* To Yolo County DA Jeff Reisig

Jeff Reisig
District Attorney

Tessa Smith Chairperson

Laura Valdes *Vice-Chairperson*

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August 30, 2022

MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

On Sunday, August 28, 2022, four masked individuals displayed banners communicating hateful anti-Semitic messages from the bike overpass and Russel Blvd overpass in Davis. The District Attorney's Multi-Cultural Community Council unequivocally condemns these cowardly and despicable acts of bigotry.

We are assured that the District Attorney takes hate crimes very seriously and will prosecute all hate crime referrals to his office to the extent permitted by law.

We also know, however, that not all hate incidents are hate crimes. Anti-Semitic and racist speech, vile as it is, can be protected by the First Amendment. When the expression of bigotry is protected speech, the speakers cannot be punished under the law. That does not mean that government cannot respond to hate speech. Government officials must speak out as loudly and emphatically as they can to denounce anti-Semitic speakers and their evil messages. Silence is not an acceptable answer to bigotry. Everyone must speak out so that the victims of hate speech know that the community supports them and so the purveyors of hate speech know that their attempts to divide our community are repudiated.