

April 22, 2026

Hon. Inna Vernikov and Hon. Eric Dinowitz
New York City Council Members
District 48, Brooklyn and District 11, Bronx
Co-Chairs, The Taskforce to Combat Antisemitism
250 Broadway,
New York, NY 10007

Dear Co-Chairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to share the work of the New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes' (OPHC) work with the Taskforce to Combat Antisemitism. We look forward to a productive collaboration on reducing hate and bias, including antisemitism, in New York City.

OPHC addresses antisemitism as part of its broader mandate to prevent all forms of hate and bias. OPHC works to strengthen relationships and foster dialogue to prevent harm by: (i) helping institutions access services; and (ii) providing educational materials and preventative programming. Below, we outline the myriad of pathways OPHC takes to address this important issue.

Antisemitism manifests as both criminal acts and non-criminal bias incidents. Hate crimes involve criminal conduct motivated by bias, such as vandalism or assault, and are investigated by the NYPD. Bias incidents, while not criminal, include harmful language or actions such as slurs or antagonistic behavior that have a significant negative impact on individuals and communities. OPHC works to coordinate support, education, and programming to prevent future incidents. We curate the foundation for meaningful relationships among New Yorkers that outlast the negative impact of the hurtful event. The goal is to foster engagement across cultural and religious lines in diverse communities throughout the city. OPHC champions a holistic, citywide approach to hate crimes prevention through its convening of the Interagency Committee on Hate Crimes, which aligns more than 20 agencies.

Additionally, OPHC maintains the Violent Hate Crime Notification System to ensure timely outreach to elected officials and other critical parties following incidents. We engage houses of worship, faith leaders, and community institutions across all five boroughs through interfaith initiatives such as the OPHC Interfaith Council for Words and Symbols of Peace and Hate, dialogue-based programming, and partnerships with community-based organizations. OPHC's Partners Against The Hate program (PATH), supports a network of over 50 organizations delivering culturally responsive programming and outreach in communities most impacted by hate and bias. Under the auspices of PATH and the Interfaith Council, OPHC convenes and participates in press conferences and community responses following hate crimes and bias incidents, ensuring visible solidarity and coordinated support. Further, OPHC advances prevention through the Community Project Grants Program, which funds grassroots organizations, schools, and community groups to develop initiatives that address bias and

strengthen community-based responses. In fiscal year 2025, grant awardees in all five boroughs engaged more than 32,000 people and hosted 52 events, with over 12,000 participants, that show how community-centered investments can foster stronger engagement and influence positive change.

Like our partner organizations, OPHC centers its work on grassroots action. We believe that small-scale change inspires greater and more sustainable positive shifts in communities. We engage students and educators across all levels of schooling, through programming that builds cultural awareness, empathy, and respect. Initiatives such as HeARTwork Against Hate, NYC Youth Moving Forward Against Hate, and the Youth Ambassador Leadership Program (YALP) equip young people with the tools to recognize and challenge bias while simultaneously supporting educators in creating inclusive learning environments. Additionally, OPHC partners with institutions like the Holocaust Center at Wagner College to provide immersive learning experiences. At the Holocaust Center, diverse groups of students engage with the history and impact of the Holocaust, covering topics that include, but are not limited to, the negative impact of harmful symbols like the swastika, the consequences of hate, and the importance of resilience. In 2025 alone, over 3,000 students and faculty, representing more than 70 public schools, participated in OPHC-funded tours and programming at the Wagner College Holocaust Center. These experiences draw connections to the Holocaust and other global atrocities, including the Rwandan genocide, helping students understand the broader implications of dehumanization and violence.

OPHC continues to build trust, strengthen relationships, and create spaces for dialogue by maintaining sustained, consistent relationships with community partners through organized events and a fixed cadence of engagement and meetings, ensuring that prevention remains at the center of New York City's approach to addressing antisemitism and all forms of hate. We look forward to working with the City Council to address this important issue facing New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Vijah Ramjattan

Executive Director

Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes



Wednesday, April 22, 2026

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL GERBER
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
TASK FORCE TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM**

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

April 22, 2026

Good afternoon Chair Vernikov, Chair Dinowitz, and members of the Council's Task Force to Combat Antisemitism. My name is Michael Gerber and I am the Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters for the NYPD. I am joined here today by Assistant Chief Andrew Arias, Commanding Officer of the Detective Bureau's Specialty Enforcement Division. On behalf of Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, we thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding hate crime reporting.

Every day the NYPD investigates a wide range of crimes across New York City. Among the most infuriating and heartbreaking are hate crimes, offenses in which the victim is targeted because of one or more protected characteristics. These crimes tear at the fabric of society, both through the acts themselves and the underlying hatred that seeks to divide us. We must hold the perpetrators accountable and give our support to the victims—both the individuals targeted and the communities of which they are a part. As part of this critical, shared work, members of the public need clear, accurate, and timely data about hate crime activity.

That data shows that while Jews make up roughly 10% of New Yorkers, more than 50% of the hate crimes in the city in the first quarter of 2026 were classified as anti-Jewish. This was true in 2024 and 2025 as well. Antisemitism has been a source of violence and destruction for millennia. It is on the rise globally, and it is a reality in our city today. That said, our procedures regarding hate crime reporting are the same across all types of hate crime, and so I am going to speak about those procedures more broadly.

When it comes to hate crimes, there are two data sets that are important. One is the set of confirmed hate crimes. After an incident is reported as a possible hate crime, the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force—an elite group of detectives—determines whether the incident is properly categorized as a hate crime under governing law and devotes tremendous resources and expertise to bringing those responsible to justice. The number of such confirmed hate crime cases, where they occurred, the nature of the crimes, and their breakdown by the type of bias at issue, is all crucial information. This confirmed hate crime information is the data of record for the NYPD when it comes to hate crime activity in the city. It is carefully measured and rigorously maintained within Department systems and used for crime analysis. It is provided to the state and the FBI for crime reporting purposes. And it is shared with the public through the Hate Crimes Dashboard, NYC Open Data, and our Hate Crimes Summary Reports. In particular, the Hate Crimes Dashboard provides this information in a user-friendly manner and enables anyone to review and visualize hate crime data in different ways. The Dashboard includes incident-level data regarding every confirmed hate crime in New York City and whether arrests have been made in connection with those hate crimes.

I want to emphasize that nothing about how we calculate and track confirmed hate crimes has changed at all.

There is a second important data set when it comes to hate crimes, and that is reported hate crimes—that is, incidents flagged as possible hate crimes for investigation by the Task Force, whether because of information provided by a complainant or witness, observations by patrol, incidents that have been flagged by communal organizations or civic leaders, or any other reason to refer a case to the Task Force. To be clear, not all of these incidents will be confirmed as hate crimes by the Task Force. As our detectives investigate, they may determine that, on the evidence before them and under the requirements of state law, some of these reports cannot be classified as hate crimes. There can be various reasons for this. Sometimes the crime in question is not a specified offense under the New York State Hate Crimes Act and therefore, even if the crime is bias-based, it cannot be categorized as a hate crime under New York law. Sometimes our investigation reveals that the victim was not targeted because of a protected characteristic, but for some other reason entirely. And sometimes, it may in fact be a hate crime, but the evidence is not there to support the charge. Indeed, under New York law the fact that a victim is a member of a protected class is not legally sufficient, without more, to charge a hate crime. An individual may perceive that they were the victim of a hate crime, and they may be right; but the law requires more before we can bring that charge.

Until this month, the NYPD had not systematically tracked, and had never released to the public, the universe of reported hate crimes referred to the Task Force for investigation. This set of possible hate crimes is not the data that we rely on for crime analysis or for state and federal reporting purposes. It is distinct from the confirmed hate crime data that reflects the investigative work of the Task Force. But the data regarding reported hate crimes reflects something else: it captures what victims perceive to be hate crimes. That understanding, by the individual victim and by that victim's community, matters. It can result in pain and trauma that is separate and distinct from whether something qualifies as a hate crime. Tracking and sharing data regarding reported hate crimes expresses the significance of this experience by victims and communities. And trends in reported hate crimes are a way of gauging, over time, how victims and their communities perceive criminal activity.

That is why, as the Police Commissioner announced several weeks ago, we are now reporting monthly on both confirmed hate crimes and reported hate crimes. This will enhance transparency and foster public discourse, giving data not only on what constitute hate crimes under the law, but also on what victims experience as hate crimes. The Department has long prioritized hate crimes investigations and the work of the Task Force, but Commissioner Tisch identified a deficiency in our reporting and ordered the Department to correct it. We are proud to take this step, which we believe places the NYPD at the forefront of hate crime reporting in the country.

I also want to address a change that we made in the beginning of March, when we stopped using a data set that we had previously appended to our monthly crime reports. That data did not reflect confirmed hate crimes. It did not reflect reported hate crimes. It was numbers pulled from an informal tracker that had a mix of reported hate crimes that had not yet been classified by the Task Force *and* confirmed hate crimes. These were hodgepodge numbers, resulting in clarity about

nothing. When the Police Commissioner learned how this data was being generated, she directed the Department to stop reporting in this way. That step, like the decision to start sharing reported hate crime numbers as well as confirmed hate crime numbers, was taken at the direction of Commissioner Tisch. As is typical of crime data reporting more generally, these changes in hate crime reporting were not at the initiative or direction of anyone at City Hall. We firmly believe that these were the right decisions, and we stand by them. That said, we should have done a better job explaining what we were doing and why we were doing it. And, on reflection, we should have made the changes at one time, rather than in two steps.

Anti-Jewish hate crimes, and all hate crimes, are a scourge on our city. The NYPD is proud of its daily, relentless efforts to solve those crimes, achieve justice for victims, and keep New Yorkers safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today, and we look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

OFFICE OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL TASK FORCE TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

OVERSIGHT: REPORTING ON ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES &
BIAS INCIDENTS IN NEW YORK CITY

APRIL 22, 2026

MICHAEL E. McMAHON

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I: OVERVIEW

Good afternoon. It is an honor and pleasure to submit testimony before the City Council today. I hope you and your families are well and safe and I look forward to continuing our work together to improve our criminal justice system in line with our shared goal of better protecting and serving the people of the City of New York.

At a time when we face heightened security threats and an increase in antisemitism and hate-based acts both here in New York City and abroad, protecting our fellow New Yorkers has never been more important. As Staten Island's chief law enforcement officer, I am incredibly proud of all the work we have done in my office, together with our partners in the NYPD, and the many diverse communities that call our beloved Staten Island home, to make our borough a safer place.

Since taking office in 2016, the men and women of my office have worked tirelessly to ensure that all Staten Islanders can live free of fear or violence perpetrated against them simply because of who they are or how they choose to worship. For the past 10 years, my office has proudly maintained a longstanding policy whereby once indicted of a hate crime, the defendant must plead guilty to that charge or risk facing trial, ensuring justice for our victims, accountability for defendants, and strengthening trust in the criminal justice system overall.

When these reprehensible incidents do occur, or when public spaces have been defaced with antisemitic or other hate-based graffiti, symbols and language, the Richmond County District Attorney's Office has worked with our partners in the NYPD and other law enforcement agencies to respond, investigate, and prosecute those accountable. With that said, ignorance and hate cannot be simply prosecuted away – we can prevent these heinous acts from ever occurring through education and by promoting tolerance and inclusivity in our communities.

In 2018, alongside the Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island, I formed the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force – a community-based organization comprised of local ambassadors who represent communities that are historically targeted and victimized by hate-based crime. As a part of our SILOVE campaign, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force works together with all our communities to develop solutions and inform our neighbors that our differences make us stronger

and hate has no place in our borough. The Hate Crimes Task Force creates educational materials to be distributed to Staten Island students informing them of the many different populations that make up our borough and the meaning behind the symbols of hate often directed toward these individuals. Further, the Task Force works to develop legislative recommendations with the aim of strengthening protections for vulnerable groups and developing an early intervention model for those who are expressing hatred but not yet acting on their vitriol.

