



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2025

Official Statement from Mayor of Vancouver on Illumination for Israel's 76th Independence Day

VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement regarding the Illumination of City Hall and Burrard Bridge for Israel's 76th Independence Day:

"We recognize and uphold fundamental freedoms of speech and the ability to peacefully protest whether at City Hall, or across Vancouver. That being said, it's equally important to emphasize that our city maintains a zero-tolerance stance towards hateful speech and violent demonstrations.

"Democratic principles are the foundation of this country and any attempt to subvert or prevent Vancouver's City Council from doing its democratic duty will not be tolerated. As Vancouver's Mayor, I want to be clear that this Council will continue to carry out its duties despite threats to disrupt City Hall.

"The recent illumination request for Israel's 76th Independence Day underwent careful review by City staff, aligning with our Civic Protocol Policy's parameters. City Hall and Burrard St Bridge will also be illuminated later this month for the Independence days of other countries, including Guyana and Azerbaijan.

"It's important to note that this illumination does not imply or express support for the politics of any country. Illumination requests are open to members of the public, charities, non-profit organizations registered in Canada, or Consulate Offices, and are assessed fairly and impartially in line with eligibility criteria and precedence.

"The City has approved requests to illuminate City Hall and Burrard Bridge for Israel's Independence Day in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Notably, the City has not declined illumination requests from other countries amidst political unrest or conflict with which Canada maintains diplomatic relations."

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