JCRC Opposes Appointment of Alt-Right Propagandist

San Francisco, CA – The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) unequivocally condemns the appointment of Stephen Bannon to the position of senior counselor and chief strategist in President-elect Trump’s Administration. Bannon has described himself as being engaged in “a growing global anti-establishment revolt” which should “turn on the hate.” And, as executive chairman of Breitbart News Network from 2012 to 2016, he oversaw the online publication’s shift to the alt-right and its promotion of anti-Semitic, racist, Islamophobic, extremist and misogynistic voices.

“The national appointment of anyone who takes pride in the rhetoric of hatred, or who works to ostracize women and racial, ethnic and religious minority groups, is totally unacceptable and must be vigorously opposed,” Hadara Stanton, JCRC President, said.

The increase in race-based attacks and anti-Semitic incidents in California and across the nation is alarming, and underscores the threat to civil society in the United States. Since Election Day the Southern Poverty Law Center has recorded hundreds of acts of hate and intimidation, and President-elect Trump has urged his followers to stop harassing minorities. It is imperative that he use his new platform to make clear his vigorous opposition to any hate-motivated rhetoric and acts of violence, particularly given that some of his supporters have taken his inflammatory campaign rhetoric as license to engage in such behavior.

“Extremist statements that amplify hate and drive divisions in this country put all minority populations, including our Jewish community, at risk of marginalization and violence,” Abby Porth, JCRC Executive Director, said. “The antidote is to fight for our values of justice and compassion, and to redouble our efforts to be engaged in the democratic process.”

JCRC of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties is the central public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community and represents more than 80 organizations and congregations in the Bay Area.