Enacting the founding mission of the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force over the last eight years has enabled me and my office to foster strong relationships with a multitude of community organizations. In establishing these connections, RCDA has developed a particularly special partnership with the Wagner College Holocaust Center, acting as the primary sponsor for the center's annual "Youth Stand Up to Hate Day", a unique event produced to edify our island's youth about the unimaginable tragedies of the Holocaust through the performing arts for four years running. Coinciding with the observance of Yom HaShoah, the 2026 Youth Stand Up to Hate Day was organized just last week, with thousands of Staten Island's students and educators witnessing the Wagner College Holocaust Center's moving production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* brought to life through the masterful storytelling of Wagner College Theatre actors. So long as the Wagner College Holocaust Center produces a "Youth Stand Up to Hate Day" performance, they will have my fervent support for educating our students and ourselves about the abhorrent realities of the World War II era is a difficult but necessary measure we must continue to take to preserve the legacies of those we lost and ensure that such history never repeats itself.

Ensuring that the stories and survivors of the Holocaust are never forgotten, my office has also partnered with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in recent years to provide our prosecutors and support staff with an interactive and educational program to better understand this important and troubling period of history. Entitled "What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust Law Enforcement Training", this thought-provoking program examines policing within the legal and political framework of Nazi Germany, tracing how institutions charged with protecting the public were transformed into instruments of oppression. Through historical images, case studies, and guided discussion, trained facilitators will engage members of our office in a dialogue about the role of prosecutors and law

enforcement today, and the importance of core values—integrity, accountability, tolerance, and respect—in safeguarding our system of justice. At a time when antisemitism and Holocaust denial are sadly on the rise, this powerful curriculum is absolutely vital and we look forward to partnering with the United States Holocaust Museum once again on Wednesday, May 6th at the College of Staten Island’s Williamson Theatre.

In an attempt to better promote Staten Island's rich diversity, my office and the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force began and have proudly hosted our annual Multicultural Food Festival for the past three years. Featuring an impressive array of cuisine representing the countless cultures and people that make Staten Island the great place that it is, as well as performances from local community groups, thousands of Staten Islanders have joined us in recent years to celebrate the myriad of different cultures, customs, and cuisines that make our unique borough so special.

As exemplified by the Multicultural Food Festival, it is my belief that bonds can be forged through breaking bread. That is why my office routinely participates in food distributions organized by various organizations including the Anita Fein Food Pantry, Project Hospitality, MET Council, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and the New York Muslim Jewish Community Help Center. By helping to nourish our neighbors in body, we too can help to nourish them in soul. At a time when antisemitism and religious intolerance are on the rise, it is more pertinent than ever for each and every New Yorker to raise our voices when we see injustice and care for those around us not just through our words, but through actions that inspire courage and understanding.

Conclusion:

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of my testimony, and I look forward to working with this body and its members to further our shared mission of a safer and more just New York City for all. Thank you.



Testimony of Judy Baum
Co-Chair - Jewish Community Relations Council of New York
Government Affairs Committee

NYC Council Taskforce to Combat Antisemitism
4/22/26

Good Afternoon Chairs Dinowitz and Vernikov and members of the Taskforce to Combat Antisemitism. I am Judy Baum, Co-Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Government Affairs Committee. On behalf of JCRC-NY, which is the primary community relations entity for the Jewish people in the metropolitan NY area, we thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing regarding Reporting on Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in New York City.

I stand here today to express both our admiration for the NYPD and for NYPD Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch as well as our concern regarding in what manner the NYPD considers what constitutes an antisemitic hate crime.

Since taking the helm, Commissioner Tisch has brought a much-needed, data-driven discipline to the NYPD. In an era where security challenges are increasingly complex, she has refused to settle for the status quo. Instead, she has leaned into her deep expertise in technology and infrastructure to modernize the NYPD, ensuring that the NYPD is not just reactive, but proactive in keeping all New Yorkers safe.

I was profoundly sad to note that in March, we saw a 152% spike in antisemitic incidents across our five boroughs. Shortly after that figure made headlines, the NYPD changed its methodology—moving away from reporting every bias complaint to only counting confirmed crimes, after a lengthy investigation. This has now changed.

I was delighted to learn that the NYPD has now confirmed that they will report both substantiated as well as reported hate crime incidents - moving away from reporting only confirmed hate crimes.

By waiting until the Hate Crimes Task Force and a legal bureau confirm an incident before it hits the public dashboard, we were losing the ability to respond to hate in real-time. When a Jewish New Yorker, Muslim New Yorker, LGBTQ New Yorker or for that matter ANY New Yorker, is harassed on the subway, or a house of worship is vandalized, that community feels the impact immediately. If we have to wait weeks for a confirmation before that incident exists in the city's data, we may be failing to capture the lived reality of our neighbors.

As New York City moves to implement Council Speaker Julie Menin's Five-Point Action Plan to Combat Antisemitism, and strengthen community safety in NYC we must ensure the people of our city receive an accurate depiction of the State of Hate in New York City. To that end, JCRC-NY would like to know the following:

1. What is the average time it takes to substantiate a reported incident.
2. Typically how much staff are involved in the substantiation of a reported hate crime.
3. What criteria does the NYPD or DA's office utilize to consider a crime "anti-semitic" thus making it a hate crime. I say this as the City of New York has officially done away with utilizing the IHRA definition of anti-semitism, used by our State Government and certain Federal Government Agencies.

JCRC-NY stands ready to work with the NYPD and this Taskforce to address these issues.

We want to thank the Taskforce and Chairs Dinowitz and Vernikov again for convening this hearing today.

Thank you.

Good afternoon - I'm Alyza Lewin, President of US Affairs for the Combat Antisemitism Movement. I'm an attorney with over 30 years of experience countering religious discrimination.

Judaism is an ethno-religion defined by more than religious belief and religious practice. Jews are also a people whose history, ancestry, theology, customs and culture are inextricably intertwined with the land of Israel.

Today, Jews in New York are targeted due to this connection between the Jewish people and Israel, the Jews' ancestral homeland. Those who attack Jews and Jewish property in NY view all Jews around the world as connected to Israel.

Those who recognize that the Jews are a people indigenous to Israel are frequently branded as "Zionists," blamed for the world's misfortune, treated as pariahs, and even assaulted. When "Israel" is substituted in place of "the Jews" and accused of conspiring to harm humanity, that is antisemitism.

To protect Jews from contemporary antisemitism, law enforcement must recognize as a hate crime both - when Jews are targeted on the basis of their shared ancestry rooted in the land of Israel, and when Jews are targeted on the basis of their religious belief and religious practice.

Law enforcement must be able to discern the difference between a good-faith political debate about the Middle East, on the one hand, and the vilification of Jews, on the basis of their Jewishness, on the other.

Jews in New York must be able to publicly embrace their people's history and heritage connected Israel. If they cannot, then they are not safe or free to practice their faith.

The IHRA definition is an essential tool that provides a framework for recognizing Jew hatred. It does not silence, prohibit or punish speech. It merely defines antisemitism. It safeguards debate while protecting people. I urge the City Council to adopt it and the police to utilize it when identifying hate crimes.

**Testimony of Alyza D. Lewin, President, U.S. Affairs, Combat Antisemitism Movement
before The Council of the City of New York, Task Force to Combat Antisemitism
hearing on
“Reporting on Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in New York City”
April 22, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Vernikov, Chairman Dinowitz, and Task Force Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing of the New York City Council Task Force to Combat Antisemitism on “Reporting on Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in New York City.” My name is Alyza Lewin. I’m President of US Affairs for the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), an American organization dedicated to fighting global antisemitism. I’m an attorney with over 30 years of experience countering religious discrimination.

Earlier today, witnesses from the NYPD explained that the identity – alone – of a victim without additional evidence is insufficient to establish an incident as a hate crime. They explained that to confirm an incident as a hate-crime, the police must first identify evidence that the crime was motivated by anti-Jewish bias.

Therein lies the rub.

If police investigating a crime identify Jews by their religion, if they fail to understand that Jews are also a people with a shared ancestry and ethnicity rooted in the land of Israel, then they are likely to miss, or ignore, evidence of bias that targets Jews on the basis of the Jewish people’s connection to Israel.

To address antisemitism effectively today, it is essential to understand that Judaism is an ancient ethno-religion defined by more than religious belief and religious practice. Jews are also a people whose history, ancestry, theology, customs, and culture are inextricably intertwined with Israel.

Jews in New York are frequently targeted because of this connection between the Jewish people and Israel, the Jews’ ancestral homeland. Those who attack Jews and Jewish property in New York or harass Jewish business owners and patrons do so because they view all Jews around the world as connected to Israel.

Today, those who recognize that the Jews are a people indigenous to Israel are frequently branded as “Zionists.” They are then blamed for the world’s misfortune, treated as pariahs, and even assaulted.

To protect Jews from contemporary antisemitism, law enforcement must recognize as a hate crime when Jews are both targeted on the basis of their shared ancestry rooted in the land of Israel and when Jews are targeted on the basis of their religious belief and religious practice.

In addition, law enforcement must be able to distinguish between a good-faith political debate about the Middle East, on the one hand, and the vilification of Jews on the basis of their Jewishness on the other. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism is a key tool that can help law enforcement discern the difference.

As the IHRA definition explains, “Israel” is often treated as a “Jewish collectivity” and substituted in place of “Jews” in conspiracy models. Instead of accusing “the Jews” of conspiring to harm humanity and controlling government, the media, and the banks, there are those who accuse “Israel” of these evils. When the term “Israel” or “Zionist” is used simply to dehumanize and vilify Jews, that is not a political debate about Israel’s policies. That is antisemitism. As the IHRA definition notes, “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.” Criticizing the policies of the Israeli government the way people around the world criticize the policies of their governments is not antisemitic. Demonizing, delegitimizing, or applying a double standard to individual Jews, the Jewish people, or to “Israel” as a “Jewish collectivity,” however, is antisemitic.

It is insufficient to define antisemitism as “prejudice, violence or discrimination against Jews because they are Jewish,” as the Mayor’s office has done. This definition is ambiguous. What does it mean to target a person “because they are Jewish?” Does that mean that the perpetrator is biased against the Jew because they don’t like the Jewish person’s religious beliefs or the way they dress? Or could it mean that the assailant opposes the Jewish people’s shared national ancestry?

If Jews in New York are not able openly to embrace their history and heritage connected to Israel, then they are not safe or free to practice their faith. NYPD must ensure that Jews in New York are protected from harassment, discrimination, and crimes that target Jews on the basis of the Jewish people’s shared ancestry and ethnicity, as well as on the basis of the Jews’ religious beliefs.

We urge the City Council and NYPD to adopt and utilize the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. In addition, training should be instituted to ensure that prosecutors, all law enforcement officers, and the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force understand and recognize all signs of antisemitic bias, including symbols and slogans that are hostile to the Jewish people’s shared ancestral connection to Israel. The Combat Antisemitism Movement would be pleased to help facilitate such training.

Thank you.



**New York City Council
Task Force to Combat Antisemitism
April 22, 2026**

Testimony of Scott Richman
ADL New York/New Jersey Regional Director

Chair Vernikov, Chair Dinowitz and members of the Task Force, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the urgent matter of data and reporting of antisemitic incidents in New York City.

My name is Scott Richman, and I am honored to serve as the Regional Director for ADL’s New York and New Jersey region. ADL is the leading anti-hate organization in the world dedicated since 1913 to fighting against antisemitism and securing justice and fair treatment for all.

A core part of the work of my team is tracking and responding to antisemitic incidents in New York and New Jersey – both hate crimes and hate incidents. We have been tracking this through our audit of antisemitic incidents since 1979, so we have nearly five decades of data. That work shows that we face an alarming situation in New York City, consistently the city with more antisemitic incidents than any other city across the nation by far. That was the case before the October 7, 2023, and our most recent audit shows that number nearly tripled in the post 10/7 period.

I will add that it is not just the quantity; it is also the quality of such incidents. New York City also has the distinction year after year of enduring more assaults – physical violence -- against Jews than anywhere else across the nation, especially against the Orthodox community who are visibly Jewish.

Data drives policy. These statistics are therefore critical to countering antisemitism and hate. And yet we know that they represent only part of the picture. Experts widely agree that hate crimes and hate incidents are significantly underreported. Barriers to reporting exist for many communities, particularly marginalized communities — ranging from language barriers, to fear of retaliation, to a perception that authorities will not take the incident seriously or be able to respond.

Compounding the problem is the fact that NYPD statistics capture only criminal conduct, yet the vast majority of antisemitic acts do not rise to the level of a crime. And while the New York City Commission on Human Rights does track discrimination complaints on the basis of “creed,” the data is not broken out based on religious affiliation, so we do not know how many of those



are anti-Jewish. Moreover, we do not believe that data is credible. In 2024-2025, for example, only 32 incidents of creed-based discrimination were reported, out of more than 15,000 total complaints.

ADL specifically tracks both criminal and non-criminal incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault where circumstances indicate anti-Jewish animus. These incidents may be reported directly to us, or reported to law enforcement, partner organizations, or the media. This captures a fuller landscape of antisemitism, from a swastika painted on a building, to verbal harassment on the subway, to physical assaults.

To bridge the gaps, we strongly support Speaker Menin's proposal to establish a dedicated hotline to report incidents to the NYC Commission on Human Rights, but this must include a breakdown by bias type to allow us to better resource to the threat.

We encourage this Task Force to consider additional avenues of data collection and information sharing between city agencies, such as the New York City Public Schools, with community organizations and institutions like ADL to ensure comprehensive tracking and data collection. We have the experience of working with New Jersey which as a state puts a premium on data collection of both hate crimes and hate incidents which positions them significantly ahead of most states, including New York, in comprehensive data collection.

We also encourage you to dedicate resources to victim support and community education to ensure that communities impacted by hate know how to report incidents and get the support they need when incidents do occur.

The establishment of this Task Force is an important step. ADL stands ready to work with you, to share our data and expertise and to be a partner in creating a comprehensive incident reporting and response system that protects all New Yorkers.

Thank you for your leadership and for this opportunity to testify.

April 24, 2026

To: Members of the NY City Council

Re: Written Testimony of Alan H. Scheiner, Senior Litigation Counsel at the National Jewish Advocacy Center (NJAC), to the NYC City Council, Committee Hearing of the Task Force to Combat Antisemitism, Regarding Antisemitic Hate Crimes.

NJAC is a nonprofit law firm representing individuals and organizations in litigation against antisemitic discrimination and anti-Jewish terrorism.

The Constitution of the United States requires that the City of New York provide the equal protection of the laws to people of all ethnicities, religious and national origins. When it comes to Jews, the City is not meeting that obligation.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani has acknowledged that in the first quarter of 2026, anti-Jewish hate crimes comprised 55% of all hate crimes in NY City, although Jewish people make up only about 10 percent of the population.¹ NYPD data for 2025 shows that on average Jewish New Yorkers are the victim of a hate crimes nearly every day, six out of seven days per week.² That means that on average six days a week New York Jews are assaulted, menaced, harassed or have their property destroyed or damaged because they are Jewish. More broadly, recent weeks have seen bomb and gun attacks on synagogues in the UK and Canada, and in March in Michigan a synagogue and Jewish preschool was attacked by a gunman driving a car bomb. But for the heroic intervention of the synagogue's security, dozens of children could have been killed or maimed. Worldwide, Tel Aviv University's *Antisemitism Worldwide Report for 2025*, published in April 2026, shows that the rate of murders motivated by antisemitism outside of Israel is at its highest in three decades.³

One result of the campaign of violence against Jews is fear – fear that I see in my daily work at NJAC. Many Jews are afraid to publicly identify as Jewish or to speak up in defense of Jewish rights in their workplace or at school, or on social media or in public spaces.

Although the Mayor has acknowledged the hate crime statistics, his response does not match the data. The City has shown indifference to the heightened, particular peril faced by Jewish New Yorkers and that indifference reflects bias, and threatens Jewish safety and Jewish lives.

¹ <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/news/PR006/nypd-fewest-murders-shooting-incidents-recorded-history-first-three-months-the>

² <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/hate-crimes.page>

³ <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/tel-aviv-university-s-annual-antisemitism-report-2025-13-apr-2026>; <https://cst.tau.ac.il/antisemitism-worldwide-report-for-2025/>

THE CITY'S INDIFFERENCE TO MOBING OF SYNAGOGUES AND SCHOOLS

Among many other examples of this deliberate indifference, the NYPD stood by as two synagogues were besieged by mobs threatening harm, engaged in menacing and harassment. NYPD inaction earned an apology from the commissioner for the NYPD failure to protect the members of park east synagogue.

Yet the Mayor failed to sign City Council legislation aimed at requiring policies to protect houses and worship from such mobbing (Int. 1-B), and vetoed similar legislation for schools and other educational facilities (Int. 175-B).⁴ This veto leaves school students vulnerable to mob violence, and the only schools likely to attract violent mobs in the current political climate are Jewish day schools, religious schools, and preschools. In addition, the Mayor continues to seek elimination of the Strategic Response Group (“SRG”), over the Commissioner’s objections, although one function of that group is to counteract mob violence of the sort that threatens Jews.

If City Hall or the NYPD believe that people have a First Amendment right to yell threats at Jews within ‘sight and sound’ of Jewish worshippers or students, they are mistaken about the law. Offensive, hateful speech is protected by the First Amendment but that does not mean that speech can occur anywhere and at any time the speaker chooses. Civilization requires that we take turns exercising our rights; we cannot all do so at the same time and place. So for example it is well settled that you do not have a right to hold your own parade at the same time and place as another parade.⁵ It’s one parade at a time.

Mobbing of synagogues and schools heightens the risk of hate crimes, due to large numbers of people, heated and violent rhetoric, and close proximity of the mob to the targets of their hate. The First Amendment does not require that protestors be within “sight and sound” of the religious worshippers or school students at which they aim their ire and potential violence. “Time, place, and manner” limits -- such as permits, routes, buffer zones, noise rules -- must leave “ample alternative channels” for communication, i.e., you still have a realistic way to get the message out. That channel could be in a different location at a different time, where unwilling listeners need not be burdened.

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals held this in *Marcavage v. City of New York*, No. 10-4355-cv (2d Cir. Aug. 2, 2012), stating that although “sight and sound” may be a relevant consideration in judging the reasonableness of regulations, the case law does not establish a “sight and sound” First Amendment requirement. The First Circuit found the same in *Bl(a)ck Tea Society v. City of Boston*, 378 F.3d 8 (1st Cir. 2004), where it upheld a buffer zone around the DNC convention on the grounds that protestors could reach the delegates through television, radio, the press, the internet, and other outlets.

⁴ <https://council.nyc.gov/press/2026/04/24/3110/>

⁵ *Irish Lesbian & Gay Org. v. Bratton*, 882 F. Supp. 315, 319–20 (S.D.N.Y.), *aff'd*, 52 F.3d 311 (2d Cir. 1995)

The Southern District of NY agreed in *Case v. City of New York*, 408 F.Supp.3d 313 (2019). The court held that police orders directing Occupy Wall Street protesters a couple of blocks away from their intended target – the New York Stock Exchange -- was a constitutional time, place, and manner regulations. Likewise the Southern District of New York and Second Circuit held in *Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization v. Bratton* (SDNY 1992), that it was sufficient for the plaintiff to reach their target audience of St. Patrick’s parade attendees if they had their own parade on a different day. 6

It is preposterous to contend that the same protection that applies to reproductive clinics, the DNC convention, the NY Stock Exchange, or the St. Patrick’s Day parade does not apply to people attempting to enjoy the free exercise of religion at their chosen house of worship or study at religious or secular schools. If the City contends that there is a ‘sight and sound requirement’ for ‘protestors’ to be able to harass their targets, then the City is reversing its prior positions in these cases where it prevailed. It appears that reversal is motivated by the City’s support for the antisemitic message of the protests most recently at issue.

The First Amendment does not provide a right to inflict an unwanted message upon an unwilling, captive target audience. That is especially so where the victim would be forced to give up their own protected activity in order to escape the abuse. The "right to be left alone" – recognized by the Supreme Court in numerous cases -- applies to people using or attempting to use homes, medical facilities, parades, sporting events, funerals, public transportation, and theatres. 7 In fact, the New York Court of Appeals first recognized that protection for houses of worship in 1947 in *Abyssinian Baptist Church of City of New York v. Afr. Nationalist Movement*, 71 N.Y.S.2d 93, 93–94 (Sup. Ct. N.Y. Cty. 1947). When the City disregards the right of Jews to be protected from mods chanting terrorist slogans, it not only denies Equal Protection, but risks complicity in criminal violations of federal civil rights laws such as the Klan Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242, and the FACE Act, 18 U.S.C. § 248.

ANTIZIONIST CRIMES ARE ANTISEMITIC CRIMES

April 22, 2025 was Yom Haatzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, celebrating the declaration and legal recognition of the State of Israel 78 years ago. And on Yom Haatzmaut my office received reports of two Jewish schools in the United States being closed due to bomb threats: . It is certain they were not the only ones. And the date is not a coincidence. Most hate crimes against Jews today are purported to be justified – according to their perpetrators – by hatred of Israel. And Zionist or “Zio” has become the new slang slur for Jew, the equivalent of “kike” in prior years.

⁶ *Irish Lesbian & Gay Org. v. Bratton*, 882 F. Supp. at 319–20.

⁷ See *Frisby v. Schultz*, 487 U.S. 474, 484 (1988); *Hill v. Colorado*, 530 U.S. 703, 716–18 (2000).

Mayor Mamdani stokes the fires of hate with a steady drumbeat of propaganda against Israel, in the form of false accusations of genocide, apartheid and racism leveled against Israel's Jews. Israel, the world's only Jewish state, is the only nation against which he launches spurious claims of violations of human rights. Indeed, the Mayor defends some of the most vicious violators of human rights, such as the despotic Islamic regime. The City's false antizionist propaganda inspires hatred and violence against Israelis and Jews in the City of New York.

This same propaganda is propounded in City agencies, to City employees. On the Mayor's first day, he moved to protect and promote such hate speech by revoking the City's Executive Order requiring consideration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. But the Mayor's revocation of an Executive Order does not insulate the City from the requirements of the Equal Protection Clause, or Titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Nor does it convert antisemitism into mere politics.

Many like to pretend that crimes motivated by hatred of Israel are not antisemitic, but that is a grave error. Antizionism is the most common species of antisemitism today. Antizionism is an ideology that seeks to erase a fundamental and inextricable part of Jewish identity: Jewish peoplehood and their connection to the land of Israel. Many see a false dichotomy between political ideas and antisemitism, but there is no such distinction. The Nuremberg Laws were political, but obviously antisemitic. So it is for Antizionism.

Am Yisrael, the people of Israel, are an ethnic and national group. Judaism, in contrast, is the religion of the Jewish people. Jews are members of that ethnic and national group, whether or not they practice that religion. Zionism recognizes that Jews are a people indigenous to the land of Israel, who have a right to self-determination in that land. It is self-evident to anyone familiar with Jewish life that Zionism is an essential, inextricable element of Jewish liturgy, biblical scripture, secular history, prophetic tradition, Jewish law, and core identity. Zionism does not deny that others may also have an indigenous connection to the land of Israel. Indeed, the Declaration of the State of Israel in 1948 accepted the partition of Palestine by the United Nations.

