



Rent Stabilization Board

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BERKELEY RENT BOARD JOINS CHORUS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST MUSLIMS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In the aftermath of the election of Donald J. Trump, a wide variety of government agencies and elected officials throughout the country have decried the recent spike in hate crimes, violence, and hate speech against Muslim Americans and other vulnerable populations. The racially-charged rhetoric of the Presidential campaign has apparently encouraged this rise in violence aimed in particular at the more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States.

On November 14, 2016, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board unanimously voted to issue a resolution condemning violence and hate speech, and expressing support for and solidarity with property owners and renters that are Muslims, Arabic, Asian American, African American, Latino, women, immigrants, disabled, and LGBTQQIA, and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race or religion. The Rent Board further expressed support and solidarity for those targeted for their political affiliation.

During the meeting, Commissioner James Chang, co-sponsor of the resolution, explained that the condemnation of violence and hate speech and expression of support and solidarity, "is being pushed all across the country. I wanted us to be part of history—the right side of history. Really this is something that was pushed for by a coalition of young elected officials, this is something that really goes back to younger community members who were pushing this forward."

After the meeting, Executive Director Jay Kelekian stated that "Berkeley is a vibrant, diverse place, where both tenants and landlords come from every conceivable background. If there is anything that the landlords and tenants can agree on, it is that the kind of violence and hateful rhetoric we have seen over the past few weeks is unacceptable in a civil and pluralistic society, and has no place in Berkeley."

Attached: Resolution 16-14.