

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 2967

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 269 RELATING TO PUBLIC NUISANCES AND ENHANCED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO COMMIT CERTAIN VIOLATIONS WHILE EVIDENCING RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC ANIMUS; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE HOUSE BILL 269; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida State Representatives Mike Caruso and Vicki Lopez have introduced House Bill 269 (the "Bill") which is meant to address many of the recent attacks on religious institutions and to help combat the hateful acts which have been prevalent in the recent rise in antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, the Bill, if enacted, would provide enhanced criminal penalties for persons who commit certain violations while evidencing religious or ethnic animus and designate certain acts as hate crimes including the distribution of materials that evidence religious or ethnic animus; the harassment of persons wearing religious-based garments commonly associated with a particular religious or ethnic group; and the willful and malicious defacement to a religious or ethnic cemetery or gravesite, memorial /plaque /statue /museum, and any school or community center; and

WHEREAS, while the Bill is still in review and subject to modification, the Town Commission desires to support the Bill given the Town's demographics and many places of worship; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the Bill, and urges the Florida Legislature to approve the Bill, which enhances criminal penalties for persons who commit certain violations while evidencing religious or ethnic animus; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. That each of the above-stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Support. The Town Commission hereby supports Bill and urges the Florida legislature to approve the Bill.

Section 3. Transmittal. The Town Clerk is directed to transmit this Resolution to the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, Florida State House of Representatives Speaker Paul Renner, Florida State Senate President Kathleen C. Passidomo, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for their review.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.


PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 14th day of February, 2023.

Motion By: Mayor Danzinger

Second By: Commissioner Landsman


FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Fred Landsman	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Marianne Meisheid	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Jeff Rose	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Shlomo Danzinger	<u>Yes</u>



Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra McCready, MMC
Town Clerk



Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney