JCAN
JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Wyn Spiller,
Rotary International Director 2025-2027

July 2, 2026

Steven Routburg
General Counsel
Rotary International

Re: Elevation of Farrah Khan to President of Orange County LA Rotary Club

Dear Ms. Spiller and Mr. Routburg,

We are alarmed and disappointed by Rotary's failure to take seriously the evidence we sent—on June 22, 2026, we and other major Jewish organizations in Orange County flagged to you that the Orange County LA Rotary Club was set to elevate into leadership someone actively spreading blood libels, endangering Jewish residents. We understand hundreds of community members wrote in as well. We asked that you review whether such conduct was consistent with the Rotarian Code of Conduct and its Four Way Test. Rotary District Governor, Mr. Livingston quickly responded and let us know that Club and District leadership would consult with appropriate representatives from Rotary International. We were hopeful that our concerns would be addressed. Yet, before any reply was provided, on June 27, we learned instead that Ms. Khan was installed as President. Evidently the Orange County/LA Club determined that endangering the Jewish community is not disqualifying or inconsistent with "truth," "fairness," and building "good will."

When we contacted Mr. Livingston about this, he explained that Rotary International advised that when concerns arise about a member's conduct outside of Rotary activities, Rotary International can only provide guidance; decisions regarding club leadership and membership remain the responsibility of each club. We are grateful for Mr. Livingston's courtesy and the seriousness with which he approached our concerns. But we are stunned by the failure of Rotary International to apply their own guidelines in this case.

Rotary International's Manual of Procedure provides in Section 3.060 that "Clubs and Rotaract clubs should terminate the membership of members and Rotaractors for good cause when they cease to have the qualifications for membership. **If a club fails to do so, the board may instruct the club to terminate the membership of the member or Rotaractor for good cause.**" The same provision supplies the standard: "The guiding principles for the decision on termination shall be article 4, section 2(a) of the RI constitution and the high ethical standards expected of a member or a Rotaractor." Article 4, in turn, requires that members, *inter alia*, "**demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership**." Subsequent sections supply the process for doing so. It appears that, rather than having no recourse, Rotary International determined that there was no good cause to act.

Can it really be that Rotary International leadership regards Ms. Khan's broadcasting of ancient, outlandish blood libels as consistent with "good character" and "integrity"? To be sure, Ms. Khan is entitled to her private views, however bigoted they may be. But her decision to use her platform as "Former Mayor" speaks of an effort to actively amplify such hate in our community. We are a tiny fraction of Orange County's population, just 2%. But, as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote, "The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews." Ms. Khan's promotion of blood libels and conspiracy theories will coarsen the broader Orange County community, and lead to even more hate. Turning a blind eye to such conduct endangers our community, as well as others Ms. Khan might choose to target. It creates a permission structure for such blood libels to continue to circulate. In short, this is how decency dies.

We hope that, as Rotarians, you will see the importance of setting right what the Orange County Club got wrong. Being so small a fraction of the population, the Jewish community alone cannot maintain the societal norms that should protect against the circulation of blood libels and conspiracy theories. For centuries, across other societies, we've seen such rhetoric escalate into violence. Now, it's happening here—in Michigan, in Washington, in Colorado, in California at record levels, we see people attacking Jews, or those who stand with us, because they think they are attacking (to use Ms. Khan's framing) something in opposition to "humanity." "Cannibals," "pedophiles," those who would throw "handcuffed babies in a mass grave." We know where such language leads, especially when good people stay silent. We had thought that Rotary International was *especially* the kind of organization that would be a bulwark against this familiar cycle. Please, do not prove us wrong.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Heiman, Esq.
Director of Policy, Legal, and Government Affairs
Jewish Community Action Network

cc:
Craig Livingston
District 5320
District Governor

Attachment – June 22, 2026, Letter

Craig Livingston
District 5320
District Governor

June 22, 2026

Jennifer S. Wang
President
Rotary Club of Orange County L.A.

Beth M. Fujishige
District 5320
District Public Image Chair

Re: Conduct Unbefitting a Rotarian

Dear Mr. Livingston, Ms. Wang, and Ms. Fujishige,

We write, as representatives of leading Orange County Jewish community organizations, to express our dismay that former Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan was selected to lead the Orange County Rotary Club. We hope that that selection occurred because you and the members of the Club were unaware of her involvement in a series of recent hate incidents. Her conduct falls far short of Rotarian Guiding Principles and the Rotarian Code of Conduct; it should be disqualifying. We respectfully ask that—prior to installing Ms. Khan as President—Rotary District 5320 conduct a formal review of whether Ms. Khan's conduct aligns with the Rotarian Code of Conduct and the Four Way Test.

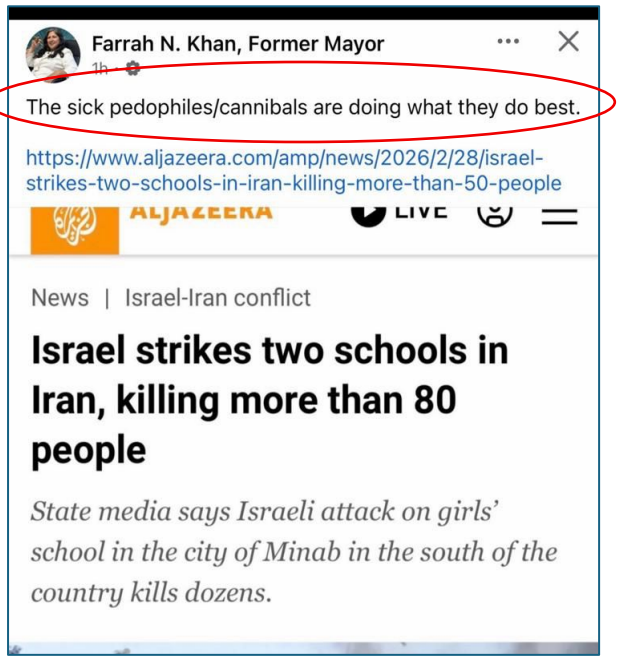
The hate incidents described below are not standalone events. They form a pattern that we saw developing when, as Mayor, Ms. Khan declined to enforce the City's rules of decorum and allowed harassment and bullying of our community at City Hall. The alarming photograph at right is representative—such masked attendees at City Hall accosted our community members; taunted us; shouted over us, threatened us, and did all they could to make us unwelcome in our own city. Ms. Khan did little to intervene.

In recent months—having left office—Ms. Khan has stated her views on the Jewish community via social media, loud and clear. In a bizarre post in February, Ms. Khan circulated an unverified report[1] claiming that Israel had attacked an Iranian girls' school,[2] Ms. Khan added: "**The sick pedophiles/cannibals are doing what they do best**."

[1] There is good reason to question the veracity of that report in Al Jazeera, a Qatari state-funded media outlet. ("Freedom House has rated Qatar "Not Free" for 27 years." *See* https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2026/02/11/al-jazeera-centre-for-studies-academic-veneer-normalizing-terrorism/)

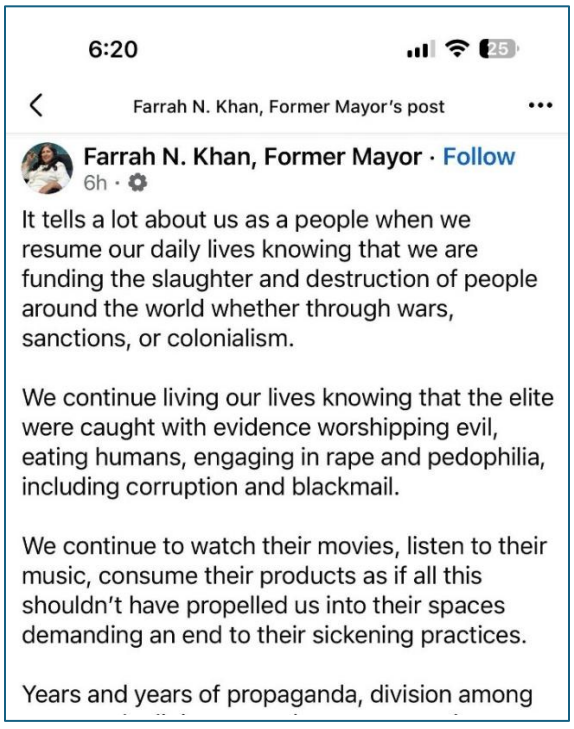
[2] As of this writing, the Al Jazeera claim remains unverified.

