



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6515
July 16, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6515: Definition of Antisemitism, Proclamation No. 339	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 339 Defining Antisemitism.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Andrea Larson, City Clerk
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 339
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to approve a proclamation to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism as adopted by the IHRA Plenary in Bucharest on May 26, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The IHRA’s mandated focus is solely on Holocaust-related issues. With evidence that antisemitism was on the rise in 2016, IHRA adopted a working definition of antisemitism to provide a tool to help guide work on combating antisemitism.

The working definition of antisemitism was built by the IHRA Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial with international consensus from the IHRA member countries.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Mercer Island is the proud home to one of Washington State’s largest Jewish populations and the City is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful community for all residents.

Proclamation No. 339 (Exhibit 1) adopts the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. This working definition can help guide efforts to identify antisemitism throughout the community.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 339 Defining Antisemitism.