

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING AIRBNB, INC.'S ("AIRBNB") DECISION TO REMOVE FROM ITS PLATFORM LISTINGS OF RENTAL PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN DISPUTED TERRITORY WITHIN THE WEST BANK; ENCOURAGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PENALIZE AIRBNB FOR THIS DECISION; PROHIBITING REIMBURSEMENT FOR LODGING EXPENSES FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO BOOK THEIR LODGING FOR PUBLIC BUSINESS TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIRBNB PLATFORM; 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, Israel is a strong and trusted ally of the United States;

WHEREAS, Broward County, which is part of a region that is home to one of the nation's and world's largest Jewish populations, shares democratic values and strategic interests with Israel and its people;

WHEREAS, Airbnb, Inc. ("Airbnb"), is a privately held global company headquartered in San Francisco, California, that operates an online platform through which people can select lodging accommodations by choosing from among properties listed on the platform;

WHEREAS, Airbnb recently decided to remove from its platform all listings of rentals in Israeli settlements in the disputed area commonly known as the West Bank, while continuing to allow listings for properties in other portions of the disputed West Bank;

WHEREAS, while Airbnb has publicly stated that it rejects the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction movement that shamefully seeks to delegitimize the state of Israel, Airbnb's

1 action in singling out disputed territory affecting Israel, and not applying the policy to other
2 disputed territories around the world, including Northern Cyprus, Tibet, and Western
3 Sahara, appears to belie and demonstrate the hypocrisy of Airbnb’s action;

4 WHEREAS, Airbnb also appears to allow on its platform the listing of properties in
5 countries led by oppressive regimes;

6 WHEREAS, applying the ban to only Jewish-owned property in the disputed West
7 Bank raises the specter of religion-based discrimination, which has resulted in the filing
8 of at least one federal lawsuit accusing Airbnb of religious discrimination based on this
9 recent policy decision;

10 WHEREAS, resolutions condemning Airbnb’s action have been issued by various
11 municipalities within Florida, including the City of Miami, and by other municipalities
12 including Beverly Hills, California, which, in condemning the Airbnb policy, stated that the
13 policy demonstrates “hatred, prejudice, ignorance and hypocrisy,” and that “prejudice and
14 discrimination based on religion have no place in our . . . country and world”;

15 WHEREAS, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has condemned Airbnb’s decision as
16 discriminatory, and the state is currently conducting a process to determine whether the
17 decision constitutes a boycott of the state of Israel that might subject Airbnb to inclusion
18 on the state’s scrutinized vendor list; and

19 WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners wishes to
20 condemn Airbnb’s actions as discriminatory and hypocritical, NOW, THEREFORE,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
23 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:
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1 Section 1. The Board hereby condemns Airbnb’s policy as discriminatory and
2 hypocritical, and urges Airbnb to rescind this policy.

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4 Section 2. The Board encourages the state and federal governments to take all
5 available action to penalize Airbnb, which will in turn discourage entities from taking
6 similar discriminatory actions in the future.

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8 Section 3. To the full extent legally permissible, the Board hereby determines
9 that, for all travel arranged on or after February 1, 2019, County employees traveling on
10 public business shall not be reimbursed for their lodging expenses if the lodging
11 accommodations were booked on the Airbnb platform.

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13 Section 4. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit a copy
14 of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to Governor DeSantis, to all
15 members of Broward County’s congressional delegation, and to all members of Broward
16 County’s state legislative delegation.

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18 Section 5. Severability.

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

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Section 6. Effective Date.

This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

PROPOSED

ADOPTED this day of , 2019.

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

By /s/ Rocio Blanco Garcia 01/17/19
Rocio Blanco Garcia (date)
Assistant County Attorney

By /s/ Danielle W. French 01/17/19
Danielle W. French (date)
Deputy County Attorney

RBG/mm
01/17/19
Airbnb Resolution
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