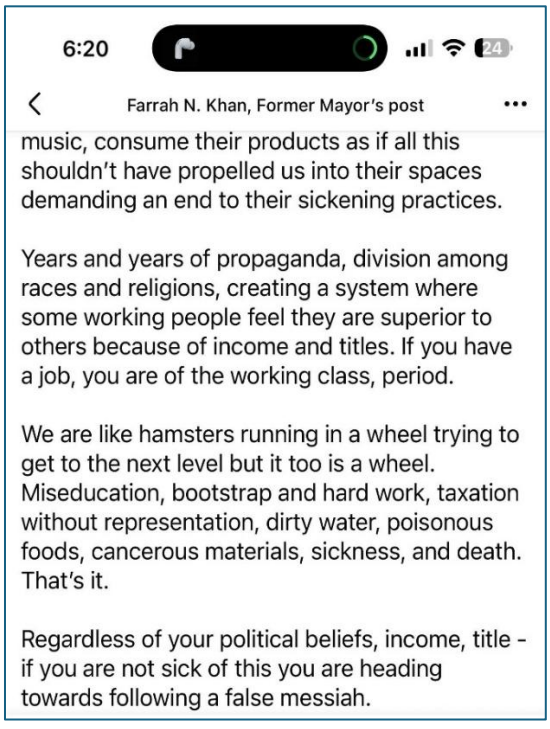
When Ms. Khan was challenged about her post, she doubled down saying: "*for those freaking out, I'm referring to government officials and the military, not the public." But purporting to limit the demonization to "just" the military in a society where service is mandatory does nothing to confine its scope—nearly every Israeli serves, and, often, that is deployed as justification when Israeli civilians or Jews in the United States are attacked.



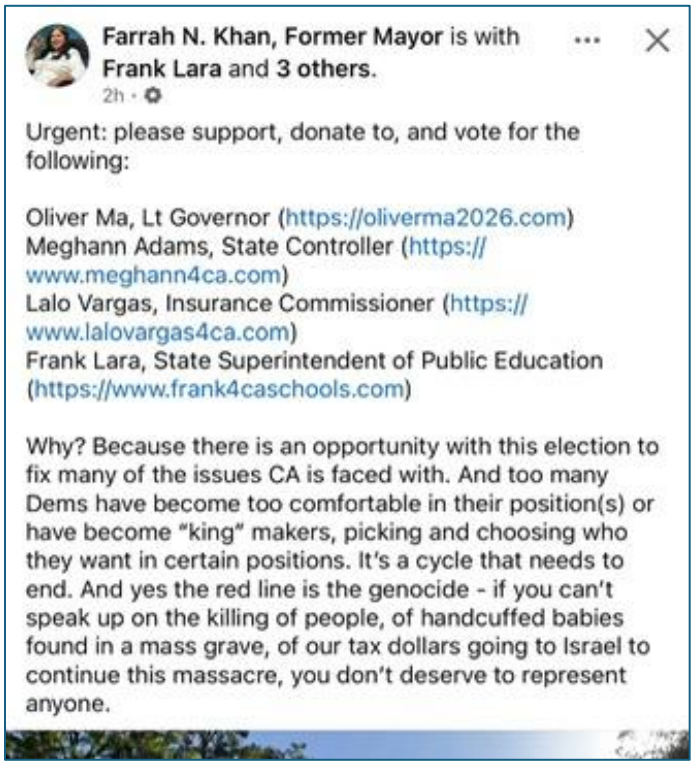
Another post, screenshots of which appear below, shows Ms. Khan repeating the same libel, but saying "the elite" instead of "Israelis" or "Jews." Given the parallel in the outlandish charges (pedophilia and cannibalism), the post reads as a coded attack on the Jewish community: Ms. Khan asserts that there is evidence "the elite" are "worshipping evil, eating humans, engaging in rape and pedophilia, including corruption and blackmail."

