FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2024

Statement of Brighton Officials Condemning Antisemitic Mailing

Recently we became aware of an odious cartoon, in which a figure representing County Executive Adam Bello is portrayed in a position of bondage to two figures apparently intended to be County Legislator Michael Yudelson, one of only two Jewish members of the County Legislature and the Executive Director of Temple B'rith Kodesh, located in Brighton and the largest synagogue in Monroe County, and Meredith Dragon, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. The cartoon is replete with antisemitic and misogynistic images and is utterly offensive.

The cartoon was apparently sent to members of the Monroe County Legislature, with an unsigned statement, under the logo of the Green Party of Monroe County and the Party for Socialism and Liberation Finger Lakes. This communication called on Monroe County to cease displaying the flag of Israel. It compared the Israeli flag to the Confederate flag, and it called the October 7 terror attack on Israel "well earned." We also find these two statements, in particular, to be repugnant and antisemitic.

Brighton is a community that has long prided itself not only on its diversity but also its history of interfaith connections. As elected officials of the Town of Brighton, we cannot allow this antisemitic and misogynistic communication to stand without our condemnation. In his recent State of the Town message, Supervisor Moehle stated, “I urge all members of our community to consider the impacts of our words and deeds not just on our children but on the diverse mosaic that we have built and that we celebrate here in Brighton.” Antisemitic and misogynistic statements and images like those found in this statement must be condemned, and as elected representatives of the Town of Brighton, we do condemn the statement and the image as hateful, misogynistic and antisemitic.
We call on all members of the Brighton community and beyond to join us in rejecting hatred in all its forms.

Signatures in support of this statement:

William W. Moehle
Town Supervisor

Christopher K. Werner
Councilmember

Christine E. Corrado
Councilmember

Nathaniel V. Salzman
Councilmember

Daniel E. Aman
Town Clerk