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MIZRACHI
RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS OF AMERICA

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November 6, 2026

The Honorable Cherelle L. Parker, Mayor
The Honorable Kenyatta Johnson, City Council President
The Honorable Larry Krasner, District Attorney
Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel, Philadelphia Police Department

Re: Protection for businesses targeted by November 8 “Boycott Ride”

Dear Mayor Parker, Council President Johnson, District Attorney Krasner, and Commissioner Bethel:

On behalf of the Religious Zionists of America–Mizrachi, I write concerning the bicycle rally scheduled to assemble at Rittenhouse Square at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 8, targeting Jewish-owned and Israeli-associated businesses.

We welcome Mayor Parker’s direct condemnation of singling out businesses because their owners are Jewish, Council President Johnson’s public rejection of this antisemitic targeting, and the announced preparations by the Philadelphia Police Department. Your statements send an essential message: Jewish business owners belong in Philadelphia and have the city’s protection. We now ask for confirmation that these public commitments are being translated into practical arrangements with every affected business.

The promotional flyer declares: “No business for Zionists! These Zionist establishments must go! Not in our city!” Among the establishments named are Dizengoff, Huda, Schlesinger’s, Mac Mart, Goldie, and K’Far Cafe. These are places where people work, serve their neighbors, and build their livelihoods. Their owners should not have to renounce their Jewish identity or attachment to Israel to operate safely.

With the gathering approaching, we respectfully request:

1. **Direct contact with every targeted business.** Please confirm that police have assessed each establishment’s security needs, designated a liaison, and provided owners with a direct means of obtaining immediate assistance.
2. **Protection before, during, and after the demonstration.** Appropriate coverage should be in place before participants assemble and continue until crowds outside the businesses disperse. Employees and customers must be able to enter and leave safely. Any barriers should protect storefronts while preserving access.
3. **Clear enforcement and prosecutorial coordination.** We welcome the mayor’s warning that unlawful conduct will bring accountability. Please ensure that police and the District Attorney’s Office are prepared to respond promptly to threats, unlawful obstruction,

Established in 1913, the RZA is one of the oldest and most influential Zionist organizations in the United States. It helped create pioneering Jewish communities in the Land of Israel, campaigned for the establishment of Israel, and has inspired numerous American Zionists to make aliya. Today the RZA is on the front lines of pro-Israel activism and religious Zionist education. The RZA is not affiliated with any American or Israeli political party.

trespass, vandalism, or assault; preserve evidence; and pursue charges where warranted, including applicable bias-related provisions.

4. **Continued visible solidarity.** We encourage city leaders to meet with affected owners and support their businesses, while coordinating visits to avoid creating additional security burdens.

Peaceful protest and political boycotts receive constitutional protection. City government also has a duty to protect public safety and enforce the law fairly. Business owners should receive practical assurances before they must decide whether it is safe to open their doors.

The proximity to the anniversary of Kristallnacht makes the targeting of Jewish storefronts particularly disturbing. We appreciate that city leaders have recognized the historical resonance and the anxiety this campaign creates.

Please respond before Sunday's gathering, identifying the official coordinating with affected businesses and confirming that these arrangements are underway. We seek assurances of preparedness without disclosure of sensitive operational details.

Thank you for speaking clearly against antisemitism. The next essential step is ensuring that every targeted owner, employee, and customer can rely on those commitments in practice.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Flatow, Chair
Religious Zionists of America–Mizrachi
sflatow@rza.org

cc: Captain David Read, Philadelphia Police Department, 9th District
Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations