



February 18, 2022

Dear Supervisor Moehle and Brighton Town Board:

As representatives of Rochester's Jewish community, we write to express our disappointment and lack of confidence in Councilperson Robin Wilt's ability to represent Jewish people in Brighton—one-third of her constituency—given this past week's blatant repetition of anti-Jewish tropes.

Earlier this week, Ms. Wilt appeared on WXXI/WRUR's *Connections with Evan Dawson* in an episode dedicated to exploring the relationship between Black Americans and the Palestinian cause. It was evident that the investigative aspect of the program quickly gave way to the will of one local Palestinian activist intent on utilizing contemporary, antisemitic dog-whistles to garner support, enabling the other guests on the program to do the same. Ms. Wilt stated more than once that her appearance was as a representative of the Town of Brighton.

The Jewish Federation, a majority of Jewish Brighton residents, and our allies are disappointed by your silence and lack of action, which amounts to support of Ms. Wilt.

Considering the ADL recently reported that ["U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Remained at an Historic High in 2020,"](#) and the [organization's incident tracker](#), which reveals how anti-Jewish tropes and hate speech aimed at Jews have had fatal consequences, we anticipate that Ms. Wilt's words will undoubtedly reverberate within her political, ideological, and social circles, not to mention the borderless reach of the internet, where this episode now resides, forever. We encourage you to spend some time with the incident tracker and allow yourselves to consider what it might feel like to attend a place of worship with armed guards or to have to know where to hide in case of an active shooter situation in a holy space.

Ms. Wilt, ignorant of the complexities and nuances regarding an ethnoreligious people and a geopolitical situation, has consumed the blood-libel propaganda fed her and feels empowered to spew it across frequencies. She believes she truly is doing good. She is wildly misinformed. Her words only serve to invite hate, which in turn incites violence.

To Ms. Wilt, our concerns are merely the noise of people she has publicly called "haters" (and her supporters call "racists") because by categorizing her constituents this way, she can easily disregard them from an ideological standpoint while maintaining the easily-digestible narrative that Jews are monolithically white, powerful oppressors with ulterior motives.

We continue to offer opportunities for all of you, including Ms. Wilt, to learn about the unique history of the Jews and the sinister history of antisemitism. We have offered events during which you are able to learn, in the comfort of your homes and the anonymity of webinars, about why anti-Zionism is antisemitism in its latest iteration. There are ample resources for you to become the informed citizens and politicians your constituency believed we elected.

We offer our partnership to work collectively with you for the good of our entire community.

Signed,

Meredith Dragon
CEO

Monica Gebell
Director, Jewish Community
Relations Council

Mona F. Kolko
President of the Board