



Testimony of Noam Gilboord, COO – JCRC-NY

April 25, 2023

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

Good Morning Chair Osse and members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Group Relations. My name is Noam Gilboord and I am the Chief Operating Officer for the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

The mission of JCRC-NY is to build relationships to advance the values, interests, and security of the Jewish community and to create a more interconnected New York for all. JCRC-NY, serves as the primary community relations agency for the Jewish community in the metropolitan New York area. As an active force in New York civic and communal life, JCRC-NY operates as a central coordinating and resource body to be a common table to cultivate understanding and joint action amongst diverse groups within the Jewish community; it cultivates deeper relationships with the broader New York Community to address critical issues and engender a shared society for all, and JCRC-NY ensures the security of the Jewish community in the face of rising antisemitism.

JCRC-NY speaks in favor of NYC Council Resolution 487 which recognizes April 29 as End Jew Hatred Day annually in the City of New York.

Recently, the ADL released a report showing a 39% spike in antisemitic incidents in New York in 2022. New York came in first among states having the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents.

The organized Jewish community has taken steps in response. Since 2020, UJA-Federation of New York (UJA) has collectively invested millions of dollars in security, creating the Community Security Initiative, a joint initiative of JCRC-NY and UJA which is charged with providing proactive and reactive security support. From increasing physical security in buildings, to research on the “dark web” these efforts work hand in hand with government to increase safety. Indeed, the work of our CSI team has led it to become part of a new umbrella coalition called the Jewish Security Alliance which will aim to act as the central point of contact for New York City area and New Jersey law enforcement communities on issues affecting all Jewish people. Moreover, as part of our two-prong approach to addressing anti-Semitism, JCRC-NY, on behalf of the Jewish community, also works intensively to identify common agendas and build bridges with other NYC communities, with the belief that learning and working together creates long term and sustainable trust along with deeper levels of understanding that can reduce conflict and fights hate in all its forms.

And yet, in 2022, data shows that New York City has become the most dangerous city in America to be a Jew. There are many theories and factors that may underpin this rise in extremism, from intolerance

and antisemitism nationally and globally, as well as Covid-19 and the many conspiracies that falsely link Jews and others to it. JCRC-NY believes in the leadership and actions of Speaker Adrienne Adams who has always sought to bring diverse communities together and illuminate those issues and beliefs that unite us all, rather than focus on what divides us. JCRC-NY is committed to partnering with Speaker Adams, Chair Osse, Chair of the Jewish Caucus Eric Dinowitz, and members of the Council on new and innovative ways to combat anti-Semitism.

JCRC-NY believes that the more voices one lends to the condemnation of hatred not only of Jews, but of any group who is suffering the slings and arrows of intolerance and racism, the better. We commend Chair Osse and Council Members Vernikov, Yeger, Menin, Gennaro, Richardson Jordan, Dinowitz, Holden, Lee, Carr, Ariola, Borelli, Kagan and Paladino and urge passage of this important Resolution.

Thank you.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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Name: Noam Gilboord

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