

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
FIFTH DISTRICT



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## **Councilmember Paul Koretz Condemns Latest Antisemitic Acts in the Cities of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills; Leads Efforts in Los Angeles to Formally Adopt More Expansive Definition of Antisemitism**

**October 24, 2022 – Los Angeles, CA** – Following a weekend in which antisemitic banners were draped on an overpass of the San Diego (405) Freeway flanked by demonstrators giving Nazi salutes and residents of Beverly Hills and Westwood in the Fifth Council District woke up to antisemitic flyers stuffed in sand-filled baggies on their lawns Councilmember Koretz condemned the latest acts, stating, "Disgusted and disheartened are just two words that describe my feelings about the latest acts of antisemitism in Council District Five. Unfortunately, these types of incidents have become all too common in Los Angeles and nationwide. As a son of a Holocaust survivor who has made "never forget" central to my personal mission to lead with compassion and treat all others with dignity, I am incredibly dismayed that this kind of discrimination and hateful propaganda continues to grow in today's day and age."

In April 2022, the Anti-Defamation League's [Anti-Semitic Incident Audit](#) noted a startling rise in antisemitic hate incidents and crimes in Los Angeles area - antisemitic incidents rose 29% in 2021 and 217% from 2017 to 2021 and California and the United States have reached all-time highs.

"The administration of former President Donald Trump emboldened these factions of hate that had previously been relegated to dark, dusty corners of society," said Councilmember Koretz. "The space and encouragement that was provided by Donald Trump caused an uptick in antisemitic hate crimes and incidents, the likes of which we haven't seen in decades. This is why last week I introduced legislation seeking to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism in the City of LA."

In response to increasing reports of hate crimes and incidents, particularly antisemitic attacks on Jewish-Americans by high-profile celebrities, and recently uncovered comments made by local elected officials, Councilmember Koretz introduced a Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, to adopt the working definition of Anti-Semitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which has been adopted by 37 United Nations member countries, including the United States, and 320 non-federal government entities including 22 U.S. States and several cities.

"As we continue to experience the latest wave of anti-Semitism in LA, we need to expand the tools we have to fight this bigotry," said Councilmember Blumenfield. "There are very powerful voices fanning the flames of hate toward Jewish people and it's imperative that those of us who believe in an inclusive Los Angeles, unite in this fight and make it crystal clear that anti-Semitic rhetoric, displays and attacks will not stand."

That definition recognizes that: "Anti-Semitism 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."

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If adopted, City departments, staff, elected and appointed officials, and contract agencies would be required to familiarize themselves with the IHRA definition of antisemitism, associated IHRA reference materials, examples, and articles, and incorporate their use and guidance in day-to-day operations.

The definition was recently adopted by the City of Beverly Hills and the City of West Hollywood.

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