

Tuesday, September 03, 2013

Bay Area Jewish Community Lauds Human Rights Commission's Resolve to Allocate MTA Funds to Address Anti-Semitism

A statement from the Jewish Community Relations Council, Anti-Defamation League, and the American Jewish Committee

We are pleased that the San Francisco Human Rights Commission has received funds from the Municipal Transit Authority, which represent the proceeds from offensive and bigoted advertisements. The organized Bay Area Jewish community looks forward to working with the HRC in applying a portion of these funds to further education about anti-Semitism in San Francisco.

The allocation of MTA funds to the HRC was a response to months of back-and-forth between fringe groups using San Francisco Muni bus ads as a platform for their inflammatory rhetoric. The American Freedom Defense Initiative sponsored three rounds of Islamophobic ads aimed at marginalizing the Muslim community, and American Muslims for Palestine sponsored untruthful ads promoting deceitful messages about Israel. In all cases, the organized Bay Area Jewish community unequivocally condemned the hateful and offensive content and advocated that the MTA treat those inflammatory advertisements with equity.

We commend the HRC for recognizing and addressing the repercussions of this battle of bus ads, using the revenue from such destructive discourse for constructive means. Intolerance is inexcusable in all its forms.

We are also grateful for the exemplary leadership of Supervisor Scott Wiener and the many members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors who took action, spoke against the outrageous AMP ads while supporting free speech, and encouraged the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to maintain consistency by donating the proceeds to the Human Rights Commission.

###

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is the central public affairs and community arm of the organized Jewish community. The JCRC mobilizes the Jewish community on critical issues and amplifies its voice in the public sphere to promote a just society and secure Jewish future.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

For more than 100 years, American Jewish Committee (AJC) has sought to advance the peace and security of the Jewish people around the world. Through high-level diplomacy, strong legislative advocacy, and effective interreligious and interethnic coalitions, AJC has made a significant impact on issues critical to the Jewish people.