Israel's enemies rejected the partition, and chose instead to launch a war to erase the Jewish state and its people which continues to this day. Antizionism is the ideology that drives that war. The principal aim of Antizionism is the murder or expulsion of nearly all of the 7.7 million Jews of Israel, who constitute more than half of the Jews on earth. And Antizionists believe that goal justifies attacks on Jews anywhere in the world. It is difficult to imagine a more clearly antisemitic ideology than that. Hitler himself would no doubt consider it, at least, a very good start.

And therefore when that ideology motivates a crime it is an antisemitic hate crime. Our experience has shown that the NYPD frequently fails to recognize this fact. I have seen on Body Worn Camera video an NYPD police officer deny that slurs directed at Israel and Israelis are expressions of anti-Jewish animus. That confusion must end.

The City Council should ensure that the NYPD recognizes Antizionism as antisemitism by enacting a law incorporate the IHRA definition of antisemitism for the purposes of enforcement of hate crime statutes and discrimination laws.

THE CITY MINIMIZES THE THREAT FROM ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES

Mayor Mamdani also minimizes the threat of hate crimes against Jews by insisting that antisemitism be viewed in tandem with a purportedly equivalent threat to Muslims, his favored religious constituency, while touting a 140% rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes. The City has also rolled out antisemitism training for its employees, but always in tandem with training in Islamophobia, as if they are equal problems calling for equal airtime.

All people deserve protection from hate crimes. But equating the threat of anti-Jewish crime with anti-Islamic crime is a false equivalence. And it is so false that it reflects deliberate indifference and bias regarding the very real peril faced by Jews in New York City.

In the first quarter of 2026, Muslims were the targets of 12 (8.4%) of all confirmed NYC hate crimes, a lesser percentage than their estimated 10% of the NYC population (according to Al Jazeera and the Manhattan Institute). Jews, in contrast, were the victims of 78 (55%) of hate crimes in the same period, but with the same estimated population share. The share of hate crimes did increase for Muslims, but from only four incidents the first quarter of 2025.

In all of 2025, according to the NYPD, NYC Jews were the victim of 324 hate crimes – over six per week -- constituting 57.6% of the total. In the entire year 26 hate crimes targeted Muslims, 4.6% of the total. To insist that these are equivalent threats bespeaks bias not fairness.

THE LEGAL EXPOSURE CREATED BY THE CITY'S BIAS

You do not need a whistleblower, leaked memos, or inside sources to make this case. The Mayor and Commissioner put the numbers into the public record, and they are the starting point of a damning analysis. But City officials refuse to tailor their enforcement priorities accordingly. By refusing to do so, the Mayor may be building the factual predicate for a violation of the Equal Protection Clause that could have deadly consequences.

The City could face municipal liability for its discriminatory failure to protect under *Monell v. Department of Social Services*. Under the Monell doctrine, a city can be sued directly when a constitutional violation flows from an official policy or custom. The Mayor of New York City is, unambiguously, such a policymaker, and his decisions are policy under Monell.

Monell cases are usually slow to build, because a pattern and practice of deliberate indifference usually requires proof from conduct over time. Mamdani is an exception. He is constructing a record against the City, in public, in real time, tweet by tweet. Every statement minimizing antisemitism, every decision to dilute targeted protections, every press conference where he recites the numbers and then changes the subject, is a tile in the Monell mosaic. Organizations protecting Jewish New Yorkers should be documenting and preserving every

word, because the evidentiary foundation for a Monell claim against the City is being delivered from the Mayor's podium.

Another looming implication for the City is liability to the federal government. Under 34 U.S.C. § 12601, the Department of Justice has authority to investigate and sue local law enforcement agencies for engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives persons of constitutional rights. This statute has been used for decades to go after cities that over-police minority communities. There is no legal reason it cannot work in the opposite direction, against a city that systematically under-protects one. The federal government could also withdraw funding from the City for law enforcement programs (or even more broadly), or seek refunds of prior grants, on the grounds that the City is violating Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Laws, which applies to all federal grant recipients.

A formal complaint to the DOJ Civil Rights Division, grounded in the NYPD's published hate crime data, calling for an investigation into New York City's response to antisemitic hate crimes, would be unprecedented. It would also be legally sound. The data and public course of conduct by Mamdani is more than enough to suggest the sort of pattern and practice that warrants the federal scrutiny of an in depth DOJ investigation.

Of course, the NYPD does not ignore these crimes entirely. Commissioner Tisch, to her credit, has often spoken about the issue. But the point is that when the policymaker at the top repeatedly signals that anti-Jewish targeting will be met with indifference and abstraction rather than attention and action or raises “concerns” even about even modest efforts to stop protesters from besieging Jewish worshippers, that travels down the chain of command to impact how scenes are policed, and cases are classified, investigated, prioritized, and deterred.

Nor must the legal record wait until the worst facts arrive. Where plaintiffs can show a cognizable threat of ongoing unequal treatment, declaratory and injunctive remedies may be available before irreparable harm is inflicted. The time to begin building that record is now, while the pattern is already becoming visible, but the City has time for a course correction before more deadly crimes occur.

The City Council must ensure that all New Yorkers receive the Equal Protection of the Laws that they deserve.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Scheiner
Senior Litigation Counsel
National Jewish Advocacy Center



Date: April 22, 2026

To: New York City Council Task Force to Combat Antisemitism

From: Jacob Tolson, Policy Director, New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)

Dear Council Member Dinowitz, Council Member Vernikov, and the Task Force,

Thank you for considering written testimony from New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA), a non-profit organization that advocates, organizes, and convenes to promote the values of liberal Jewish New Yorkers to influence state and local policies, politics, and the communal discourse.

We are deeply alarmed at the rise in antisemitism across New York City, and are actively working with our partners, including community members, elected officials, law enforcement, clergy, and other stakeholders, to ensure that our city effectively protects all Jewish New Yorkers.

Among other areas of focus, our work includes elevating the voices of liberal Jewish New Yorkers and advising our elected officials on how best to reflect and address our community's preferences and concerns around combating antisemitism in New York City through policy, resources, education, and otherwise.

NYJA, and the wide swath of liberal and progressive Jewish New Yorkers we represent, believe that our City must tackle antisemitism with the understanding that it is intertwined with other forms of hate and that it can only be addressed as such. As we've seen throughout our history, Jews are safest in liberal democracies where all marginalized communities are kept safe, and that our safety is intrinsically bound with that of all our neighbors. That is especially true at this moment of peril for so many New Yorkers. Our community is especially concerned about the bad-faith weaponization of antisemitism that has been used to infringe on constitutionally protected freedoms or advance political agendas unrelated to the safety of American Jews; doing so does nothing to combat antisemitism, and undermines efforts to do so.



Although antisemitism is intertwined with and rises alongside other forms of hate, it is a uniquely insidious phenomenon. To fight it requires deep expertise and thoughtful strategies that take into account the nuances of this fraught and complicated political moment for Jewish New Yorkers. As such, we believe that our city—including all of its agencies, law enforcement, elected officials, and others who have a role to play in combating antisemitism—must approach this work with as much specificity and care as possible, rather than overly broad, heavy-handed policies and practices.

We understand that much of the conversation around rising antisemitism in New York City is rooted in the question of how to identify antisemitism in the first place, and what role the Jewish community's relationship to Israel plays in answering that question. We applaud the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism for tackling this issue head-on, in such a way that will most effectively allow City Hall to proactively stem rising antisemitism.

We believe that in order to effectively identify antisemitic incidents, one must draw on all available resources, including multiple definitions of antisemitism as the [2023 U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#) lays out. We believe that using multiple definitions, alongside other resources and data, will best equip city agencies to identify and respond to antisemitic incidents, rather than simply codifying any one definition into law. Utilizing the many tools at the City's disposal allows for an approach that is responsive to the many different circumstances that arise when attempting to identify what is antisemitic. The nuances cannot be fully addressed by any one definition or resource.

We also believe that in order to combat antisemitism, we must preserve our constitutionally protected freedoms at all costs, even when peaceful protected speech or assembly is deeply uncomfortable or even hateful. We cannot allow antisemitism to be an excuse to crack down on these freedoms; they are central to the survival of our democracy, particularly at this moment when our very democracy is at risk. At the same time, breaking the law or violent behavior should never be tolerated and should be handled by law enforcement. Jews are *only* safe in liberal democracies where the safety of every person, as well as these key rights and freedoms, are protected. We urge the Council and Mayor to take this nuanced approach seriously.

Addressing antisemitism requires more than statements of solidarity and condemnation. It requires concrete proactive policy, sustained funding, and accountability. As the home



of the largest Jewish community in the world outside of Israel, New York City has the opportunity and responsibility to lead with urgency and clarity. NYJA stands ready to partner with the Council and the Mayor, and all relevant stakeholders (including CCHR and the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force) to advance these efforts and ensure that all New Yorkers can live in dignity, free from hate and discrimination. We look forward to continuing to serve as a resource as the Council and Mayor work to implement more effective strategies to combat antisemitism.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Jacob Tolson, Policy Director

New York Jewish Agenda

Contact: jacob@nyja.org

**The New York City Council Committee on the Task Force to Combat Antisemitism
Oversight Hearing: Reporting on Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in New York
City**

Eric Dinowitz and Inna Vernikov, Chairs

**Members: Gale A. Brewer, Harvey D. Epstein, Kamillah Hanks, Virginia Maloney,
Mercedes Narcisse**

T2026-1613

Statement for the Record

**Oversight Hearing: Reporting on Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in New York
City**

April 22, 2026

City Hall, New York, NY 10007

Good afternoon Chairs Dinowitz and Vernikov, and members of the Committee.

My name is Karen Feldman. I am a veteran New York City public school educator, Co-Founder of the NYCPS Alliance, and Educational Coordinator at the Gevura Fund. For nearly a decade, I have documented and raised concerns about antisemitism in our public school system—not as an abstract issue, but as a daily reality affecting students, teachers, and families across this city.

I want to be unequivocal: antisemitism in our schools is not rare, and it is not incidental. It is systemic, it is underreported, and it is not being meaningfully addressed.

Since October 7, 2023, through the NYCPS Alliance, we have collected and analyzed more than 11,000 pieces of evidence—incident reports, curricular materials, professional development content, and firsthand accounts. The patterns are not anecdotal. They are consistent, widespread, and deeply alarming.

Jewish students are being targeted—openly and repeatedly.

Students report being called slurs like “dirty Jew,” and being accused of “supporting genocide” simply for expressing their identity or any connection to Israel. In classrooms, some are isolated during discussions of global conflicts or pressured to denounce Israel publicly to avoid ostracism.

We have documented instances of students chanting slogans such as “destroy Israel” during school hours. This is not political discourse—it is intimidation. It creates an environment where Jewish students feel unsafe in spaces that are supposed to protect them.

Others report being bullied or socially excluded for wearing visible symbols of Jewish identity or participating in religious or cultural observance. These incidents are not confined to a single school or district—they are being reported across the system.

At the same time, serious concerns exist within curriculum and instruction.

In some classrooms, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is presented in starkly one-sided terms, using charged labels such as “apartheid,” “settler colonialism,” or “genocide” without sufficient historical context, academic rigor, or exposure to multiple perspectives. Students are often not developmentally prepared to critically evaluate this language, resulting in confusion, polarization, and, in too many cases, hostility directed at Jewish peers.

We are also seeing Holocaust education used in ways that blur historical specificity—drawing direct comparisons between the Holocaust and contemporary political conflicts. This risks distorting historical understanding and undermines the integrity of Holocaust education itself.

Additionally, some instructional materials and professional development sessions present advocacy positions as settled fact, without balance or space for inquiry. This raises serious concerns about educational neutrality and adherence to established standards and regulations.

This issue is not theoretical for me—it is personal.

I have had colleagues, including members of a school’s own “equity” team, make antisemitic comments that reflect and reinforce disinformation. In one instance, when I raised concerns about the need to acknowledge rising antisemitism in our school, a colleague responded not with openness, but with hostility. I was told: *“Well, do you know what Israel does to its Black people? They sterilize them.”*

In that moment, it became painfully clear that there was no distinction being made between a Jewish colleague standing in front of them and the misinformation and narratives they had absorbed about Israel. The conversation was not about supporting students or addressing bias—it was about deflection, and it shut down any possibility of meaningful dialogue.

