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February 26, 2024

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Dear Honorable Members of the Irvine City Council,

On behalf of the Jewish community, we are writing to ask for the immediate cessation of the repetitive hate speech in the City Council chambers, and for the removal of item 6.8 from the City Council meeting agenda for February 27, 2024.

**Repetitive Hate Speech**

During the previous five City Council meetings (November 28, 2023, December 12, 2023, January 9, 2024, January 23, 2024, and February 13, 2024) the Jewish citizens of Irvine have been subjected to hours of antisemitic hate speech that the Council leadership appear to support and encourage. Contrary to the assertions made by the Council leadership, such hate can be stopped using the City Council's Meeting Decorum Rules and provisions of the Brown Act. We hereby ask for the immediate cessation of the repetitive hate speech in the City Council chambers.

**Removal of item 6.8**

In response to the February 23, 2024 memo titled: Consideration of Local Action Items in Response to Current Mideast Crisis, we ask that item 6.8 of the City Council Agenda for February 27, 2024 be removed. The memo does not pledge to stop the continuation of hate at City Council meetings.

We will also seek the opportunity for the Irvine City Council to meet with the Jewish Federation and Rose Project leadership. Such a meeting has the potential to provide a visible step toward restoring trust between the Jewish community and the City Council as well as helping develop the City's plans to "initiate community meetings and dialogues that begin to bridge differences" between the residents of Irvine.

**The Jewish Federation Wants Peace**

As a community-based organization, the Jewish Federation of Orange County would like to support the Irvine City Council in strengthening our community during a time of deep division. There is nothing that the Jewish community wants more than peace.

We strongly urge the Irvine City Council to meet with Federation leadership, to avoid bringing forward any discussions or resolutions that will further divide our community, and to remove item 6.8 from the agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amir Kahana".

Amir Kahana, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Jeff Margolis".

Jeff Margolis, Rose Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Erik Ludwig".

Erik Ludwig, President & CEO

c.c. City Manager