

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT; URGING ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Senator Steve Geller)

WHEREAS, the democratic State of Israel is a key ally and strategic partner of the United States;

WHEREAS, since Israel's founding in 1948, the United States has repeatedly expressed its unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

WHEREAS, the goal of achieving peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in the United States;

WHEREAS, it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

WHEREAS, cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism, and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

1 WHEREAS, the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement ("BDS
2 Movement") targeting Israel is a campaign that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and
3 the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

4 WHEREAS, the BDS Movement is one of several recent political movements that
5 undermine the possibility of a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by
6 demanding concessions of one party alone, Israel, and encouraging the Palestinians to
7 reject negotiations in favor of international pressure;

8 WHEREAS, the founder of the BDS Movement, Omar Barghouti, has denied the
9 right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, "We oppose a Jewish state in any
10 part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever
11 accept a Jewish state in Palestine";

12 WHEREAS, the BDS Movement targets not only the Israeli government but also
13 Israeli academic, cultural, and civil society institutions, as well as individual Israeli citizens
14 of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and also sometimes targets Jews of
15 other nationalities who support Israel;

16 WHEREAS, the BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters
17 explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

18 WHEREAS, university-based BDS efforts impede the free and open exchange of
19 ideas and in some cases lead to the intimidation and harassment of Jewish students and
20 others who support Israel;

21 WHEREAS, the BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass
22 punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards
23 peace;

1 WHEREAS, boycotts and similar tools aimed at promoting racial justice and social
2 change have been used effectively in the United States, South Africa, and other parts of
3 the world; and

4 WHEREAS, in contrast to protest movements that have sought racial justice and
5 social change, the BDS Movement targeting Israel is not about promoting coexistence,
6 civil rights, and political reconciliation but about questioning and undermining the very
7 legitimacy of the country and its people, NOW, THEREFORE,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
10 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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12 Section 1. The Board hereby opposes the BDS Movement targeting Israel,
13 including all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and efforts to target United States
14 companies that are engaged in legal commercial activities.

15 Section 2. The Board urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to direct
16 negotiations as the only way to achieve an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

17 Section 3. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit a copy
18 of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Florida Governor, Florida's
19 congressional delegation, and the Broward County legislative delegation.

20 Section 4. Severability.

21 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
22 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
23 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
24 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such

determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this day of , 2019.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By /s/ Kristin M. Carter 09/11/19
Kristin M. Carter (date)
Assistant County Attorney

By /s/ Rocio Blanco Garcia 09/11/19
Rocio Blanco Garcia (date)
Assistant County Attorney

KMC/gmb
BDS Resolution
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