Experiences like this send a chilling message to Jewish educators: that raising concerns may lead not to support, but to confrontation, distortion, or dismissal.

No educator should have to navigate that reality.

Perhaps most concerning is how much goes unreported.

Students fear social retaliation.

Teachers fear professional consequences.

Parents report inconsistent or insufficient responses when concerns are raised.

The result is a reporting system that captures only a fraction of reality. What is officially documented is the floor—not the ceiling—of what is happening in our schools.

If we are serious about confronting antisemitism in New York City, then our response must match the reality on the ground—not the comfort of incomplete data.

That means enforcing existing policies, ensuring transparency in curriculum and instructional materials, and establishing reporting systems that are safe, trusted, and free from retaliation.

Our public schools are meant to be places of safety, learning, and inclusion for every student. Right now, for too many Jewish students and educators, they are not.

We cannot address what we are unwilling to fully acknowledge.

I urge this Committee to undertake a comprehensive, clear-eyed examination of how antisemitism is manifesting across our school system—and to ensure that accountability and inclusion are not aspirations, but guarantees.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this urgent matter.

Karen Feldman
Founder, NYCPS Alliance
Veteran New York City Public School Educator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the New York City Council Task Force to Combat Antisemitism

FROM: Dr. Ruth Lichtenstein, Project Witness Director

DATE: April 23, 2026

RE: Youth Hate Crime Intervention Program: A Rehabilitative Response to Juvenile Antisemitic Offenses in New York City

I. Summary

The Task Force's April 22, 2026 briefing paper documents a 152% year-over-year spike in bias crimes in New York City, driven overwhelmingly by anti-Jewish hate. Anti-Jewish complaints (1,246 from 2020 to 2024) are the highest of any category, nearly three times the next most reported. Anti-Jewish arrests (128 in 2024) lead all categories. Antisemitic incidents rose 182% in early 2026.

The City's current response apparatus, comprising the NYPD Hate Crime Task Force, the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC), and the newly re-established Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism (MOCA), is structured around detection, reporting, victim notification, and interagency coordination. What the record does not yet include is a clinical rehabilitative pathway for the juveniles who commit these offenses.

Project Witness's **Youth Hate Crime Intervention Program** fills that gap. It is an evidence-based, tiered intervention for youth ages 12 to 18 who have committed bias-motivated offenses targeting Jewish individuals or communities. It is built on education, restorative justice, and Holocaust survivor testimony rather than incarceration, and it scales to the severity and ideological depth of each case.

II. What the Task Force Record Shows

The briefing paper establishes several facts relevant to the question of intervention design:

- **Antisemitism is the dominant form of hate crime in NYC.** Anti-Jewish hate is consistently the most-reported category, and anti-Jewish complaints rose 175% between 2021 and 2024. January 2026 saw hate crimes jump 152% year-over-year, driven by anti-Jewish incidents.
- **Juveniles are active perpetrators.** The record cites the Jackson Heights teen arraigned on hate crime charges after emailing death threats to more than 300 classmates at the Renaissance Charter School; the 57 swastikas painted on

playground equipment in Gravesend Park in January 2026; and repeated school and campus-adjacent incidents where young people were central actors.

- **Violence is escalating toward persons.** Assaults against persons overtook property crimes as the more common hate-crime category beginning in 2021. Anti-Jewish bias accounts for nearly all felony property crimes against religious premises in New York City and a significant share of felony assaults.
- **Federal funding has collapsed.** The roughly 64% share of community-based prevention funding that came from federal sources prior to 2025 has been “largely discontinued.” The City and its partners must now fund prevention and intervention locally.
- **The current apparatus operates upstream of rehabilitation.** NYPD investigates and reports; OPHC coordinates and notifies; MOCA advises and convenes. None of these offices operates a clinical intervention for the juvenile offender after arrest or diversion.

This is the gap. What happens to a 14-year-old charged with an antisemitic offense after the investigation closes and the District Attorney decides how to proceed? In a punitive posture, the answer is detention or a generic probation condition. In a rehabilitative posture, the answer must be a protocol built for bias-motivated offenses. For juveniles, rehabilitation is the statutory presumption of New York’s Family Court.

III. The Project Witness Program

The Youth Hate Crime Intervention Program is a five-phase, tiered protocol delivered as individual one-on-one sessions with concurrent family involvement. It ranges from 12 to 170 contact hours depending on assessed tier, plus 3 to 18 months of maintenance follow-up.

The Five Phases

Phase	Name	Weeks	Core Content
1	Intake and Assessment	1 to 2	Bias Motivation Assessment; motivational interviewing; offender typology classification (Thrill-Seeking, Peer-Driven, Retaliatory, Ideologically Embedded); tier assignment
2	Therapeutic Intervention	3 to 14	Five concurrent modules: (A) cognitive restructuring for biased thinking, (B) counter-conspiracy and critical media literacy, (C) digital citizenship and online behavior, (D) identity development and prosocial peer-network building, (E) family psychoeducation
3	Encounter and Restoration	15 to 18	Holocaust survivor testimony encounter; Project Witness's <i>Remember and Rebuild</i> art therapy sequence; restorative justice conferencing with victim or community surrogate; formal accountability statement; negotiated Repair Agreement
4	Service and Reintegration	19 to 20	10 to 25 hours of offense-linked community service prioritizing Jewish community organizations; structured reflection; Commitment to Change statement; Completion Ceremony
5	Maintenance and Follow-Up	Post	Graduated check-ins (monthly to quarterly) over 6 to 18 months; booster sessions; family

Phase	Name	Weeks	Core Content
			maintenance contact; outcome tracking; formal case closure

Three Tiers, Assessment-Driven

Every referred youth receives a Bias Motivation Assessment (BMA) at intake. The assessment, not the referral source, determines program intensity.

- **Tier 1: Brief Intervention** (12 to 16 hours / 4 to 6 weeks): impulsive, situational, low-ideology, first-offense cases with no radicalization history.
- **Tier 2: Standard Protocol** (100 to 120 hours / 20 weeks): thrill-seeking and peer-driven typologies with moderate bias attitudes and limited online radicalization.
- **Tier 3: Intensive Protocol** (130 to 170 hours / 20 to 30 weeks): retaliatory and ideologically embedded cases with entrenched beliefs, active online radicalization, and deep conspiracy cognition.

This produces a proportional response: low-risk youth receive an efficient intervention while high-risk youth receive the full protocol required for lasting change.

IV. How This Speaks to the Needs of New York City

1. It is education, not incarceration.

Every phase is pedagogical. Cognitive restructuring teaches the youth what he got wrong. Counter-conspiracy and critical media literacy teach him how he got there. Digital citizenship teaches him what to do differently online. Holocaust survivor testimony teaches him the historical weight of what his act participated in. The program assumes that juvenile offenders, including those who have done serious things, are still in the developmental window where beliefs and identities can change.

2. It is restorative, not retributive.

Phase 3's Holocaust survivor encounter, the *Remember and Rebuild* art therapy sequence, and restorative justice conferencing with a victim or community surrogate are designed to do something courts cannot: produce an accountability the offender himself understands and owns. The Repair Agreement is negotiated, not imposed. Community service in Phase 4 is offense-linked and placed inside Jewish community organizations rather than filled with generic hours at a soup kitchen, because research shows offense-linked service produces a 20 to 30% greater effect than generic service.

3. It is proportional.

A 13-year-old who scrawled a swastika on a park slide on a dare does not receive the same 30-week intensive protocol as a 17-year-old running an antisemitic meme account and

planning harassment campaigns. Tier assignment is clinical, not political. This addresses a recurring concern in juvenile justice: punishment decoupled from the actual drivers of the offense either fails to reach entrenched cases or over-processes situational ones.

4. It is evidence-based.

The program integrates frameworks with documented recidivism reduction:

- Cognitive-behavioral therapy for bias: **20 to 30% recidivism reduction**
- Functional Family Therapy principles: **25 to 60%**
- Restorative justice conferencing: **25 to 30%**
- Offense-linked community service: **20 to 30% greater effect than generic service**

Tier assignment follows the Risk-Need-Responsivity model (Andrews and Bonta, 2010).

Outcomes are tracked from intake through 18 months post-completion and include recidivism, conspiracy cognition, bias attitudes, peer network composition, family functioning, and prosocial engagement.

5. It is built for antisemitism specifically.

Unlike generic anti-bias curricula that treat all prejudices as interchangeable, this program is built around the actual content of anti-Jewish hate: conspiracy cognition about Jewish power, Holocaust denial and inversion, online radicalization pathways, and the particular historical register that Holocaust survivor testimony uniquely reaches. Project Witness has spent decades building the survivor relationships, the archival record, and the pedagogical materials that make Phase 3 possible. No other provider in the region has these resources.

6. It addresses the funding gap created by the federal pullback.

With the pipeline that previously supplied roughly 64% of community-based prevention funding largely discontinued, the City needs locally operated programs it can refer into. The Project Witness program fits within existing diversion, probation-condition, and post-adjudication slots without requiring new statutory authority.

7. It is a direct answer to the Task Force's own hearing record.

The February 25, 2026 Committee to Combat Hate hearing documented testimony from rabbis, Hillel directors, synagogue congregants, and parents describing a climate in which Jewish New Yorkers are being harassed at synagogue entrances, on campuses, and in their own neighborhoods, often by young people. Bennett Katz testified to being surrounded and punched by roughly fifteen people as he tried to reach the Park East Synagogue wearing a kippah. A CUNY Hillel director testified to "dozens of disruptions" forcing Jewish students to choose between attending school and risking harassment. Rabbi Abe Faur testified that security spending at his synagogue had doubled in the past year.

The Task Force has asked what the City is doing to keep Jewish New Yorkers safe. One essential part of the answer is: **what happens to the offender after the arrest**. For juveniles, this program is that answer.

V. Referral Criteria

- Youth aged 12 to 18 adjudicated or diverted for a bias-motivated offense targeting Jewish individuals or communities.
- Offense types: assault, harassment, vandalism, threats, intimidation, or bias-motivated property crimes.
- Suitable for diversion, probation condition, or post-adjudication programming.
- Tier assigned by clinical assessment, not referral source.

VI. Program Team

- Licensed clinician (CBT-trained; leads individual sessions)
 - Trained art therapist (Phase 3 *Remember and Rebuild*)
 - Project Witness survivor liaison
 - Certified restorative justice facilitator
 - Independent victim advocate
-

VII. Recommendation

The Task Force should recommend that OPHC, MOCA, the five District Attorneys, and the NYPD Hate Crime Task Force formalize a referral pathway to the Project Witness Youth Hate Crime Intervention Program for eligible juvenile cases. The program can begin accepting referrals immediately.

Project Witness is available to brief the Task Force, meet with any of the relevant agencies or District Attorneys, and submit supporting documentation including the full five-phase facilitator guides, the Bias Motivation Assessment instrument, the Outcome Measures Battery, and the tier-based program proposals currently in development.



Testimony of Brandon Pinsker
Acting Director, AJC New York
American Jewish Committee

New York City Council Task Force to Combat Antisemitism

April 22, 2026

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony for this important hearing.

AJC acknowledges Police Commissioner Tisch's decision to restore the NYPD's practice of publishing both reported and confirmed hate crime incidents. This change reflects responsiveness to community concerns and strengthens transparency.

Reported incidents and confirmed cases serve distinct but complementary purposes. Reported incidents provide a real-time understanding of what communities are experiencing, while confirmed cases—following investigation—reflect a narrower legal standard. Both are necessary to accurately assess trends, inform policy responses, and maintain public confidence.

