

**TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, CONDEMNING ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS
AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF HATEFUL ACTS BASED RACE,
COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, SEX,
GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, SEXUAL
ORIENTATION, OR DISABILITY**

WHEREAS, antisemitism remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a working definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, the definition reads in full:

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 IHRA working definition of antisemitism has become a widely used definition of antisemitism across the world. Since its adoption by the IHRA, dozens of countries, cities, government institutions, universities, civil society organizations and sport clubs have used the definition as a resource in projects that seek to educate on the ways that antisemitism appears, as well as for initiatives focused on recognizing and countering manifestations of antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, anti-Jewish hate crimes in 20 major U.S. cities surged to 373 incidents in 2021, an increase of nearly 59% from 2020, according to a report by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino; and

WHEREAS, according to data compiled by the Anti-Defamation League, Pennsylvania alone saw a 65% increase in antisemitic incidents of assault, vandalism, and harassment last year; and,

WHEREAS, the violence and abhorrent rhetoric comes both in person and online; and

WHEREAS, there have been a number of recent anti-Semitic vandalism incidents in the Township; and

WHEREAS, many individuals and groups in America are targeted every day based on their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability. 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 there 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, such bigotry, violence, hate, antisemitism and racism are completely at odds with the values of Tredyffrin Township and have no place in Tredyffrin Township; and,

WHEREAS, when left unchecked, these acts enable prejudice and active discrimination, threatening the rule of law and human rights protections. They embolden intolerant members of society wherever they may be; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors denounces these acts in the strongest possible way and stands with the communities that are outraged by these acts of racism; 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 Tredyffrin Township Board of Supervisors wishes to give its full support to this important package of bills, which includes: House Bill 1027 - Expanding the Ethnic Intimidation Statute, House Bill 1026 - Requirement for Hate Crimes Offenders to Complete Diversity Classes and Allowing Community Impact Statements, House Bill 1025 - Reporting Systems in Educational Settings, and House Bill 1024 - Law Enforcement Training on Investigating, Identifying, and Reporting Crimes of Ethnic Intimidation.

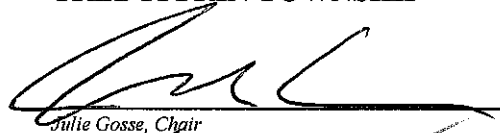
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of Tredyffrin Township to utilize the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and attendant illustrative examples, in a continuing endeavor to cooperate with recognized organizations in educating residents about identifying acts of antisemitism, and available procedures for reporting acts of antisemitism that have occurred or may occur in Tredyffrin Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township urges our state lawmakers to promptly pass this package of anti-hate crime bills, including House Bill 1027, House Bill 1026, House Bill 1025, and House Bill 1024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township urges all Pennsylvanians and Tredyffrin 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 AND ADOPTED on this 22nd day of May, 2023.

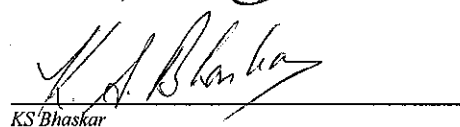
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP**



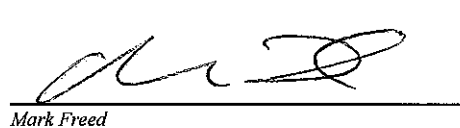
Julie Gosse, Chair



Matthew Holt, Vice-Chair



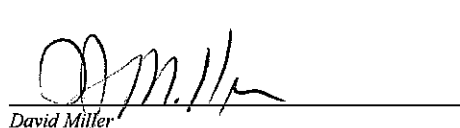
KS Bhaskar



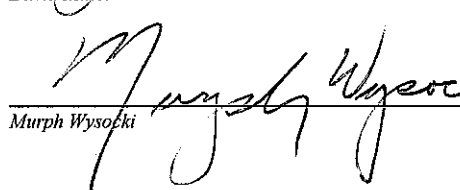
Mark Freed



Sharon Humble



David Miller



Murph Wysocki

ATTEST:



William F. Martin, Township Manager/Secretary

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP

Supervisors
Julie Gosse, *Chair*
Matthew Holt, *Vice-chair*
KS Bhaskar
Mark Freed
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Township Manager
William F. Martin

Township Solicitor
Gawthrop Greenwood PC

April 21, 2023 Board of Supervisors Statement

We've had a second incident of antisemitic vandalism. We want to state clearly and unambiguously that this reprehensible behavior is completely at odds with the values of Tredyffrin Township. We denounce whoever did this in the strongest possible way and stand with the community that is outraged by this act of racism.

The Tredyffrin Township Police Department will aggressively investigate all leads until a successful identification and subsequent charges can be filed on those responsible.

For anyone with a tip or homeowner surveillance video that may assist our Police investigation, please call them in and an officer or detective will follow-up.

TTPD- [610-647-1440](tel:610-647-1440) or the Police Anonymous Tip section of the Township website - [Anonymous Tipline | Online Forms | Tredyffrin Township](#).

The Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors