

RESOLUTION NO. 2311-2023

SUPPORTING ANTI-HATE CRIME BILLS

Whereas, individuals and groups in America are targeted every day based on their race, religion, disability, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. This type of behavior may at times be categorized as hate crimes; and,

Whereas, over the past several years, our nation has seen innocent lives taken in a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, among others; and,

Whereas, according to the Pennsylvania State Police website, “hate crimes are believed to be grossly unreported in Pennsylvania and nationwide.” Nevertheless, numerous reports indicate that has been a significant increase in the number of hate crimes committed throughout the United States; and,

Whereas, in the FBI’s 2021 supplemental report updated in March 2023, law enforcement agencies reported 10,840 total incidents of hate crime and 12,822 victims, indicating that hate crimes remain a real threat to communities across the country; and,

Whereas, the number of antisemitic incidents of assault, vandalism, and harassment are at an all-time high, and according to data compiled by the Anti-Defamation League, Pennsylvania alone saw a 65% increase in antisemitic incidents last year, part of a trend of rising hate and extremist action across the Commonwealth; and,

Whereas, five years after the Tree of Life synagogue shooting, State Representatives Dan Frankel and Napoleon Nelson introduced a package of four bills that would strengthen Pennsylvania’s hate crime laws to ensure more comprehensive and inclusive protections, better training for law enforcement and educators, stronger reporting mechanisms on college campuses, and increased opportunities for restorative approaches when appropriate in the wake of hate crimes; and,

Whereas, recognizing the importance of stronger protections, the Township of Haverford Board of Commissioners wishes to give its full support to this important package of bills, which includes: House Bill 1027 - Expanding the Ethnic Intimidation Statue, House Bill 1024 - Law Enforcement Training on Investigating, Identifying, and Reporting Crimes of Ethnic Intimidation, House Bill 1025 - Reporting Systems in Educational Settings, and House Bill 1026

- Requirement for Hate Crimes Offenders to Complete Diversity Classes and Allowing Community Impact Statements.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford urges our state lawmakers to promptly pass this package of supporting anti-hate crime bills, including House Bill 1027, House Bill 1024, House Bill1025, and House Bill 1026.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford also urges all Pennsylvanians and Haverford Township residents to speak up against hatred whenever they see it so that we can create a more just, peaceful, and inclusive society for everyone.

Resolved this 8th day of May, 2023.

Township of Haverford

By: Judy Trombetta

Vice President

Attest: David R. Burman, Township Manager