

Whereas the City of Markham is Canada's most diverse City and is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities; and,

Whereas diversity is one of Markham's seven strategic priorities and we strive to develop and maintain an environment where everyone feels welcome to participate and where respect and acceptance is practiced in words and actions by all; and,

Whereas in June 2010, Markham City Council adopted the Diversity Action Plan, and the City has continued to demonstrate leadership as it embeds diversity and inclusion into our planning and design, our processes and policies, and our staff training and education; and,

Whereas in September 2018, the City of Markham endorsed the Inclusion Charter for York Region as a community initiative, bringing together businesses, community organizations, police services, hospitals, school boards, conservation authorities and agencies who share a vision to foster a welcoming and inclusive community; and,

Whereas we have a shared responsibility to stop antisemitism in all its forms through education and public consciousness as antisemitic demonstrations continue to threaten communities and undermine democracy; and

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 that consists of 34 countries, including Canada, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism; and

Whereas six per cent of York Region residents identify themselves as Jewish, which is a higher representation than Canada and Ontario; and,

Whereas on February 27, 2020, Bill 168, the Combating Antisemitism Act which directly mentions IHRA, unanimously passed a second reading in the Ontario legislature with all-party support; and

Whereas Markham City Council has previously declared January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That the City of Markham adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as adopted at the IHRA plenary on May 26, 2016 as follows: *"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 further,

That this decision be forwarded to the Office of the Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth; the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries of Ontario; the Chair of the Province of Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy; the Regional Municipality of

York; York Region municipalities; the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs as well as other National and Provincial Jewish organizations and the City of Markham's Race Relations Committee.