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Anti-Defamation League®

October 11, 2016

Councilor Daneek Miller

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

250 Broadway, Suite 1810

New York, NY 10007

**RE:** Resolution 1230-2016: *Resolution Declaring Support for Muslim Communities, Affirming the Religious Pluralism of the United States, and Urging All Residents to Stand Together for Peace and Understanding*

Dear Chairman Miller,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (“ADL”), we are writing to express our strong support for Council Resolution No. 1230-2016, which specifically rejects anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence, affirms the religious pluralism of the United States, and urges all residents to stand together for peace and understanding.

Founded over a century ago, ADL is the nation’s leading civil rights and human relations organization, combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, as well as promoting understanding and diversity throughout the United States and abroad. To that end, we are an ardent advocate for religious freedom for all Americans- whether in the majority or minority. ADL plays a leading role in exposing and combating anti-Muslim bigotry and hatred.

We have been alarmed by and concerned about the recent trend of hateful rhetoric and violence directed towards Muslims in New York City. Particularly with the emergence of ISIS and the recent terrorist attacks around the globe coupled with a growing atmosphere of fear-mongering, there has been an increase in incidents targeting the Muslim community and those who are perceived to be Muslim. We have seen Islamophobia- the fear, hatred, and discrimination of Muslim people- manifesting itself in personal biases, rhetoric, education, politics, hate crimes, and more. These incidents and rhetoric have left New York City’s Muslim community feeling intimidated, vulnerable, and isolated.

All Americans have a stake in responding to violent bigotry. By passing this resolution, New York City Council will send a strong message to the entire community that anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence has no place in the City and that the American Muslim community is not alone. We commend you for standing together against bigotry, hatred, and prejudice. We must continue to speak out against, and work to prevent and educate against, the scapegoating of minorities in America.

ADL will continue to support efforts to combat Islamophobia, promote pluralism and encourage all residents of New York City to embrace peace and understanding between. Thank you for your action to support these important goals. We urge you adopt Resolution 1230-2016. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Bernstein', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Evan Bernstein

Regional Director, ADL-New York Region

Cc:

Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the Committee on Immigration,  
Council Member Brad Lander

**Serving the Empire State**

New York Region

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