

homeland; and

Whereas, Prior to the founding of the State of Israel, Jews had been displaced, persecuted and subjected to institutional bigotry in country after country, century after century; and

Whereas, Anti-Semitism reached its most horrific height with the onset of the Holocaust, perhaps the worst act of genocidal persecution in the history of man, and a dark period that we will soon commemorate on May 6th of this year, Yom Ha'Shoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

Whereas, When the United Nations proclaimed Israel the Jewish homeland and a nation of the modern world, a hopeful new era was born while the ashes of a war-torn Europe, where six million Jews were executed at the hands of the Nazis, would forever serve as a foundation of the mission of Israel - to provide a safe haven for all Jews; and

Whereas, Today, Israel is indeed a refuge for its citizens and for Jews all over the world, many of who fled anti-Semitic persecution in countries like the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia; and

Whereas, Now over a half-century old, the State of Israel has made vast contributions and advancements to such fields as medicine, technology, agriculture and the arts; and

Whereas, A perfect contrast of new and old, Israel offers a singular wealth of history and culture, which has not escaped the millions of religious pilgrims and tourists who visit every year; and

Whereas, Since its inception, Israel has faced great adversity from neighboring nations, but it has persevered and has managed to create a society built on the very freedoms and principles that the Jewish people have been carrying with them for thousands of years; and

Whereas, Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, a national holiday in Israel, which is preceded by Yom Ha'Zikkaron, a day of remembrance for fallen Israeli soldiers, is a time for all New Yorkers and all Americans to join the Israeli people and Jews everywhere in celebrating the birth of the great State of Israel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York commemorates Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, Israeli Independence Day, on May 12, 2005.

RA
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4/14/2005