

From the Office of Mayor Joe Schroeder

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September 29, 2023

Dear Community Members of Ventura,

During the City Council meeting on September 25, 2023, a group of virtual speakers shared racist and antisemitic statements during the public comment portion of the meeting. This event was deeply troubling, and witnessing such vulgar behavior saddens me.

As a community, we must stand united against threats and menacing behavior used to intimidate any individual from living a full, free, and equal life. None of this will be tolerated in our City.

I ask my colleagues on the City Council and all Ventura community members to join me in solidarity with our Jewish community members. Let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to condemn racism and white supremacy and to reject hate, discrimination, harassment, violence, racism, and xenophobia.

Our City Council has a history of supporting inclusion and opposing racism and violence, as demonstrated through resolutions passed on September 25, 2017, July 13, 2020, and October 19, 2020. Our Codes of Conduct also reflect our commitment to treating the public with respect and dignity while prohibiting hateful, derogatory, and vulgar language during council proceedings. We are dedicated to upholding these values, and we expect all council members and members of the public who participate in our meetings to adhere to these standards of civility.

Hate speech has no place in our city. We must work together as a community to foster inclusivity, understanding, and compassion. We can build a stronger, more harmonious Ventura through constructive dialogue and diverse perspectives.

If you witness something unacceptable in our City, please report it and share information. Feel free to contact me directly.

Together, we reaffirm our commitment to the diversity that defines us as we strive to build a safer, more inclusive environment where differences are celebrated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Schroeder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Schroeder,
Mayor, City of Ventura