

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING AIRBNB, INC.'S DECISION TO REMOVE FROM ITS PLATFORM LISTINGS OF RENTAL PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN DISPUTED TERRITORY WITHIN THE WEST BANK; ENCOURAGING STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PENALIZE AIRBNB FOR THIS ACTION; PROHIBITING REIMBURSEMENT FOR LODGING EXPENSES INCURRED BY CITY EMPLOYEES WHO BOOK THEIR LODGING FOR PUBLIC BUSINESS TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIRBNB PLATFORM; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO FURNISH A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO GOVERNOR DESANTIS, AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF BROWARD COUNTY'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

WHEREAS, since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, the United States and the State of Israel have been close allies and enjoy shared values, cooperation and benevolent goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hollywood, which is located in a region that is home to one of the nation's and world's largest Jewish populations, shares democratic values and strategic interests with Israel and its people; and

WHEREAS, Airbnb, Inc. ("Airbnb") is a privately held global company headquartered in San Francisco, California, that operates an online platform through which people can select lodging accommodations by choosing from among properties listed on the platform; and

WHEREAS, Airbnb recently decided to remove from its platform all listings of rentals in Israeli settlements in the disputed area commonly known as the West Bank, while continuing to allow listings for properties in other portions of the disputed West Bank; and

WHEREAS, Airbnb also appears to allow on its platform the listing of properties in countries led by oppressive regimes; and

WHEREAS, applying its ban to only Jewish-owned property in the disputed West Bank raises the specter of religion-based discrimination, which has resulted in the filing

of at least one federal lawsuit accusing Airbnb of religious discrimination based on this recent policy decision; and

WHEREAS, in response to the global effort to diminish, ostracize, hurt and delegitimize the State of Israel through an effort known as the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement (“BDS”), the Florida legislature enacted Section 215.4725, Florida Statutes, entitled “Prohibited Investments by the State Board of Administration; companies that boycott Israel”; and

WHEREAS, while Airbnb has publicly stated that it rejects the BDS movement that shamefully seeks to delegitimize the state of Israel, its actions in singling out disputed territory affecting Israel while not applying the policy to other disputed territories around the world, including Northern Cyprus, Tibet, and Western Sahara, appears to belie and demonstrate the hypocrisy of Airbnb’s actions; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized that the BDS movement is inherently discriminatory and anti-Semitic; and

WHEREAS, the City is the sister City to Herzliya, Israel, and shares the same values and benevolent goals of the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to protect the interests of its citizens by ensuring that they, through the City Commission, will not be party to any discriminatory or anti-Semitic business practices, boycotts or divestments that target the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hollywood wishes to condemn and denounce Airbnb’s actions as discriminatory and hypocritical.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated in this Resolution.

Section 2: That, based upon the foregoing, it condemns and denounces Airbnb’s policy as discriminatory and hypocritical, and urges Airbnb to rescind this policy.

Section 3: That it encourages the state and federal governments to take all available action to penalize Airbnb, which will in turn discourage entities from taking similar discriminatory actions in the future.

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Section 4: That to the full extent permitted by law, the City Commission determines that, for all travel arranged on or after May 4, 2019, City employees traveling on public business shall not be reimbursed for their lodging expenses if the lodging accommodations were booked using the Airbnb platform.

Section 5: That it directs the City Manager to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to Florida Governor DeSantis, to all members of Broward County's congressional delegation, and to all members of Broward County's state legislative delegation.

Section 6: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

JOSH LEVY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

PATRICIA A. CERNY, MMC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY for the use and reliance of the City of Hollywood, Florida only:

DOUGLAS R. GONZALES, CITY ATTORNEY