



March 21, 2022

Rick Caruso for Mayor
101 The Grove Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Re: What will YOU do to end Jew-hatred in Los Angeles?

Dear Mr. Caruso,

As you know, End Jew Hatred is a grassroots civil rights movement seeking social justice for the Jewish community by making Jew-hatred unacceptable in contemporary society, empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution.

During the summer of 2020, while you were Chair of the Board of Trustees at USC, several students, including Rose Ritch, were harassed and hounded out of student government because of their Jewish identity. When you were directly asked to personally take action and unequivocally condemn this Jew-hatred, you did nothing. Although you were in a position of tremendous responsibility, you chose to remain silent and do nothing to protect Jewish students and faculty on your campus. Even when hundreds of members of the Los Angeles Jewish community and their allies, under the banner of the End Jew Hatred movement, held a protest outside The Grove and directly challenged you to act, you remained silent.

Your silence spoke volumes. Your failure of leadership allowed a hostile environment to flourish at USC – so much so that a year later, a “diversity” senator proclaimed that she wanted to “kill every motherfucking Zionist.” After numerous requests for action from the Jewish community, this time, you finally issued a milquetoast statement “reject[ing] antisemitism” and saying that “[t]his kind of hateful speech has no place at USC or anywhere in society.” But a statement is not a solution, it is a public relations stunt.

You did not offer dialogue with the Jewish community impacted by Jew-hatred at USC, and you did not set forth (let alone listen to) any concrete steps to empower Jewish students and faculty, provide mandatory training on antisemitism, and impose consequences on members of the USC community who violate social norms by engaging in bigotry and hateful acts against the Jewish community. Progress is being made on addressing antisemitism at USC despite you, not because of you. Your timidity does not inspire confidence in your leadership abilities. Action does.



Now, with this failure of leadership fresh in the memory of the Jewish community, you are running for Mayor and asking for the support of the very same people you ignored. Your campaign has sent text messages asking people if they support you for Mayor. When people respond by asking if you're planning to tackle antisemitism, they are told some version of "I'm sure he will. I'd encourage you to connect with the campaign." Since your campaign does not seem to have issued any policy plans addressing antisemitism (or, for that matter, addressing the concerns of any other minority), we will ask you directly:

1. What concrete measures will you take, as Mayor, to end Jew-hatred in Los Angeles?
2. How, exactly, will you deal with the increase in hate crimes targeting the Los Angeles Jewish community?
3. What steps will you take to ensure that antisemitism is rooted out of Los Angeles schools, including the LAUSD?
4. Will you commit to adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in the Office of the Mayor and throughout the City of Los Angeles?
5. Will you commit to establishing a task force to develop and implement actions to tangibly support Jewish and Zionist Los Angelenos?
6. Will you supplement citywide bias and harassment training protocols to specifically include antisemitism?
7. How, exactly, will you deal with the antisemitic propaganda (such as fliers) that are frequently and increasingly being distributed all over Los Angeles by groups that are well-known to authorities but spread Jew-hatred with impunity?
8. When a hate crime or other incident targeting the Jewish community occurs, will you use language unequivocally addressing antisemitism and Jew-hatred without adding language about other forms of bigotry, racism, or bias – language that minimizes and trivializes the unique pain and intergenerational trauma of the Jewish community?

Please note that we are asking the same questions of all the candidates for Mayor, as we seek to understand the candidates' positions on these issues of critical importance to our community. You may respond by issuing a public statement or directing your answers to action@endjewhatred.com.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Very truly yours,
#EndJewHatred