

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislature Supports Concerns Of Anti Defamation League Regarding Offensive Sheriff Campaign Video

New City, NY (June 17, 2015) – The Rockland County Legislature passed a resolution at the Tuesday evening meeting to express support for the condemnation by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of an on-line video in support of the campaign of Richard Vasquez for Rockland County Sheriff that suggests by imagery and voice over, that Rockland's Orthodox Jewish community is responsible for illegal and unsafe housing issues in the County.

The resolution, sponsored by Legislator Ilan Schoenberger, criticizes the Chairman of the Rockland County Republican Party for posting the video that portrays Jews in a negative light to support a political campaign. Evan R. Bernstein, ADL's New York Regional Director, said, "We find the use of an image of visibly identifiable Jews in this campaign video to be deeply troubling, highly offensive, and inappropriate, as it essentially blames the Orthodox Jewish community for the substandard and illegal housing problems in Rockland. Voters should be encouraged to make decisions about candidates based upon their qualifications, political positions and not on the basis of race or religion, without offensive insertions ascribing blame on an issue to a particular religious group."

Mr. Bernstein also stated, "We urge Mr. Vasquez to edit the video and make clear that the crux of his campaign-and this county issue-has nothing to do with the Rockland Jewish community."

The resolution, which passed by a vote of thirteen to 3, sparked an hour and a half debate. Legislators Cornell, Diaz, Earl, Grant, Low-Hogan, Moroney, Murphy, Paul, Soskin, Wieder, Hood, and Chairman Wolfe joined Schoenberger to vote in favor of the resolution. Legislators Hofstein, Meyers and Jobson are recorded as voting against the resolution. Legislator Carey was absent.

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