



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

November 10, 2025

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker
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Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Dear Mayor Parker,

We, the leadership of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America, write to you again out of grave concern for the well-being of the local Jewish community, all Philadelphians and visitors to our city from its suburbs and beyond, as well as for Philadelphia's reputation.

Mayor Parker, you are about to legitimize a movement that has as its goal the destruction of the Jewish state of Israel, and you will validate a cause whose participants have murdered thousands of people – mostly Jews, and including scores of Americans. These will be the net effect of the "5th Annual Philadelphia Palestine Day" scheduled in the Mayor's Reception Room in City Hall on Nov. 24 and by presenting organizers with a mayoral proclamation, according to publicity on social media.

Mayor Parker: Please cancel this event, and please withdraw your proclamation.

We understand there is a significant and influential Arab community in Philadelphia, and we understand that Arabs are part of the tapestry of Philadelphia – as are Jews. Yet by celebrating and hosting this event, you are doing more than recognizing contributions of a local ethnic group.

Organizers have chosen that week for their event because of its proximity to Nov. 29, which is the "International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People" coinciding with the United Nations' resolution in 1947 that led to the re-establishment of the Jewish state of Israel on the Jewish People's historic and legal homeland.

The Arabs rejected a state living in peace side-by-side with the Jewish state then, and they continue to reject it today – preferring to annihilate the Jewish state and murder its Jewish citizens. You, Mayor Parker, will be tacitly endorsing this if you allow the event to take place and bestow your proclamation. This "Solidarity Day" was created to negate the restoration of Jewish self-determination.

Today on Philadelphia's streets we observe Palestinians and their supporters holding signs and wearing clothing and pendants that depict all of Israel as "Palestine" – including one of the organizers of the City Hall event. Clearly this is an indication that they do not desire to live in peace with Israel. Their chant, "From the river to the sea, 'Palestine' will be free," is further proof of their deadly aims. This is not to paint all of those of "Palestinian" descent with a broad brush.

Mayor Parker, the flags that will be displayed in your reception room during this event are the flags of the Palestine Liberation Organization – an organization that has committed mass-murders

(Please see other side)

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and terrorism in many nations, and of the Palestinian Authority, a dictatorship that has not permitted an election in 20 years and that continues to financially incentivize and reward its people to murder Israelis. The Palestinian Authority has even paid lifetime stipends to people who have murdered Americans.

United States policy under Democrat and Republican administrations does not recognize “Palestine.” Meanwhile, the Jewish state of Israel is and has proven to be a valued friend and indispensable ally of the United States.

Mayor Parker, you are mayor of the City of Brotherly Love. We can tell you that due to the planned Nov. 24th event, as well as actions and activities by the School District of Philadelphia, the Free Library of Philadelphia and other

agencies under your administration, our Jewish community does not feel loved – we feel threatened. Of course there will be some within the Jewish community who disagree with us. They are exceptions. ...

In a period of unprecedented levels of anti-Jewish attacks, persecution and violence throughout America – including murders, Mayor Parker you must speak out against this hatred and violence. By hosting and proclaiming “Palestine Day in Philadelphia,” and through the activities by those in your administration that deny the Jewish People’s rights and our history and depict Jews as villains, instead you are fostering it. This sends an ominous message to the city’s and the region’s Jews and all supporters of Israel.

Stop the Jew-Hatred BEFORE there is a calamity here!

Mayor Parker, as we did on January 25 in our prior letter to you, we repeat and extend some of our chapter leadership’s interest in meeting with you to discuss these matters, and we offer our expertise and experience to provide reforms and remedies to you and your administration. We are the oldest such group in America, and our active local chapter was founded in 1918.

Our nation’s 250th anniversary is coming up. Philadelphia will rightly be a focal point. We do not want the city’s reputation harmed or the city embarrassed as a haven for Jew-hatred and support of violence.

Please reach out. We truly do want to help. Contact our executive director, Steve Feldman, at 610-660-9466 or office@zoaphilly.org

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