At the same time, it is important to recognize the inherent limitations of hate crime data. Many incidents go unreported, and others do not meet the threshold for formal classification, even when bias is evident. As such, available data represents only a partial picture of the broader environment.

For that reason, measures of perception and behavior are critical alongside incident counts.

AJC's 2025 State of Antisemitism in America report finds that 56% of American Jews in New York report changing their behavior in at least one way due to concerns about antisemitism,

including avoiding certain places, concealing visible markers of Jewish identity, or exercising greater caution in public expression. In 2021, that figure was 36%.

Nationally, 91% of American Jews report feeling less secure than they did in 2024.

This shift over a relatively short period is significant. It reflects a change in how individuals navigate daily life, marked by increased caution and heightened awareness.

These concerns are evident across schools, workplaces, and public spaces, and are influencing everyday decisions.

It is also necessary to acknowledge a broader and deeply concerning trend: antisemitism is not only increasing, but becoming normalized in certain contexts. The challenge is not limited to the number of incidents, but extends to the ways in which such incidents are minimized, rationalized, or overlooked. This dynamic warrants serious attention.

AJC appreciates the Task Force's focus on this issue and stands ready to serve as a constructive partner in advancing effective and informed responses.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Testimony of UJA-Federation of New York

Task Force to Combat Antisemitism: Oversight Hearing

Eric Dinowitz, Chair

Inna Vernikov, Chair

Submitted by: Hillary Stuchin

April 22, 2026

On behalf of UJA-Federation of New York and our network of nonprofit partners across New York City, thank you, Chairs Dinowitz and Vernikov and members of the Task Force to Combat Antisemitism, for holding this hearing. My name is Hillary Stuchin, and I am the Director of Government and External Relations at UJA-Federation of New York.

Established more than 100 years ago, UJA-Federation of New York is one of the nation's largest local philanthropies. Central to UJA's mission is to care for those in need, identifying and meeting the needs of New Yorkers of all backgrounds and Jews everywhere. UJA supports an expansive network of nearly 100 nonprofit organizations serving those that are most vulnerable and allocates roughly \$200 million each year to address poverty and food insecurity, nurture mental health and well-being, combat antisemitism, strengthen Jewish life, and respond to crises here and across the globe.

UJA works closely with our Jewish communal partners to track, address, and combat hate and antisemitism in all its forms. Today's hearing comes at a critical moment, both for the Jewish community and all New Yorkers.

October 7, 2023, was a turning point for the Jewish community. According to the ADL, antisemitic incidents in New York have far outpaced the national average; their most recent audit shows that the number of incidents has nearly tripled since October 7. In 2024 alone, New York saw over 1,400 antisemitic incidents, an 18% increase and the most nationwide. UJA's own research shows that one in five Jewish New Yorkers avoid Jewish spaces altogether for fear of attack.

UJA appreciates Commissioner Tisch's decision to reverse changes to the NYPD hate and bias reporting system. The NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force's most recent report shows that

hate crimes increased by nearly 12% in the first quarter of 2026, a surge that was driven by anti-Jewish attacks. The spike in hate crimes comes as murders and other violent crimes in New York City dropped during the same period. With the increase in antisemitic incidents, limiting reports to only “confirmed” hate crimes would have created a false sense of security, while diminishing transparency and accurate representation of antisemitism in New York City.

However, we know more must be done. Hate crimes and antisemitic incidents are significantly underreported. Barriers to reporting exist for many communities, particularly marginalized communities — ranging from language barriers, to fear of retaliation, to a perception that authorities will not take the incident seriously or be able to respond.

UJA-Federation of New York recommends the following actions:

1. It is critical that the Council urges the Administration to increase reporting mechanisms and data sharing between city agencies to better understand the realities of hate and bias in New York City.
2. The NYC Commission on Human Rights must also further detail its data related to discrimination based on creed by breaking out incidents by religion. This will clarify threats against different faith groups.
3. The Council must prioritize the implementation of Speaker Menin’s proposal to establish a dedicated hotline to report incidents to the NYC Commission on Human Rights. With the Jewish community increasingly under threat, we further encourage that the data collected include a breakdown by bias type to facilitate analysis of each reported incident.
4. We urge the city to provide educational resources and victim support to communities that are consistently under threat to ensure they understand how to report an incident and where to get help.

It is critical that the Jewish community—and all communities across New York City—feel safe, protected, and supported by the city. We appreciate the opportunity to testify, and we look forward to partnering with the Task Force to Combat Antisemitism to further its goals.

Please reach out to stuchinh@ujafedny.org with any questions.

Good morning,

On Memorial day weekend last year, I was assaulted on Queens Boulevard by two keffiyah wearing individuals – a male and female – who spat in my face, slapped me and tried to hit me with a basket of blueberries they had stolen from the local market. I reported this to the police and they refused to take action. Furthermore, my Queens neighborhood – Woodside/Sunnyside is a hotbed of anti-Semitic pro Hamas activity. This includes fundraisers for Gaza in Irish bars; denigrating graffiti; and anti-semitic comments to people who are openly Jewish. Anti-Semitic signs are put on lampposts and mailboxes all the time – no action is taken by Julie Won, our city council woman – to clean the graffiti. I have never seen this so bad.

Our family has been part of the same NYC private school community for 17 years (multiple children at the school from Pre-K-12). In all that time, we've reached out to the Headmaster with concerns only twice. One of those times was after the 2024 NAIS POCC/SDLC conference, where Suzanne Barakat delivered a keynote speech we felt included blatant antisemitism and historical inaccuracies.

Our school had sent teachers and administrators to this conference for the sake of inclusion and professional growth. That this speech was met with applause, and that no action was taken by NAIS leadership, concerned us enough to write to the school. The Headmaster invited us in for a one-on-one meeting. The Asst Head of School, who was at the conference and Barakat's speech, attended the meeting as well.

We met on December 13, 2024 to (1) ask how the school would address what was said at the conference with faculty, and (2) express our hope that the school would share its concerns with NAIS. The responses we heard from the school were vague. The administration said they were "checking in" with the adults who had attended Barakat's session, and that their message would be that "this wasn't the time or place for political speech." As for addressing the antisemitic content directly or speaking out to NAIS, they said, "we're not going to have meaningful conversations at this particular moment." They also confirmed they'd attend the same conference again next year, citing the importance of the event for students of color. We left the meeting with the mutual agreement that we would touch base again after the NAIS Head of School Thrive conference.

When re-enrollment contracts were due February 1, we reached out on the next business day (Monday, February 3) requesting a short extension so we could submit full payment—not just the deposit. Despite a 17-year relationship with the school and frequent contact with the development office, we were told our request would be reviewed by the Enrollment Committee. Days passed. On February 10, we wired the full tuition. Still, we received another email saying that our contract had not been completed by the deadline and that final enrollment decisions were still being made.

We knew several families who submitted contracts or payments late without issue—and one who was politely reminded on Feb 10 that they hadn't sent theirs in yet.

We replied to the Feb 10 email asking for clarity: Was our child's place now at risk over a technicality, even though we communicated right away and submitted full payment? The Headmaster emailed back immediately requesting a call. On the call, he said our prior meeting "hadn't gone well" and implied that our relationship with the school was no longer aligned with what he expected from a "supportive" school family. He said he wanted to make sure we were still "part of the family."

My name is Arlene Schlesinger, and I am here today not only to speak about antisemitism but about what New York City is becoming.

There was a time when being Jewish in this city meant strength, belonging, and safety. Safety in numbers. Safety in knowing that in New York, Jewish people did not have to live with their heads on a swivel. We helped build neighborhoods, businesses, hospitals, schools, garment centers, cultural institutions, and the very heartbeat of this city. Jewish families poured their labor, dreams, and sacrifice into making New York what it is.

Without that Jewish influx, and without generations who came here with nothing and built something, New York would be a shell of itself. And now many of us look around and barely recognize it.

Today, Jewish New Yorkers are told to stay quiet, hide symbols of faith, avoid certain streets, avoid certain campuses, avoid speaking openly, avoid drawing attention. Hatred is excused as politics. Intimidation is rebranded as activism. Harassment is minimized until it becomes violence.

We see this danger when public figures traffic in rhetoric or associations that make Jewish New Yorkers feel dismissed, targeted, or unsafe. When leaders cannot clearly condemn antisemitism, or excuse those who spread it, they do real damage. The issue is bigger than any one name, but no one seeking power should get a pass.

That is not progress. That is surrender.



Some now speak and act as if the people who helped build this city are unwelcome in it. As if Jews should simply accept fear, hostility, and exclusion as the new normal. We reject that completely.

Take a time machine back not so long ago, when Jewish New Yorkers felt safe here — when our children and grandparents could move through this city without calculating risk simply for being visibly Jewish. That feeling is disappearing, and your job is to ask why.

I am asking this Council for more than speeches and symbolic resolutions. Enforce the law. Protect students. Protect houses of worship. Confront hate in every form. Stop excusing antisemitism when it comes wrapped in fashionable language.

Now they use anti Zionism as their mantra but all Zionism is, is a love for their homeland and roots. New York City should be the safest place in America to be Jewish. Right now, too many no longer believe that.

Fix it.

Thank you.  

Testimony for the Council on Antisemitism

My name is Gwen Jones-Cintron, and I am submitting this testimony along with an edited version of a Substack piece I began writing in the days following October 7, 2023.

In the aftermath of Hamas's attacks on Israeli civilians, I found myself trying to understand not only the events themselves, but how we arrived at a moment where such violence could be rationalized—or even justified—by people here in New York City.

Over the past several decades, a troubling shift has taken place. Through parts of our university system and broader cultural discourse, ideas that once existed on the fringes have moved into the mainstream. At the same time, some immigrant communities—many of whom come from regions where anti-Jewish sentiment is deeply ingrained—have brought those views with them, and too often they go unchallenged.

The result is an environment in which antisemitism is no longer shocking. It is tolerated. In some spaces, it is even normalized—particularly among younger generations.

While much of the media attention remains focused on accusations against Israel, the lived reality for many Jews in New York City tells a different story. Jewish residents are experiencing fear and vulnerability in their daily lives. The more visibly Jewish a person is, the more likely they are to be targeted.

These are not abstract concerns. I have heard numerous firsthand accounts and have seen disturbing footage: religious Jews assaulted on the streets of Brooklyn; Jewish women and children harassed; Jewish and Israeli business owners pressured to erase any visible connection to Israel from their storefronts and online presence.

Young Jewish people are changing their names on rideshare apps to avoid being identified. That is the level of fear we are now discussing.

This should be unacceptable by any standard. And yet, too often, it is minimized, ignored, or explained away.

I urge this Council to take these realities seriously—not only as isolated incidents, but as symptoms of a broader cultural and institutional failure to confront antisemitism in all its forms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gwen Jones-Cintron

Back to School: From Brooklyn Classrooms to October 7

Back-to-school season is here! The excitement, the learning, the energy... and, in too many schools across the United States, the indoctrination.

This journal is dedicated to parents, grandparents, and students who feel a growing discomfort with what's being taught — especially around Israel and the Palestinian conflict. You don't have to be Jewish to care. You can be Black or white, Asian or Indian, gay, straight, transgender, or anywhere in between. All it takes is common sense and a little intellectual curiosity.

Because the question is this: how did so many caring, well-meaning people end up siding with some of the most violent movements on earth — all in the name of “social justice”?

This is my story.

A Young Teacher in Brooklyn

In 1992, I began my career as a young, naïve special education teacher in East New York, Brooklyn. I was eager, optimistic, and newly married to an Israeli whose family had fled persecution in Syria and Iran — and whose father had fought in every war Israel was forced into since 1948.

At the time, I knew very little about Israel. My American Jewish identity was more cultural than political or religious. My first trip to Israel in 1985 opened my eyes: it felt like home, even as I was shocked by the lack of dryers and air conditioning. For the first time in my life, I didn't have to hide or downplay being Jewish.

Back in New York, though, I was stepping into a school environment that was already shifting.

