



**Office of Councilmember Myrtle Cole
San Diego City Council, Fourth District
Official Press Statement**

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Councilmember Cole issued the following statement during a press conference today with Congressman Juan Vargas, Senator Wadie Deddeh - Retired, and Mark Arabo - President and CEO of Neighborhood Market Association:

San Diego, CA – On Tuesday, October 22, I learned of the appalling racially disparaging comments made by El Cajon Mayor Mark Lewis that outraged the Chaldean Community. These insensitive comments come at a time when we are working hard in this region to collaborate across racial and ethnic lines.

At the tremendous public outcry, I just learned that Mayor Lewis issued a half-hearted, disingenuous apology stating that "I apologize *if* anyone within the community felt hurt by my comments." **Of course, people were hurt by his comments.** I stand with the Chaldean Community that this may be too little, too late. I also believe that his resignation is the only appropriate move for Mayor Lewis.

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