

**From:** Richmond Mayor Eduardo mayoroffice-ci.richmond.ca.us@shared1.ccsend.com

**Subject:** To Jewish community members of Richmond, and to our broader community: I owe you a clear and unambiguous apology.

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RE

## City of Richmond, California

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Office of Mayor Eduardo Martinez



**To Jewish community members of Richmond, and to our broader community:  
I owe you a clear and unambiguous apology.**

Antisemitism is real. It is not abstract or theoretical — it creates fear, isolation, and danger for Jewish people, including right here in Richmond. As mayor, my words carry weight. In this instance, I failed to meet the responsibility that my position requires. I reposted content online that included antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories, which have long been used to dehumanize Jewish people and justify violence against them. I was wrong to share them, and I take full responsibility for the harm I caused. I regret the content I reposted, and I am deeply sorry. Racism and bigotry of any kind have no place in our city.

My apology is also dedicated to the people who felt they had to choose between taking concerns of antisemitism seriously, or continuing to support me and the larger vision of justice we strive toward. We must be clear that we will not allow antisemitism in our movements, nor will we allow antisemitism to be weaponized against progressive causes. It is legitimate and important to critique political ideologies and power structures — but it is never acceptable to invoke dehumanizing ideas. I have been outspoken in my criticism of the Israeli government. By allowing valid criticism of Israel's policies and actions to drift into incorrect and unsubstantiated claims, I regret that I compromised the integrity of the Palestinian solidarity movement.

Here in Richmond, we are serious about confronting racism in every form, and I am grateful that the public is holding me accountable. I received direct, constructive engagement from Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller from Temple Beth Hillel, who responded with honesty and care. She met with me face to face to help me understand, on a human level, why what I reposted was antisemitic, how it landed, and how it contributed to fear among some Jewish members of our community. She also guided me toward concrete steps to begin repairing the harm I caused.

Rabbi Saxe-Taller's leadership reflects the very best of Richmond — a commitment to mutual respect and collaboration. I also sought advice from Rabbi Yitzchok Wagner and Rabbi Cat Zavis and will follow their recommendations to study the history of antisemitism. I understand that learning alone is not the same as repair. But learning is essential if repair is to be real and lasting.

Richmond is a proud multi-faith community, and our city is strong because we meet our challenges together. I believe in a future we can be proud of — not because we avoided mistakes, but because we faced them together with courage and honesty.

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