The First Red Flags

During Black History Month in 1993, my colleague — a young, charismatic teacher I'll call Mr. B — led our school's “Black History Museum.” He was admired, creative, and an extraordinary artist. But his displays carried messages that now were clearly the seeds being planted for the greatest indoctrination of revisionist history of our time.

For Thanksgiving, he created a mural of Native Americans being slaughtered under the headline: *“Americans Giving Thanks by Killing Native Americans.”*

For the 1992 LA Riots, his artwork carried the banner: *“Resistance in LA Against Our Oppressors.”*

And in February 1993, his Black History Museum featured portraits of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X... and Louis Farrakhan.

But the most shocking display wasn't a portrait. It was a map of the Middle East — with Israel erased and replaced by “Palestine.”

“I Don't Give a Damn What Your People Went Through”

Our school psychologist, Mrs. K — an Orthodox Jewish woman and child of Holocaust survivors — was the first to notice. She pulled together the few Jewish teachers on staff and explained why this was so dangerous. We were all pretty clueless.

She tried to raise her concerns with the principal, who brushed her off and told her to talk directly to Mr. B.

When she did, his response was seared into my memory:

“Mrs. K, I really don't give a damn what your people went through.”

The Farrakhan portrait stayed. The map without Israel stayed. And Mr. B was celebrated as a star of the school.

I had no idea then that this small seed of anger and ideology would grow into something so widespread and toxic three decades later.

The Silence After 9/11

Fast forward a decade. By 2005, I was back in middle school, this time working in an inclusion program for children with autism. It was deeply fulfilling work.

But one moment struck me hard. Just three years after 9/11 — an attack that had touched every New Yorker personally — I suggested a book to help sixth graders learn about that day. It was age-appropriate, factual, and clear about who the terrorists were.

The history teacher looked at me like a deer in headlights. She wanted nothing to do with it.

Why? By then, New York’s public schools had absorbed a growing influx of students from Muslim communities. Administrators chose silence. I’m sure they did not have much of a choice. NYC schools generally engage in a “follow the herd mentality.” It was deemed too “sensitive” to name Islamic extremism, even as the Holocaust was still taught.

And into that silence, money and influence from Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood quietly flowed into U.S. schools.

October 7 — and October 8

Then came October 7, 2023 — when Hamas terrorists poured into Israel and carried out the largest mass slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust.

On October 8, the streets of New York filled with young people glorifying Hamas, tearing down posters of hostages, and chanting for intifada.

And I realized: this wasn’t spontaneous. It was the fruit of decades of quiet indoctrination.

1992 All Over Again

I wasn’t imagining it. Public schools and universities had taken federal and foreign money to run Arabic language and “cultural” programs. Some of these, like the Qatar Foundation International, openly promote propaganda. At one Brooklyn school, they displayed a map labeling the entire land as “Palestine” — just like I saw in 1993.

Here’s the bitter irony: countries like Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have banned the Muslim Brotherhood for spreading extremism. But the United States and Europe have welcomed it under the banner of “tolerance” and “diversity.”

While Arab governments crack down on this poison, Western democracies are teaching it to their children.

Connecting the Dots

Looking back, the trajectory is clear:

- **1992:** A school mural glorifies “resistance” and Israel disappears from the map.
- **2001:** America suffers 9/11, but schools refuse to name Islamic extremism.

- **2005:** Foreign funding quietly seeps into U.S. classrooms.
- **2023:** Students flood the streets chanting for intifada and the destruction of Israel.

We are now on the third generation of indoctrination.

A Call to Wake Up

As a Jewish woman who spent her life believing in coexistence and progressive values, it is chilling to watch this unfold. Slogans like “*Globalize the Intifada*” and “*From the River to the Sea*” have seeped into the heads of American children — who are now raising the next generation.

What I witnessed in 1992 was not random. It was a seed — planted in classrooms, nurtured with foreign funding, and allowed to grow under the guise of diversity and social justice.

Unless we call it out now, loudly and clearly, we risk raising yet another generation who thinks Osama bin Laden “had a point.”

God help us if we do.

On July 27, 2022, I was a passenger on a subway on my way home. While I was seated, a group of young men entered the train car. They began playing loud music and dancing on the subway, within the limited space of the subway car.

During this activity, one individual from the group landed on my foot. I reacted to the contact, at which point the individual turned his attention toward me. He accused me of recording him on my phone and immediately threatened me, demanding my phone, "Give me your phone, Jew" he said.

The situation escalated quickly. Without any physical provocation from me, the individual approached and struck me in the face with his fist. The force of the punch caused immediate pain and visible injury, and I began bleeding everywhere.

Following the assault, the individual and his friends exited the subway. As he was leaving, he made a threatening statement to the effect of saying that if he had a gun, he would have shot me. This statement caused me additional fear and distress.

As a result of the assault, I sustained physical injury to my face and the back of my head, including bleeding and pain, as well as emotional distress stemming from both the attack and the subsequent threat.

New York City Council Task Force on Anti-Semitism

April 22 2026

Dear Task Force Members,

The overwhelming majority of persons who have been arrested for anti-Semitic attacks reach plea agreements with the relevant NYC District Attorneys' offices that are at best slaps on the wrist. While this is understandable in terms of the resources these offices have to prosecute all crimes, these almost meaningless plea agreements offer no incentive for others to not commit anti-Semitic attacks.

The most important thing this task force can do is to provide the resources and a mandate for the District Attorneys offices to seriously prosecute anti-Semitic attacks, and not offer to settle for the current meaningless plea agreements that entail no jail time and no criminal record.

Thank you,

Michael Chenkin

Bronx NY

Testimony of Michael Valdes
New York City Council Hearing on Campus Climate and Student Safety

Hello all,

My name is Michael Valdes. I am a graduating Master of Fine Arts student in Contemporary Theatre and Performance at The New School. I am testifying as a Jewish, pro-Israel student, on behalf of myself and many others across New York City who have faced similar experiences.

Over the past three years, I have witnessed and personally experienced a campus environment marked by escalating hostility, lack of accountability, and institutional inaction toward antisemitism.

Following the October 7, 2023 attacks, tensions on campus intensified significantly. In December 2023, the university's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine called for the school to divest from companies connected to Israel and to end its partnership with the Tel Aviv Music Institute. This partnership fosters cultural exchange and brings Israeli students into one of the university's most respected programs. In practice, however, Israeli students—both within and outside this program—have faced discrimination, hostility, disrespect, and credible concerns for their safety.

This climate has not been limited to Israeli students. Jewish and pro-Israel students—and even those who are neutral—have faced discrimination and harassment for not aligning with dominant viewpoints.

In May 2024, during campus encampments, I was harassed while walking around a university building on Fifth Avenue. I was told I was not welcome on campus because I was a “Zionist.” I had not engaged with or provoked anyone; I was simply wearing a Star of David. I reported this incident to the university's Title IX office. After nearly a year of minimal communication, my case was closed without resolution because the responsible student was no longer under the university's jurisdiction. Waiting almost a year without accountability was deeply frustrating and unacceptable.

The broader campus climate also impacted my academic experience. During the encampments, some students organized a strike in response to arrests. I chose not to participate. As a result, I had to advocate to prevent a political statement from being inserted into one of my final performances, and one of my finals was ultimately canceled due to the strike, placing me at a disadvantage.

Institutional responses to more extreme incidents have also been inconsistent. At one point, The New School's Students for Justice in Palestine promoted an event using imagery associated with Hamas. While the university initially placed the group on probation, that probation expired without further consequence. Later in Fall 2025, social media posts emerged from this same group that included explicit praise for a U.S.-designated terrorist and language calling for violence against Tel Aviv, and, ultimately, Israelis. These messages were deeply alarming to many Jewish and Israeli students.

During my time on the University Student Senate, I sought to represent Jewish and Israeli students. Instead, I encountered hostility and, at times, open disrespect from fellow members. In one instance, I was laughed at during a meeting in front of university leadership. The student who had previously harassed me was elected to the Senate, and we were required to participate in the same meetings despite a no-contact order.

A particularly concerning moment involved a proposed Senate bill that would have required cutting ties with the university's Hillel chapter unless it severed connections with national Jewish organizations and programs. Although the administration ultimately intervened to stop the bill, no public statement was made to affirm that such measures were discriminatory. One of the bill's authors remains in a leadership role within the Senate today.

In Fall 2025, additional incidents occurred, including social media posts that promoted violence (mentioned earlier) and campus flyers accusing Jewish student organizations of supporting genocide. These cases were reported and investigated. However, after several months, the university concluded that these actions were protected as "freedom of expression" and took no disciplinary action.

Taken together, these experiences reflect a broader pattern: repeated incidents of harassment and intimidation, followed by delayed or insufficient institutional response. This environment has left many Jewish students feeling unsupported and unsafe.

I urge the Council to:

- Ensure universities are held accountable for addressing antisemitism with the same seriousness as other forms of discrimination.
- Require timely and transparent investigation processes for reported incidents.
- Establish clear boundaries between protected speech and conduct that creates a hostile or unsafe environment for students.

No student should feel unsafe or unwelcome because of their identity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Good afternoon,

My name is Moshe Sperrn. I am an educator and Jewish community advocate. Thank you to the Council, Speaker Julie Menin, Co-Chairs Inna Vernikov and Eric Dinowitz, and the rest of this task force for investigating and including the community in these hearings. While you will not solve a 3,000-year phenomenon of Jewish hatred, you will uncover what I believe reflects the lived reality of what it means to be a Jewish New Yorker today.

I am a 15-year veteran educator in NYC. My story is not unique, as I am certain others have experienced similar incidents. The reality is that too many remain silent—whether out of fear, fatigue, or a desire to simply move on and accept the uncomfortable truth that there are people who hate Jews. Some of this stems from ignorance, amplified by social media, and reinforced by inherited tropes and libels.

My story begins in 2023, when I personally experienced an antisemitic incident at the end of September at my public high school. This occurred exactly one week prior to October 7th.

I was teaching my class as normal when a student performed a Sieg Heil gesture—extending his arm in a Nazi salute—toward me. Another student brought it to my attention. When I saw what had happened, I was in utter shock. I could not fully comprehend what I had just witnessed. It was a glass-shattering moment; after 15 years as an educator, this was the first time a student had directed such an act at me. I was stunned and immediately reported it to my principal.

The principal investigated and corroborated my account. The student received a consequence that I was comfortable with, and we also engaged in a restorative conversation. But, strikingly, no one from the superintendent's office reached out to me or the DOE. I was never contacted by NYPD or asked for a statement.

When I shared this incident and countless others with the Mayor Adams administration, the borough safety officer contacted my principal and assured him that everything had been handled appropriately and that they were simply “checking in.” Yet the reality remains: I returned to work and was expected to simply move forward.

Here is the irony: in 12 years at this school, during the first nine, I never experienced antisemitism. There was one isolated incident years ago, but it stood as an outlier and was not directed at me, a Yarmulke wearing Jewish educator. Today, however, we have had six swastikas in our school since my incident. I personally reported one that was drawn on a bathroom window a few weeks ago.

When I learned of similar incidents in other schools within my superintendent's district, I reached out to him. He told me they were addressing it through “Meeting the Moment” in the Chancellor's office. When I followed up directly, I received no response. And our school was led by my Principal who took the time to address these incidents with the whole school community. He has always called me and checked in to see my thoughts and feelings over these incidents,

very appreciative of him. Most Jewish educators are not afforded the same. When a shared campus club used antisemitic language the account was removed by the campus Principals. This is not the norm, this is the outlier and I am lucky that I work in this building.

Here is the reality: there are very few people like me. However, for the past seven months, I have been met with silence from the Chancellor's office. If any other workplace ignored repeated concerns about hate and harassment, there would be immediate accountability. Instead, I am left with the feeling that I am the problem for raising them.

