  - b. Community Center
  - c. Department of Public Works
  - d. Finance
  - e. Recreation Center

- f. Stage Crew
- g. Tax Assessor
- h. Police Department

The minutes of the discussion in closed session may be disclosed to the public when the Mayor and Council has determined that the need for confidentiality has been satisfied.

The open portion of the executive session will resume upon completion of the closed portion.

The closed portion of the meeting ended at 7:30 P.M. The open portion of the work session began at 7:30 P.M.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

#### **Authorizing Various Change Orders \$5,808.00 Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC Related to the Purchase of Three Custom Pumper Fire Trucks**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize change order #1 in the amount of \$17,424.00 for several additional items as outlined in the revised sales order.

A resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

#### **Authorize Change order No.1 D.L.S. Construction, Inc. Regarding Project Known as Improvements to Jones Road, \$336.20**

A resolution authorizing change order #1 for a reduction to the contract in the amount of \$336.20 will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

#### **Interlocal Services Agreement with Leonia for Fire Department Signal Sharing**

Administrator Restaino stated that the Fort Lee Fire Chief has recommended that the Borough enter into a shared service with the Borough of Leonia for the purposes of radio signal sharing for improved radio communications.

A resolution authorizing the shared service will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

#### **Saint Rocco's Mutual Aid Society 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Feast**

Mr. Phil Arfuso of the Saint Rocco's Mutual Aid Society came forward and requested permission to hold its 92<sup>nd</sup> annual feast in the Borough of Fort Lee on August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirming Funding for the New Construction of a 120 Unit Senior Housing Development, Senior Center and Parking Garage**

A resolution confirming the funding as described above will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Renewal Various Liquor License 2021-2022 Licensing Year**

A resolution authorizing the renewal of various liquor licenses will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Removal of Special Conditions Liquor License No. 0219-33-006-012 Jabadou, Inc. T/A Soho the Beer Spot and Grill**

A resolution authorizing the renewal of the above captioned liquor license along with the removal of the special conditions will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Authorize Place-to-Place Transfer Liquor License No. 0219-44-023-006 Acme Markets, Inc. 2160 Lemoine Avenue**

A resolution authorizing the place-to-place transfer will be acted upon this evening.

**Shared Services with the Bergen County Department of Health Regarding the Employee Assistance Program for the Year 2021**

A resolution authorizing an agreement with the Bergen County Department of Health Services for the participation in the Bergen County Employees Assistance Program for the period retroactively from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 will be placed on the January 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Shared Services County of Bergen Department of Public Works Operations Division ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Grant Program**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize a shared service agreement with the County of Bergen in which the County will perform ADA Ramp construction as described in the agreement.

A resolution authorizing the same will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Shared Services County of Bergen for Animal Control and Feral Cat Services for 2021**

No discussion as this this agreement was acted upon at the October 8, 2020 regular session meeting.

### **Shared Services County of Bergen Road Resurfacing Program**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize a shared service agreement with the County of Bergen in which the County will perform a Road Surfacing Project as described in the agreement.

A resolution authorizing the same will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

### **Authorization to Apply for a New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Recreation Improvement Grant for Project Known as Palisades Park Interstate Park**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize the submission of a Local Improvement Grant application in the approximate amount of \$500,000.00 to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Palisades Interstate Park Project.

A resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

### **Hunterdon County Educational Commission Purchasing Coop**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission for the provision and performance of goods and services.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

### **Used Car Lot Application: 1696 Bergen Boulevard**

Clerk Rosario spoke of the application received for a new used car lot license and stated that the applicant has submitted all the required documents for the issuance of a license.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

### **Cross River Bank Street Closure Request for Street Fair to be Held July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize Cross River Bank to hold a street fair on July 22<sup>nd</sup> on Linwood Avenue between Kelby Street and Bridge Plaza North.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Authorization to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Parks Regarding Project Known as Palisades Interstate Park \$500,000**

A resolution authorizing the submission of a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Urban Parks Initiative Grant application in the amount of \$500,000.00 will be acted upon this evening.

**Authorization to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Regarding Project Known as Palisades Interstate Park \$1,000,000**

A resolution authorizing the submission of a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program Grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 will be acted upon this evening.

**Authorization to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid Grant for Project Known as Harvard Place**

**Authorize the Award of a Contract to Galaxy Management for Consulting Services related to the Barrymore Film Center and Museum**

Upon the receipt of the required political business disclosure statement a resolution authorizing the award of a contract to Galaxy Management for the provisions of consulting services related to the Barrymore Film Center will be placed on a future Mayor and Council meeting agenda for approval.

**Cancel Various Developers Escrow Account Balances**

The Borough's Chief Financial Officer has requested authorization to cancel various Borough developer's escrow account balances and transfer to the Borough's miscellaneous revenue not anticipated account.

A resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> regular session agenda.

**Authorize the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills**

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to authorize the Tax Collector to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Borough of Fort Lee for the Third Installment of 2021 taxes.

A resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

**Click It or Ticket**

The Governing Body expressed their support for the Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization program participation commencing May 24 through June 6, 2021.

A supporting resolution will be placed on the June 17<sup>th</sup> proposed consent agenda.

### **Borough of Fort Lee Unsafe Trees Report**

Administrator Restaino provided a status of the tress located at Whitey Lang. Numerous trees have been determined to be unsafe and need of removal. This removal will take place in the very near future to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public. Replanting of tress will also be done.

### **Amend Ordinance Mandating Generator Installation**

No discussion held.

### **National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

A resolution declaring the first Friday in June to be “National Gun Violence Awareness Day” will be acted upon this evening.

### **LGBTQ Pride Month**

A resolution celebrating and declaring June as “LGBTQ Pride Month” in the Borough of Fort Lee will be acted upon this evening.

### **Marijuana Legislation**

Mr. Chewcaskie stated the Cannabis Legislative Committee met on Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup> and it was adequately noted that local legislation will be left to the local municipalities and that we have until August 21, 2021 to adopt any ordinances.

Mr. Chewcaskie indicated that he would distribute draft ordinances relating to the zoning and tax issues for the governing body’s review. He also indicated that we should involve the planning board so that they may review and determine if there would be sufficient areas within the municipality for dispensaries.

Mr. Chewcaskie briefly spoke of potential distance requirements similar to drug free zones around churches, schools, public parks.

Mr. Chewcaskie indicated that this matter would have to be revisited on July 8, 2021.

### **Condemning the Rise of Anti-Semitism**

A resolution “Condemning the Rise of Anti-Semitism” will be acted upon this evening.

**GRANT APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING**

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ’s Urban Parks Program and Green Acres Land Acquisition and Park Development Program for Project known as the Development of the Palisades Interstate Park Located at Block 7254, Lot 1**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Suh and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to the submission of an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Urban Parks Program and Green Acres Land Acquisition and Park Development Program for Project known as the Development of the Palisades Interstate Park Located at Block 7254, Lot 1 application.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**R-1 LGBTQ Pride Month**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

<p>June 3, 2021 Work Session Meeting</p> <p>Resolution # R-1</p> <p>Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>   </u> Tabled: <u>   </u></p> <p>Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>   </u></p>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE CELEBRATING AND DECLARING JUNE AS “LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH ” IN THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE**

**WHEREAS**, as we celebrate and declare June as Pride Month in the Borough of Fort Lee, we are reminded of what makes Fort Lee great - our remarkable capacity to live together and advance together across every conceivable difference. This June, we stand with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community of Fort Lee, New Jersey as they declare their pride in who they are and who they love; and,

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall riots - the birth of Pride celebrations as we know them. We honor the fight that the LGBTQ community in New York City mounted to protest the hostility and discrimination they faced from police. Stonewall Inn was a refuge for queer people of color, homeless young people, and drag queens. This community united to demand acceptance and respect, at great personal risk to themselves; and,

**WHEREAS**, the protest inspired Pride celebrations across the world and sparked the LGBTQ rights movement in America. Time and time again, this community has worked tirelessly for respect and equality. Their battles have been fought in the courts, from marriage equality to demanding equal protection under the law; and,

**WHEREAS**, their fight continues to this day, as we combat discriminatory laws across the country. While there has been remarkable progress towards acceptance and equality in recent years, members of the LGBTQ community in the United States and around the world still face an unacceptable level of discrimination and violence. We must remain vigilant and push back against those who seek to roll back our progress and continue to make the case that each of us as human beings share a fundamental thing in common - all of us want to be loved, and all of us want to love.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** , that I, Mayor Mark J. Sokolich and the Borough Council of Fort Lee, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as "LGBTQ Pride Month", as we celebrate and support our LGBTQ community's right to live their lives out loud during Pride month and every month.

**R-2 National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

<p>June 3, 2021 Work Session Meeting</p> <p>Resolution # R-2</p> <p>Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>   </u> Tabled: <u>   </u></p> <p>Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>   </u></p>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has an average of 465 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 people. New Jersey has the 46<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and



**WHEREAS**, cities across the nation, including in the Borough of Fort Lee, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID- 19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to -

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) the loved ones of those victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor Mark J. Sokolich of the Borough of Fort Lee declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

**R-3 Authorization to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Parks Regarding Project Known as Palisades Interstate Park \$500,000**

June 3, 2021  
Work Session Meeting

Resolution # R- 3

Carried:  Defeated:  Tabled:

Council	Motion	Second	Ye s	No	Abstain	Absent
<b>Sohmer</b>		X	X			
<b>Yoon</b>			X			
<b>Suh</b>			X			
<b>Sargenti</b>			X			
<b>Kasofsky</b>			X			
<b>Cervieri</b>	X		X			

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, URBAN PARKS INITIATIVE GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), is providing grants through the Urban Parks initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee desires to further the public interest by obtaining grant funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the State to fund the following project: Palisades Interstate Park Project at a cost of \$4,000,000.00;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the governing body resolves that Mark J. Sokolich or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) make application for such a grant,
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant; and

**WHEREAS**, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Urban Parks initiative, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with applicable policies and laws, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Borough of Fort Lee

1. That the Mayor of the above named body is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as the Palisades Interstate Park Project;
2. That, in the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
3. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

2021 CERTIFICATION

I, Evelyn Rosario, RMC, Borough Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Fort Lee at a meeting held on the 3rd day of June 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the official seal of this body this 3rd day of June 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Rosario, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**R-4 Authorization to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Regarding Project Known as Palisades Interstate Park \$1,000,000**

Council	Motion	Second	Ye s	No	Abstain	
<b>Sohmer</b>		X	X			June 3, 2021 Work Session Meeting  Resolution # R- 4  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated:___ Tabled:___  Approved on Consent Agenda:___
<b>Yoon</b>			X			
<b>Suh</b>			X			
<b>Sargenti</b>			X			
<b>Kasofsky</b>			X			
<b>Cervieri</b>	X		X			

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, GREEN ACRES PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 in the form of a \$1,000,000.00 matching grant and, if available, a \$0.00 loan, from the State to fund the following project(s): Palisades Interstate Park Project at a cost of \$4,000,000.00;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the governing body/board resolves that Mark J. Sokolich, or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant; and

**WHEREAS**, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is willing to use the State's funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** BY THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE

- 1. That the Mayor of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as Palisades Interstate Park Project;
- 2. That the applicant has its matching share of the project, if a match is required, in the amount of \$3,000,000.00;
- 3. That, in the event the State's funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
- 4. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
- 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

2022 CERTIFICATION

I, Evelyn Rosario, RMC, Borough Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Fort Lee at a meeting held on the 3rd day of June 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the official seal of this body this 3rd day of June 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Rosario, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**R-5 Authorize Place-to-Place Transfer Liquor License No. 0219-44-023-006 Acme Markets, Inc., 2160 Lemoine Avenue**

June 3, 2021 Work Session Meeting
Resolution # R- 5
Carried: X Defeated:    Tabled:

Council	Motion	Second	Ye s	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh		X	X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING A PLACE-TO-PLACE LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE NO. 0219-44-023-006, "ACME MARKETS, INC. ", 2160 LEMOINE AVENUE, FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY 07024**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been filed for a Place-to-Place

transfer of Plenary Distribution License Number 0219-44-023-006, issued to "Acme Markets, Inc." for a pocket license with a mailing address of Attn: James W. Burch, Esq., c/o Albertsons Companies, Inc., 250 E. Parkcenter Boulevard, Boise, ID 83706; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee does hereby approve, effective June 4, 2021, the Place-to-Place transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Distribution licensed premises, from its pocket status to its new location at 2160 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024 and does hereby direct the Municipal Clerk to endorse the license certificate as follows: "This license, subject to all of its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to premises located at 2160 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024."

**R-6 Condemning the Rise of Anti-Semitism**

Council	Motion	Second	Ye s	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti			X			

<p>June 3, 2021 Work Session Meeting</p> <p>Resolution # R- 6</p> <p>Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>    </u> Tabled: <u>    </u></p> <p>Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>    </u></p>
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Kasofsky	X		X			
Cervieri			X			

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE CONDEMNING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM**

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 the United States Department of State adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "working definition" of antisemitism that states: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of State outlines the following contemporary examples:

- "Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews (often in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion).
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective— especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations"; and

**WHEREAS**, severe recent incidents of antisemitism have occurred in and around New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office 2020 Bias Incident Report reported 298 anti-Jewish bias incidents across New Jersey in 2020, which accounts for 76% of reported incidents motivated by the victim's religion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee finds that these hateful acts are detrimental to fostering safe and harmonious communities; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of the Borough of Fort Lee have a rich history of being tolerant to all faiths and religions; and

**WHEREAS**, an attack on one faith or religion is an attack on all,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee hereby denounces and unequivocally condemns all forms of antisemitism and hateful acts against any religion or ethnic group; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee will never tolerate acts of this kind and stand in solidarity with all victims of hatred and united against expressions of antisemitism.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened to the public for discussion.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Response</u>
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No public comments

There being no further discussions the meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Suh, at 8:34 PM

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Evelyn Rosario, RMC, CMC  
Municipal Clerk