

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Jewish households call Chicago, the surrounding suburbs, and the 50th Ward “home,” and their heritage is part of Chicago’s rich history; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish American experience has been affected dramatically by the Holocaust with many Jewish residents of Chicagoland being descendants of a Holocaust survivor, victim, or refugee; and

WHEREAS, January 27, 2024 marks 79 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, the largest Nazi killing center and concentration camp complex, by the Soviet Army in German-occupied Poland in 1945; and

WHEREAS, this day is designated by the United Nations as International Holocaust Remembrance Day and serves as a day for people across the world to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others persecuted and killed by Nazis, their collaborators, and allies; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, and here in Chicago, we have seen a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Jewish people and we must be more vigilant than ever against attacks on the dignity and welfare of ethnic and religious groups; and

WHEREAS, “Recognizing the Extraordinary Courage of Victims and Survivors of the Holocaust” is the theme of International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2024, in recognition of the extraordinary courage that went into defying Nazi attempts to dehumanize their victims; and

WHEREAS, the world will pay tribute to the bravery of all those who stood up to the Nazis, despite the grave risks, including honoring heroes such as Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, who resisted the Nazi intent to dehumanize children by offering secret art classes in the Terezín ghetto-camp, reminding the children of their ability to create and imagine, and offering them hope; and

WHEREAS, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the United Nations and the entire world honor the legacy of Holocaust victims and survivors through their remarkable stories and history, and we increase efforts to counter Holocaust denial, distortion, and revisionism; and

WHEREAS, extremists across the world are increasingly attempting to deny the historical reality and the extent of the annihilation of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices, including intentional efforts to diminish the impact of the Holocaust and minimize the number of victims; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust denial is an expression of antisemitism and requires an international response aimed at combating racism and hate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby recognize January 27, 2024, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and pledge, through our continued commitment to the people of Chicago, to honor the memory of those who died in the Holocaust, as well as those who survived to share their experiences and wisdom with the world.