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Hitorerut in Jerusalem

East Jerusalem—A Vision for Equality

“Why is Jerusalem always a duality, the Jerusalem of above and of below?”

I want to live in the Jerusalem of the middle

Without hitting my head above or wounding my legs below.”

Jerusalem is always two, said the poet Yehuda Amichai, and the municipal reality today proves that he is right. The gaps between the eastern and the western halves of the city exist in every field and after 50 years as part of the Jerusalem municipality, the eastern neighborhoods of the city are still underserved. As a municipal movement, **we believe that the Jerusalem municipality, which holds sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, has an obligation to serve all of its residents equally**, no matter their neighborhood of residence, language, national identity or residency status.

Hitorerut will work to improve and equalize the level of services provided to all of the city's neighborhoods. This task demands large amounts of resources, both national and municipal, for development. Hitorerut will play an active and involved role in carrying out the governmental program for the development of East Jerusalem. **As a movement that acted to apply municipal responsibility and authority over East Jerusalem** even before the current government's decision, we will support these moves in the city council and the government, while continuously striving to improve municipal services for all residents and neighborhoods under municipal jurisdiction. As part of our approach, which aims to strengthen Jerusalem's financial strength and economic independence, we will work to create sustainable sources of financing for the city's neighborhoods, including by creating business zones and increasing municipal tax collection.

As a grassroots movement, **we will help strengthen and develop urban leadership in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem** that emphasizes the quality of life of the residents. We will work to create productive cooperation with residents of East Jerusalem in order to promote the quality of life of residents and local interests. We encourage social responsibility and involvement in leading the city that belongs to all its residents, including its Arab residents.

We will work to make Hitorerut's activities accessible to the Arab public in the city by creating direct channels of communication in Arabic. In order to ensure the promotion of these ideas over time, we will conduct ongoing and frequent monitoring of our collective progress. We will do so through

tours, meetings with residents, and more. In this platform, we wish to outline the first and necessary stage in building trust between the residents of East Jerusalem and the municipal leadership.

Goals:

- **Services** - Making municipal services accessible to residents of East Jerusalem.
- **Law enforcement** - The deployment of police forces and enforcement in neighborhoods, which are essential to the residents
- **Planning** - Promoting programs for neighborhoods that promote the development of neighborhoods and the maintenance of public order.
- **Economic development** - Improving the economic situation in East Jerusalem by removing barriers to integration into the municipal labor market and encouraging the establishment of commercial and tourism businesses.
- **Education** - Investment in infrastructure, education, accessibility of studying Hebrew, access to higher education, informal education and leisure activities.
- **Sanitation and cleanliness** - Improving the sewage, drainage and garbage collection infrastructure, updating conceptions of how cleaning services should be used to make them appropriate for conditions in different neighborhoods, creating education programs for cleanliness and involving residents in cleanliness programs.
- **Transportation** - Improving road infrastructure and paving new roads, strengthening public transportation and adapting it to the neighborhoods' locations, improving parking enforcement.
- **Neighborhoods beyond the fence** - Applying all urban plans to the neighborhoods beyond the fence.

Addressing Government Decision 3790 and other decisions

The gaps in infrastructure between East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem are estimated to be valued at NIS 3 billion. The Government of Israel's Resolution No. 3790, adopted on May 13th, 2018, allocates many governmental resources for many different purposes to East Jerusalem. If implemented, it will act as a serious attempt to begin to deal with these gaps. The Jerusalem Municipality now has a historic opportunity to improve the state of East Jerusalem and to close the historical gap between it and the western part of the city. According to the decision, the implementation of the budgets is conditional on the planning and implementation of the Jerusalem Municipality. In many of the sections, the Jerusalem Municipality is required to allocate funds from its current budget as a condition for the

allocation of the government budget: Amounts estimated at NIS 101 million over a five-year period, without the cost of planning and ongoing operations.

The fate of this large-scale plan depends on the city's leadership and the intentions of its leader. As the entity who is entrusted with the wellbeing of all the residents of the city, the Jerusalem municipality is responsible for directing and promoting the implementation of the decision. The policy of Hitorerut will include full allocation of the necessary budgets, planning and optimal implementation of the plan, and representation of the residents vis-a-vis government ministries.

Service for Residents

Professional, friendly and efficient service is a component of the municipality's basic obligation to all its residents. Despite continuous improvement in recent years, service to residents of East Jerusalem is currently lacking due to the lack of linguistic accessibility of some of the services. **We will work to make municipal departments and services accessible to Arabic speakers** in order to improve communication with residents of East Jerusalem. In this spirit, we will act to advance the following steps:

- Increasing the number of Arabic-speaking clerks at the municipality, as well as training Hebrew-speaking officials in a basic course in Arabic for professional purposes.
- Promoting service in the neighborhoods to provide basic services without having to travel to the municipality building itself. Access to municipal services is currently lacking due to transportation difficulties, especially from neighborhoods beyond the fence and due to language gaps. Creating a tailored service point in the neighborhoods, which includes additional civil services in the one-stop-shop model, will be an appropriate response.
- Translating all forms of municipal and digital tools in a comprehensive and professional manner into the Arabic language and making them accessible to the public.
- Access to government ministries and government companies' services in the neighborhoods: Today there is a significant lack of welfare offices, *Tipot Halav* and post offices.

Enforcing the Law

The policy of the Israeli Police has undergone a revolutionary change following years in which the police closed police stations in East Jerusalem for fear of creating friction and confrontation with the

residents of East Jerusalem. As a result of that policy, the levels of crime and violence in these neighborhoods increased, and hence incitement and terror cells have developed. In recent years, a strategic decision has been made to begin the redeployment of police stations in East Jerusalem neighborhoods. We will work with the government to increase the number of police stations in East Jerusalem neighborhoods. **The deployment of police forces in these neighborhoods is part of the basic level of services to be provided to the residents of East Jerusalem in order to maintain the order and security of residents of East and West Jerusalem**, as well as to increase the level of trust of the residents in the police and government institutions. In addition, Hitorerut will act to fulfill the municipal responsibility for law enforcement by strengthening municipal inspectors.

Planning

One of the main obstacles in East Jerusalem is planning. Progress on all issues, including housing, transportation, sanitation, education, cleanliness, and law enforcement, requires the promotion of approved and updated master plans, and the regulation and division of land plots. **We will work to regulate the distribution of land in East Jerusalem and to approve current and applicable outline plans as soon as possible**, according to a number of outlines:

- Involving the local public in the planning process.
- Adapting planning to expected natural growth in the population.
- The designation of areas for public buildings in cooperation with the public in order to meet the existing gaps in classrooms, kindergartens, day care centers, health services, etc., and in accordance with forecasts for future needs.
- Increasing the permitted construction rates as is customary in the western neighborhoods of the city, in order to enable optimal utilization of the area.
- Any future planning must take into account the situation on the ground. After approval of viable plans that meet the needs of the population and build trust with the public, enforcement of the planning and building laws must be increased, in order to safeguard the public's interest in the neighborhoods.
- Establishing a unique planning system designed to allow the plans to be implemented.

Economic Development

Improving the economic strength of the city of Jerusalem is central to the plans of Hitorerut: This is significant for the direct benefit of the residents, as well as for improving municipal service and budget

balancing by increasing revenues from collecting municipal taxes. The Arab population in Jerusalem is in a poor economic state. 72% of the families in East Jerusalem were under the poverty line in 2016. The rate of employed persons aged 15-67 is 39%, compared with 44% among Arabs in Israel and 66% among Jews in Israel. Only about 15% of the Arab women in Jerusalem of working age are employed. Even those who are employed mostly work in construction or non-professional jobs and earn low wages.

Improving the economic strength of East Jerusalem residents must be part of any municipal economic plan. We must eliminate barriers that prevent economic development in East Jerusalem, economically integrate the eastern part of the city into the western part, create new employment opportunities, and encourage private enterprise. All this should be done in cooperation with the local population.

The steps to removing barriers to integration in the labor market in West Jerusalem:

- Promoting language training initiatives (in Hebrew and English) and professional opportunities to increase employment opportunities.
- Establishing day care centers and kindergartens in the neighborhoods (one for one as compared to West Jerusalem) will enable the entry of women to the labor market and increase the number of jobs within the neighborhoods.
- Incentivizing the integration of workers from all parts of the city in large companies (mainly in the field of technology) operating in the city.
 - Improving public transportation accessibility to East Jerusalem (see also transportation plan and section 7 below).
 - Regulating merchant activities in the vicinity of the Old City.
 - Establishment of commercial centers in the neighborhoods and at points that connect Arab and Jewish neighborhoods. The opening of commercial centers at these points may attract customers and capital from the west of the city, which today is reluctant to enter the centers of the Arab neighborhoods.
 - Encouraging the establishment of small businesses: encouraging commercial initiatives of East Jerusalem residents. Facilitating the approval procedures required to enable the growth of initiatives independently.
 - Establishment of light industrial zones on the outskirts of the neighborhoods.
 - Assisting Arab residents in establishing businesses and opening offices in compounds in the western part of the city.

- Encouraging residents of the western part of the city to go to businesses in the Old City and East Jerusalem neighborhoods, in cooperation with the merchants and paying attention to security sensitivity.

- Assistance in trade unionization.

Encouraging the tourism sector in East Jerusalem as an engine for economic growth:

East Jerusalem neighborhoods, with an emphasis on the neighborhoods adjacent to the Old City and the Mount of Olives, do not realize their potential as a tourist destination. Promoting tourism in the area can serve as an accelerator for economic and commercial development in the neighborhoods. Today there are a number of barriers preventing progress on the subject. In order to promote this, Hitorerut will act on several levels:

- Promoting a planning policy that allows the opening of tourist complexes, both residential and commercial, in neighborhoods, while also considering local needs and on the basis of small guest houses, shops and private restaurants, in order not to disrupt the fabric of life in the neighborhoods.

- Improving transport access between the two halves of the city, including promoting the brown line of the light rail from Umm Lyson to the industrial zone in Atarot.

- Encouraging local initiatives on tourism issues and providing training and guidance for residents of East Jerusalem interested in entering the subject.

- Cooperation with government agencies, workers' organizations and civil society to increase labor law enforcement among employers. This is in order to ensure the rights of Jerusalem's Arab residents, who constitute a vulnerable group. (See also Tourism in the Movement's Platform)

Education and Youth

Jerusalem is the city of children—most of its residents are under the age of 18. Investing in youth is always an investment in the future, but in the case of Jerusalem and certainly East Jerusalem - it is an investment in the present.

Safety-

- Improve children's safety by identifying dangerous structures and roads on the way to schools.

Infrastructure-

- In East Jerusalem there is a severe shortage of classrooms, and many of the existing classrooms are not suitable for study. The Israeli education system is in constant competition with private education systems or those under the supervision of the Palestinian Authority as a result of the Oslo

Accords. In recent years, there has been a growing demand for studies in the Israeli educational system, which is lacking in classrooms. In order to integrate East Jerusalem into the western part of the city, and to monitor the content studied in these schools, it is important to close the shortage of classrooms. For this reason, there is a need to build or operate 1,938 classrooms in order to enable all the children of East Jerusalem to take part in the public system. The rate of construction today is significantly lower than required, and even from the needs of natural increase. The infrastructure of schools and equipment is on a low level.

- Increasing the pace of construction considerably by allocating resources for development. We will work together with the residents to allocate the lands required for these buildings—both public and private—where necessary.

- Improving the appearance and infrastructure of existing schools, with emphasis on play areas, sports fields, parking and seating areas.

- Creating technology centers for students from East Jerusalem, and increasing access to computers in East Jerusalem.

- Improving access to schools and strengthening the transportation system between neighborhoods and schools, while maintaining the safety of children.

- Development of programs designed to reduce dropping out of the education system, the highest in Israel.

Higher education and vocational training-

- Increasing the supply of vocational schools and training, both as a solution for dropouts and as a tool for economic empowerment.

- Enhancing the level of study in mathematics, science, English and Hebrew even for students studying for the PA matriculation exams.

- Creating mechanisms that will help students to integrate into academic institutions in Jerusalem, by personal assistance and scholarships, amongst other things. This is in order to facilitate the integration of East Jerusalem residents into general society, especially in the city's labor market and high-quality jobs.

Languages-

- Improving the level of Hebrew in schools and promoting Hebrew studies in evening classes for the city's residents. This issue was raised by the Municipal Youth Committee as the most important issue for youth in East Jerusalem.

- Increasing Arabic studies for residents of the city's Jewish education system, recognizing that the ability to conduct a conversation between the two sides is the key to a good neighborly life in Jerusalem.

Employment-

- Integration of university graduates from the eastern part of the city in the teaching system - both in East Jerusalem and in the west.
- Placement—Encouraging people to study desired professions, as well as creating programs that will enable better integration of Arab university graduates from the city in high-quality positions in the public sector and the knowledge-intensive industries, while addressing current limitations such as language, employment experience, degrees from abroad and lack of connections.

Sports and Leisure-

- The establishment of neighborhood sport complexes similar to those in Sheikh Jarrah and the planned pool in Beit Hanina.
- Increasing the use of sports facilities in the western part of the city by Arab youth in Jerusalem.
- Encouraging the establishment of youth and children's groups in various sports in the eastern part of the city.
- Using of sports as a bridge between Arab and Jewish children of Jerusalem by encouraging joint projects based on sports.

Informal Education-

- Assisting in the establishment and institutionalization of additional youth movements in East Jerusalem - whether through national movements such as Arab Scouts or Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed, or by strengthening local initiatives.
- Strengthening the informal education activities carried out by the municipality: Noar Movil Noar, Council of Students, Madrich Tzair and similar groups.

Sanitation and cleanliness

The level of cleanliness, sanitation, and aesthetics in residential areas is one of the most basic services the municipality must provide its residents. **Hitorerut places this issue at the top of the movement's priorities for the entire city, and will act to promote this topic in East Jerusalem**, which suffers from a serious problem of uncollected trash and a lack of appropriate infrastructure for drainage and sewage. An improvement in the state of sanitation, maintenance of public spaces, and cleaning services will directly improve the quality of life for residents. The expansion of service as a result of budgets provided as a result of the government decision is a positive step but is insufficient.

According to the government's decision, at the end of the initial provision of assistance, the municipality must maintain an identical level of services from its budget. Thus, an increase in human resources will be insufficient. **It is necessary to develop an effective and sustainable apparatus that addresses the unique needs of the East Jerusalem neighborhoods.** Collaboration with residents on these issues will enable the services the municipality provides to be adapted to the unique needs of each neighborhood, to resolve problems that currently prevent fitting service, and thus **strengthen involvement and the sense of responsibility by residents to the environment in which they live, and to the city as a whole.**

Following the activity of Hitorerut city council member Yoav Bakshi Yevin in the past term, Hitorerut will act to improve the channels of access by East Jerusalem residents to the municipality. Today many hazards are not dealt with because of problems related to access in Arabic to the municipal hotline, and difficulties in identifying street names. Hitorerut will act to improve municipal services on this issues and build connections between residents of East Jerusalem to the movement in order to monitor municipal work.

- **Connecting and maintaining drainage and sewage infrastructure in the various neighborhoods**—A large amount of homes in East Jerusalem are not connected to sewage infrastructure, and drainage in the neighborhoods is a major hazard. It is necessary to connect as many homes as possible to a functioning sewage network, to improve the municipal drainage infrastructure in East Jerusalem, to minimize the amount of homes and neighborhoods in East Jerusalem not connected to a functioning sewage network, and to connect the sewage that flows in the Kidron Stream to a treatment facility, in order to prevent the pollution of the stream and the neighborhoods alongside it, as well as damage to historic sites nearby.
- Increasing the amount and upgrading the level of garbage containers located in East Jerusalem, through collaboration with the residents to locate them correctly and maintain them.
- Improving municipal cleaning services: **We will upgrade the operations of the cleaning services in the various neighborhoods in accordance with their unique topographical, cultural, and planning conditions.** The movement will promote alternative means of collecting garbage in areas not accessible to trucks, as is conducted in the Old City; will increase human resources in areas in which manual cleaning is necessary; and increase the number of collection days in accordance with the rate receptacles fill up.

- Increasing supervision and improving the service provided in neighborhoods beyond the separation barrier, which currently suffer from sanitation conditions that endanger their residents and all Jerusalem residents through the spread of disease.
- Education for maintaining cleanliness: **We will provide content about maintaining cleanliness to municipal schools and institutions of informal education, and create public Arabic-language campaigns to promote awareness of cleanliness in collaboration with residents.**
- **Promoting a process to beautify neighborhoods through creating parks, community gardens, and children's play areas, in accordance with local needs and full collaboration with residents,** and through involving them in formulating the overarching master plan for the development of their neighborhoods.
- Involving residents in maintaining and developing their environment: we will collaborate with the leadership in the neighborhoods to harness East Jerusalem residents to shared activities to beautify public space. We believe that alongside municipal investment, there is no alternative to social and personal involvement in this field.

Transportation

Jerusalem has succeeded in positioning itself as a pioneer in the field of transportation. Against this backdrop, the current gap between the level of transportation services and infrastructure in the eastern part of the city and those in the west is particularly striking. We see improved infrastructure and transportation services as one of the main points that can improve the quality of life of its residents directly, as well as improve the integration of East Jerusalem neighborhoods and their residents into the Jerusalem labor market. In our opinion, good public transport is one that is attentive to public needs. In light of this, **the gap must be narrowed and the transportation services and infrastructure in East Jerusalem neighborhoods improved, in cooperation with the residents.**

•Resident Participation:

Today the number of official complaints about service in East Jerusalem is very low, due to lack of cooperation from the residents. **Hitorerut will act to encourage residents to complain about infrastructure and public transport faults, and to help map local needs.** This is in order to enable enforcement of quality of service, and planning for future relevant transportation.

•Infrastructure:

•The level of roads in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem is lacking, to say the least. This issue has two facets. First, at the planning level. Second, making sure those plans are carried out.

•At the planning level, most of the neighborhoods in East Jerusalem lack suitable plans, and many of the neighborhoods' streets are in fact private access roads, cul-de-sac roads, or those that were built privately without permits. As a result, there are many traffic jams on the main roads, many roads are at steep inclines and are at widths that does not allow for a proper standard. There is great difficulty in accessing many areas. **Hitorerut will work to complete the planning of the important arteries of the neighborhoods as soon as possible depending on the situation on the ground, and begin implementation.**

•At the performance level, many roads suffer from neglect and a low standard of paving, lack of lighting, lack of sidewalks or even escape routes for pedestrians, and lack of means to regulate movement. This gap affects many services, such as garbage disposal, public transportation, etc., which have difficulty reaching their destination. **Hitorerut will promote the renewal and maintenance of the main roads in East Jerusalem, and the construction of sidewalks where possible in order to maintain pedestrian safety,** similar to the recent renovations in Sur Baher and Sheikh Jarrah.

Services:

•**Parking enforcement:** Creating proper parking arrangements in neighborhoods and enforcing illegal parking to maintain safety and continuity of traffic.

•**Public transportation:** Raising the level of public transport in East Jerusalem and improving its reliability in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport. Some of the ways we will do this is:

- Light rail—We will examine the master plan for transportation as relates to its effect on the eastern part of the city, and we will promote light rail lines in East Jerusalem in order to promote the accessibility of the city's services to the residents.

•The Rav Kav revolution has bypassed the residents of East Jerusalem. As a result, residents of East Jerusalem who arrive in West Jerusalem or are required to transfer between buses in the eastern and western parts of the city are forced to pay twice. We will promote the government's decision to bring the Rav Kav to transportation companies in East Jerusalem.

•Due to the poor quality of roads, many buses are unable to reach some areas and also suffer from serious wear and tear. We will examine the purchase or grant of franchises for the use of vehicles designated for this purpose, such as service taxis that may pass through narrower streets. This is in order to improve the response to the residents and to reduce wear and tear.

- We will promote the placement of shaded bus stations in East Jerusalem neighborhoods where possible and the placement of information on each line. Eventually, the integration of electronic

information boards in these neighborhoods should be included as well. In order to enable the installation and preservation of the stations, **the location, design and maintenance decisions regarding the stations will be made in cooperation with the residents**—from the perception of the stations as a community meeting place.

- Promoting the government's decision to conduct an experiment in the construction of shuttles that will connect the neighborhoods of East and West.

- Complementary transportation:**

- Integration of complementary transportation vehicles such as escalators, cable cars and adapted vehicles in order to improve the accessibility of the residents of the neighborhoods, in light of the steepness of the neighborhoods and the roads in them, and in light of the planning difficulties in creating a road infrastructure.

Neighborhoods on the other side of the separation barrier

Some 140,000 people now live in the Jerusalem neighborhoods on the other side of the separation fence, constituting about 16% of Jerusalem's residents. These neighborhoods are part of the city but suffer from a low level of personal security, lack of rule of law, overcrowding, lack of infrastructure and poor quality of services.

- The neighborhoods beyond the separation fence will be included in any plan to improve infrastructure, provide services or reduce the gaps that are implemented in East Jerusalem.

- Creation of special programs for these neighborhoods.

- Increasing the activity of the national authorities in these neighborhoods.

- Increasing law enforcement in neighborhoods.