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## Councilmember Campillo and Community Leaders Denounce Antisemitic Flyers, Announce Legislative Work as Response to Hateful Flyers

Ordinance would give police and City Attorney more tools to arrest and prosecute perpetrators of these hateful crimes; current law does not give law enforcement much leeway

SAN DIEGO — Councilmember Raul Campillo held a press conference Thursday to denounce and bring more community awareness to the antisemitic flyers that have peppered District 7 and other communities in recent months. At the press conference, Councilmember Campillo also announced legislative work that he is actively working on and will bring to City Council in coming months.

"The perpetrators of these antisemitic crimes won't just stop flyering out of the goodness of their hearts – they need strong laws to deter them, and our laws on the books now aren't forceful enough," said Councilmember Raul Campillo, who represents District 7 on the San Diego City Council. "My office is actively working on legislation to address this disparity. I want the community to be the first to know that we are taking action on this. Help is on the way to stop these hateful incidents."

Councilmember Campillo was joined Thursday by Jewish leaders, anti-hate organizations, law enforcement, other faith leaders, and members of the community, who were on hand to show their support for action to address these crimes. These groups included StopAntisemitism, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation of San Diego, and others.

"StopAntisemitism has been tracking these vile flyers for years and we know that they are more than just trolling – they're inciting hate," said Liora Rez, Executive Director of StopAntisemitism, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to fighting antisemitism. "That's why we are proud to work with Councilmember Campillo on this initiative because taking action to hold these bigots accountable is in everyone's best interest."

"The Jewish community is thankful for the support, friendship, and partnership of our many neighbors and friends who have stood with us time and again in the face of blind hatred aimed at our people," said Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi at Temple Emanu-El and Former Chair of the San Diego Rabbinical Association. "San Diego has a long and rich history of being a multicultural city of diversity and we celebrate the beauty of our diversity with all of our neighbors. We want to thank our neighbor and friend, Councilmember Campillo, for focusing on action that will hold the peddlers of hate and incitement accountable for their actions and dissemination of libelous slander that leads directly to violence and death. Thank you Councilmember Campillo for joining with us, our community, and our community partners, the Jewish Federation of San Diego, the Anti-Defamation League of San Diego, and the and the American Jewish Committee to help keep us and all of San Diego's rich and diverse community safer."

Thursday's press conference and announcement come as a response to <u>antisemitic flyers found in</u> <u>District 7 neighborhoods like Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, and San Carlos</u>. According to a quote provided by San Diego Police Department Public Information Officer Adam Sharki for a July CBS 8 article about the flyering incidents: "Leaving flyers in a public place, regardless of the content, does not qualify as a crime, as disgusting or distasteful as that message might be. If it leads to broken windows or someone assaulted, then it is a crime."

Councilmember Campillo's ordinance would amend and expand the City's Municipal Code, making it a misdemeanor for any person to litter with the intent to willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any other person based on their perceived characteristics. The Ordinance will come before Public Safety Committee, ultimately the City Council, in coming months.

## About Councilmember Raul A. Campillo

*Councilmember Raul A. Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego and serves as the Chair of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.* 

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