



Orange County Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand, Bldg B, Santa Ana, CA 92705

714.567.7470 www.ochumanrelations.org

Mission: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

Commissioners

Nadia Bettendorf, Chair

Bill Wood, Vice-Chair

Ellen Ahn

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Ki Hong Park

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Carol Turpen

Vince De Vargas

Doug Wooley

March 12, 2010

Michael Hirschberg
Chabad at UCI,
Irvine, CA 92612-6602

Dear Michael Hirschberg:

The Orange County Human Relations Commission was created in 1971 by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in collaboration with the Orange County Chapter of the League of Cities. The board established the commission's purpose to seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance and attempt to eliminate those causes.

In pursuit of this mission the commission has worked closely with the University of California Irvine over the last 5 years to deal with the difficult relations between Jewish, Muslim and Arab students. We have been involved in dialogues, mediations, strategic planning, forums, training sessions, and official communications with students, faculty, staff, administration and diverse community leaders.

At the regular monthly meeting on March 11, 2010 the Commission and Board of Directors voted to commend you for your courageous statements published in the OC Register on February 23, 2010, where you address some of the hysteria that has arisen over the Muslim student disruption of the Israeli ambassador's speech.

In coming together in this manner and challenging some of the rumors that abound on the internet and in the minds of people across the community you have exerted tremendous leadership. These important statements of truth from your perspective as Jewish student leaders may bring anger from some who would prefer to portray UCI in a negative light, and vilify the chancellor and his leadership. But understand this, in the nearly 40 years of the commission's existence as an impartial agency seeking to eliminate prejudice, intolerance and discrimination there have been few instances where a group of young leaders have raised such important voices.

Therefore, the Orange County Human Relations Commission and OC Human Relations do hereby officially commend you for your courage and leadership in support of good human relations.

For the Commission I am,

Nadia Saad Bettendorf, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

Judy Iannaccone, President
OC Human Relations Board of Directors