As a community advocate, I will expand further when you investigate the DOE, but there are countless incidents of swastikas that go unreported. Recently, I have heard staff report statements such as "the Holocaust never happened," "I hate that hat" in reference to a yarmulke, and students casually wearing a keffiyeh in ways that feel deliberately targeted. There are student publications that include libels about the war in the Middle East, and workshops provided by outside organizations within both the Union and NYCPS that are not neutral, but deeply offensive to our community.

It increasingly feels as though unless something reaches the New York Post or another media outlet, nothing is done. This includes this past November, when a Holocaust survivor was denied participation at MS 447, forcing me to escalate the matter to both the media and CM Vernikov after the DOE failed to respond. One has to ask: how is it possible that serious concerns of this nature are repeatedly ignored?

I ask you to imagine any other workplace where such reports are raised again and again, only to be met with silence. Trust me there is so much more that can be said on the DOE

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for forming a City Council Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism.

The alarming increase of anti-Semitic incidents in New York accompanied by hateful anti-Semitic hate speech in our communities, schools, universities and media must be addressed seriously and the penalties for them increased and enforced.

Please ensure that Jewish gatherings and Jewish students are protected from harassment and abuse and that Jewish places of worship and community life are protected.

Support for the Jewish State of Israel is an essential part of my Judaism, as it is for the majority of Jews. Protestors who interfere with my rights as a Jew and supporter of Israel should be held accountable.

It is, therefore, also essential to investigate whether pro-Palestinian protests and protesters are actually supporting terrorist organizations like Hamas, whether such terrorist organizations are actually funding the protests, and whether members of these groups may be breaking the law by supporting foreign terrorist organizations.

Fighting antisemitism in our educational system is another serious concern of mine. A few years ago, I was appalled to read about a Brooklyn elementary school classroom in which the teacher--in the name of instilling ethnic pride among her Muslim students—displayed a map of the Middle East that excluded the State of Israel. Such a travesty of misinformation and disrespect should not be tolerated.

Educators from elementary school teachers to university professors should be creating learning environments that encourage critical thinking, transmitting accurate information, and instilling respect for individual and group differences that enhance the self-esteem of students of all the varied backgrounds that have made our city great.

I wish you success in your endeavors.

From: [Natasha Severin](#)
To: [Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Mr. Eric Dinowitz, mr. Harvey Epstein
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:53:14 AM

Hearing from 04 22 2026- Hate Crime Police task force.

Thank you, City Council for this historical Hearing! It brings hope to NY Jews, the victims of hate crime.

My name is Natasha Severin. I am a Senior citizen, retiree. I represent here single Jews, scattered around NY. I am here to attract attention of the Council to those who live in public houses- under NYCHA, PACT, HUD. Especially in the Senior buildings. Unfortunately, public houses are very often - nests of crime, including hate crime! And Police, alas, don't take this seriously.

I was a victim of hate crime in my building for a few years. It started long before the Hamas slaughter in Israel.

Some of our old residents rent their apartments to the young illegal tenants. It is fraud! American taxpayers continue paying rent for those young parasites. And they create criminal atmosphere in the buildings.

I have such illegal tenant, who is occupying apt.3H, above me, INSTEAD of legal old woman Ms.Hill. His drug addiction deprived me from night sleep, antisemitic aggressive behavior block me from observing all Jewish holidays. I called 311 and 911 police 130 times! I did not get any help neither from police, nor from NYCHA and later- C&C. I am undergoing antisemitic attacks from the group of neighbors, maintenance workers, managers. I have got 11 police reports! But no one was about hate crime! Even when illegal young tenants desecrated David Star on my door, smeared it with machine oil - it was not called "antisemitism". Police area 5 wanted to issue field report. But their curator in Hate Crime unit of the State forbade even this! No one from those 11 police reports were investigated by precinct 25. Nobody was punished. Antisemitic attacks on me regularly continues.

To identify hate crime police use a list of such crimes. The main symbol of abuse- swastika. No swastika- no crime! This list is out of date. New Police task force needs another criteria for identification of hate crime against Jews! We hope the creation of this police new squad will reduce antisemitism in NY.

Ms. Natasha Severin.

[REDACTED], NY, NY, 10035.

Written Testimony

Task Force to Combat Antisemitism

April 22, 2026 – 12:00 PM

Subject: Confronting Antisemitism by Holding New York City Leaders Accountable

Many years ago, my uncle was compelled to change his name from Goldheir to one that sounded less Jewish in order to obtain a job on Wall Street. That painful reality of discrimination should have been left in the past. Yet today, the climate for Jews in New York City has become even more alarming.

New York City has become a troubling hotbed of antisemitism. Jews have consistently been the most frequently targeted victims of hate crimes by a wide margin—often exceeding all other targeted groups combined. According to NYPD data, January 2026 saw a reported 182% spike in antisemitic hate crimes year-over-year, and many anti-Jewish incidents undoubtedly go unreported. For too many Jews, New York has become a hostile environment where many feel afraid to show signs of their faith, remove their yarmulkes in public, fear harassment on the streets, or feel unsafe on college campuses such as Columbia University, where antisemitic encampments and unrest have deeply shaken confidence in public order and moral leadership.

This crisis demands accountability. Elise Stefanik brought national attention to the moral collapse and rampant antisemitism in higher education through congressional hearings where Ivy League university presidents failed to clearly affirm that calls for the genocide of Jews violated their own codes of conduct. Those hearings led to resignations, investigations, and overdue accountability for university presidents, officials, and trustees. This is all documented in her new book “Poisoned Ivies” and her national book tour that is confronting campus antisemitism head on. That model of direct confrontation and institutional responsibility offers an important lesson.

A similar process must unfold in New York City. City leaders and public officials should be held accountable when rhetoric or conduct fuels hostility toward Jews. Extremist slogans such as “globalize the intifada,” expressions of support for Hamas, endorsement of the BDS movement against Israel, calls for the arrest of Benjamin Netanyahu if he enters New York City, demonization of the Jewish state, and false accusations that Israel is committing genocide are not harmless political expressions when voiced or legitimized by public officials. Such rhetoric can embolden antisemitism, incite hostility, and contribute to an environment where antisemitic violence happen almost on a daily basis.

The newly formed Task Force to Combat Antisemitism has an important responsibility and opportunity: not merely to study this crisis, but to confront it with moral clarity, demand accountability, and help restore New York City as a place where Jewish residents can live openly, safely, and without fear. I commend the Task Force for taking up this urgent mission to get the job done.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Orenstein

[REDACTED]
Queens Village NY 11427

[REDACTED]

My opinion on combatting anti-Semitism,

It is important to understand that support for the Jewish State of Israel is an essential part of Judaism for the vast majority of Jews. Not only is Israel the legitimate product of self determination of Jewish people (to which every group is entitled) but return to Jerusalem and Zion has been an essential part of our religious observance for the 2000 years since we were ethnically cleansed from the Jewish homeland by the Romans.

Criticism of Israeli government policies is obviously not anti-Semitic, but refusal to accept our right to a Jewish State, is anti-Semitic. Dissident Jews who deny our right to a state, certainly have a right to their opinions, but should only be given a platform and news coverage in relation to their small numbers, not as “the other side” of the Jewish world, which is so common these days. NonJews who deny our right to our Jewish State, but who are unwilling to apply the same standard to other countries with an official religion, are clearly hypocritical and anti-Semitic and must be labeled as such, no matter what their political or financial position.

My name is Tali Finkelstein, and I am a resident of the Windsor Terrace neighborhood of Brooklyn. I am also a naturalized citizen, having been born in Israel. My family immigrated to the United States when I was a child.

I enjoy Prospect Park very much and take advantage of the different parts of the park – from running to cycling, to just walking around and discovering new areas. On Saturday, November 1, 2025, I was taking a nice, long walk, when I came across a monument which I discovered was called the “site of the Dongan Oak”, marking a site of a Revolutionary War battle. On the monument there was sprayed graffiti in large letters, saying “Fuck Israel” (please see picture below).



Unfortunately, I am not unfamiliar with this type of graffiti. It shows up frequently in and around the park, particularly in Park Slope. I reported this particular instance to the Prospect Park Alliance on November 3, 2025. They replied that they alerted the NYC Parks Maintenance & Operations team, and they would address the graffiti removal as soon as possible.

Imagine how it feels to take a walk along the park, which I just did the other day, on Prospect Park West, and find the same graffiti painted in multiple places on the sidewalk and on a construction site at PPW & 14th Street. Brooklyn is my home, and I have every right to feel safe,

included, and protected here. Sadly, my own City Council Member, Shahana Hanif, has never made me feel included or safe. Instead, I also reached out to City Council Member Inna Vernikov and to Assembly Member Robert Carroll when reporting the incident.

Jews of all backgrounds and persuasions are an integral part of the New York City community and have been for hundreds of years. People may disagree on politics but as a New Yorker, I should never have to confront this sort of racist, hateful rhetoric in my own home. Please take steps and measures to ensure that, like every New Yorker, my family and I can feel at home in our home.

Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Phylisa Wisdom

Address: _____

I represent: admin

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jack Lester

Address: 41 Square Rd

I represent: Jack Lester

Address: 41 Square Rd. E. H.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aurshon Malachowski

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ross Glick

Address: 75 Wall St.

I represent: B'nei Yisrael

Address: N/A

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ronald Greenberg

Address: 2015 Shore Parkway

I represent: NYPD 60th Precinct Community Council

Address: 2951 West 8th St

Brooklyn, NY 11224

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GERARD FICUZZI

Address: 633 3rd Ave. 21st Fl, NY, NY 10017

I represent: The Lawfare Project

Address: same as above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Moshe Davis

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zachary Winters

Address: 327 W 89th Street NY NY

I represent: Combat Antisemitism Movement

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Karen Feldman

Address: 399 E 72nd St. # 5E

I represent: Myself / NYCPSA

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Scott Richman

Address: _____

I represent: ADD

Address: _____

Please complete **THE COUNCIL** *Sergeant-at-Arms*
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LEO FERGUSON

Address: 39 W. 67th St. #804

I represent: SRES

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/22/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Asst. Chief Andrew Arias

Address: 1 Police Plaza

I represent: NYPD

Address: 1 Police Plaza

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/20

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Moshe Sporn

Address: _____

I represent: W. Fed Jewish Center

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/2020

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carin Bail

Address: 80-62 210th

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/20

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALAN SCHZINIER

Address: ALAN@NJACCLtw.org

I represent: National Jewish Advocacy

Address: 3 Rockefeller Center

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/22/20

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DCIM Michael Greber

Address: 1 Police Plaza

I represent: NYPD

Address: 1 Police Plaza

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brandon Binstka

Address: 165 E 56th St

I represent: American Jewish Committee (AJC)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JUDY BAUM

Address: 41 WOODLAND RD, Glen Head NY

I represent: JCRC NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hillary Stuchin

Address: _____

I represent: UJA Federation

Address: 131 E 59th St 10022

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GERARD FICITTI

Address: 633 3rd Ave, 21st Fl

I represent: THE LAWFARE PROJECT

Address: as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Avi Posnick

Address: 165 E 56th Street, NY NY

I represent: StandWithUS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Schulitz

Address: 25 Sutton Place South #7P

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RUTH LICHTENSTEIN

Address: 324 AVE I

I represent: Project Witness

Address: 2010 Fresh Ave Brooklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Cohen

Address: 69 John Place

I represent: Ashkenazi Jewish Center Foundation

Address: 599 Lexington Ave

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: April 22nd 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Abraham SouSSan

Address: 1640 Ocean Parkway Apt D24

I represent: Self / family

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ira Chazan

Address: 86-15 214th

I represent: myself

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Matasha Severin (PLEASE PRINT)
Address: 1940 Lexington Ave, NY
I represent: Jews of NY
Address: 1940 Lexington Ave, NY.

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/22/2026

Name: Jonathan Vick (PLEASE PRINT)
Address: 111-15 75th Ave Forest Hills 11375
I represent: _____
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms