



December 18, 2023

Marianne Meischeid
Commissioner
9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

Dear Commissioner Meischeid:

I trust this letter finds you well.

I have received email correspondence that was released as public record, and have watched online the Regular Commission Meeting of December 12th and of October 10th.

With all the necessary precaution before I claim someone or an incident is antisemitic, I must admit that I found some of the language and gestures you have used as extremely concerning.

Below is my response to a few of your quotes:

1. "The good news is that the hostage banners came down this afternoon."

I should say that the good news would be when the hostages, some of which are babies, toddlers, women, and elderly, are returned home safely, and not when the signs – hung in compliance with the town code or not – are removed.

2. "He said he would implement the lights to go off in the offices at Town Hall at 5pm when everyone left, so that the Israeli flag does not show in Town Hall."

While I have the utmost respect for the US and Florida flags, I think sympathizing with the State of Israel at this time and in this place is something that is very natural, logical and even, the right thing to do. I doubt that you would be so emotional about any other flag, including the Ukrainian flag if someone decided to hang it, other than the flag of Israel. In my view, hiding behind the need to switch off the lights is just an excuse. The threat of security is all the more reason to hang it. This is America. We all need to reject and fight the haters and terrorists and not to hide in hope that they will not target us.

3. "Hello, how do you feel about these non-code compliant political banners being installed on construction fence across from Town Hall?"



4. "...What is the status of their removal? Do you know who installed them? They are right across from Town Hall. They appeared Friday afternoon. They are too political. Residents are upset!"

Signs that call for the release of hostages are political? I offer my time and knowledge to come over to your beautiful town which holds a special place in my heart, and give you a short history lesson about the vicious murderers of HAMAS and maybe convince you that calling for the release of hostages, even if they are Jews and Israelis, is not political.

5. During the October 10th commission meeting that took place just 3 days after the horrific attack of HAMAS on Israeli civilians, murdering nearly 1300, you were the only commissioner who didn't rise for the moment of silence and added after: "There are far more serious issues in the world right now" – in my view, this shows lack of moral clarity and I wonder if this behavior really represents your constituents.

I leave aside you going after synagogues, as I have no intention nor the will to get into the politics of Surfside (now this is political). I do urge you, however, to set an example as an elected official and fight for the right causes – and coming after Israel and Israelis (let alone Jewish institutions) is not the right cause.

I have recently attended a few events in Surfside – including the Shabbat Table on the beach and the solidarity rally. While I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of support we received, I believe I may have missed you over there. Perhaps because there were so many people in attendance. Otherwise, I can't think of any reason why a commissioner would not attend an event in his or her town that supports the United States' closest ally during its darkest time.

At this point, I am hoping to mitigate concerns by addressing you privately. Please do not hesitate to contact my team or I, should you like to further discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Maor Elbaz-Starinsky".

Maor Elbaz-Starinsky
Consul General of Israel in Miami