



## ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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### VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Charles W. Burkett  
Mayor, Town of Surfside  
9293 Harding Avenue  
Surfside, FL 33154

Re: Town of Surfside's Adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

Dear Mayor Burkett:

We write on behalf of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest pro-Israel organization in the U.S. and the leading major American Jewish organization fighting for the safety and security of Israel and for the rights and interests of the Jewish people. We were so pleased to learn that the Town of Surfside is considering adopting the useful and widely-accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

As you surely know, Florida is among the states that have already adopted the IHRA definition. Many Florida cities, towns and counties have adopted it, too. The ZOA also fully supports the IHRA definition. Because we are on the front lines of fighting antisemitism, we know first-hand that understanding the many ways in which antisemitism manifests today – including when it relates to Israel – is the first step to effectively addressing this serious problem.

To assist you and the Town of Surfside, we have compiled information about the scope of the antisemitism problem in the U.S., the importance and usefulness of the IHRA definition, and the reasons why Surfside should join the many towns and others that have already adopted it. The information is enclosed. In addition, our ZOA professionals are a resource for you and the Town of Surfside. We have an active, effective and highly regarded regional office in Florida, close to Surfside and headed by Sharona Whisler. Ms. Whisler and the rest of the ZOA team are here to help you and the Town of Surfside on this or any other issue affecting the safety and security of the Jewish community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us. We thank you for your commitment to fighting antisemitism and to ensuring that the Jewish community in Surfside remains welcome, safe, and adequately protected.

Very truly yours,

Morton A. Klein  
National President

Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.  
Dir., Center for Law & Justice

Sharona Whisler  
Exec. Dir., FL Region

Enclosure