She then complains "[w]e continue to watch their movies, listen to their music, consume their products . . ."





More recently, Ms. Khan leveled another bizarre allegation against Israel, this time without even purporting to cite a source, alleging **"handcuffed babies found in a mass grave."** There is no evidence or support for such an allegation, but that does not deter Ms. Khan from broadcasting it to her followers.



Ms. Khan's posts are as dangerous as they are outlandish. Such blood libels—false, incendiary charges against Jews—have led directly to violence against our people for centuries.[3] Indeed, the particular tropes Ms. Khan selected find clear parallels in history—the charge that Jews murdered Christian children and used their blood for rituals (such as making matzah for Passover). Such libels often led to mass antisemitic violence, such as in 1475, in Trent, Italy, when the father of a missing boy accused the Jewish community of murdering his son and using his blood to bake matzah. The entire Jewish community was arrested and forced to confess under torture before they were sentenced to death and burned at the stake. There are countless similar examples from throughout history, with the first instance arising in the second century BC, and continuing through to the modern day.[4] Likewise, Ms. Khan's contention that Jews are pedophiles is an old libel—the ADL reports "there is a long history of antisemitic tropes about Jewish sexual 'deviance' and immorality.[5]

But Ms. Khan makes plain that she regards Jews as a class less than human, contrasting, in another post, "Zionism"[6] with "humanity." A screenshot of that post appears below as well.

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[3] *See*, *e.g.*, "Blood Libel: A False, Incendiary Claim Against Jews" available at https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/blood-libel-false-incendiary-claim-against-jews.

[4] *See* https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/blood-libel

[5] *See* https://www.adl.org/resources/article/antisemitism-anti-lgbtq-hate-converge-extremist-and-conspiratorial-beliefs

[6] Zionism is the belief that that the Jewish people, like all peoples, have a right to self-determination in our ancestral homeland. *See* https://www.ajc.org/news/anti-zionism-and-antisemitism.

These statements all appear to be profoundly at odds with democratic values, and with foundational Rotarian principles. We understand "the Object of the Rotary" to include "The advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace." We also understand that the purpose of the Rotarian "Four Way Test" is to guide the conduct of Rotarians, and that Rotarians are to assess, of the things they say or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Should the Club proceed to install Ms. Khan as President notwithstanding her bizarrely bigoted public comments, it would serve to normalize blood libels and textbook antisemitic conspiracy theories as "true" and "fair," and consistent with the conduct expected of a Rotarian leader.[7] We hope you will agree that that would be a profound stain on the Rotarian name.

But it would also be a devastating blow to our community. Over the last couple of years, the public discourse about the Jewish community has taken a very dark turn. This is not about mere political disagreements; if Ms. Khan were just offering a policy critique of Israeli actions, we would not be writing to you now. Ms. Khan's conduct is something entirely different, inciting hate against Israel and anyone who supports it, *i.e.* the Jewish community and our allies.

Blood libels and conspiracy theories we only read about in history books have begun to circulate in the public square; more and more, we see them spilling out into violence against us and our children. We are a tiny fraction of the population and cannot stem this tide on our own; the discourse will change, and our safety will be secured, only if our neighbors make clear that they will not accept such bigotry.

Moreover, today, the target may be the Jewish community. Tomorrow, it may be another faith group, or ethnicity, or another set of neighbors Ms. Khan chooses to target. Community organizations like Rotary clubs exist to build bridges across differences, not to elevate leaders who deepen them.

In light of all this, we respectfully request that Rotary District 5320 conduct a formal review of whether Ms. Khan's conduct aligns with the Rotarian Code of Conduct and the Four Way Test, and that this review be completed before she assumes office. We believe the facts merit serious consideration by District leadership.

[7] We see these same expectations reflected in the Rotarian Code of Conduct, which requires members to "Deal fairly with others and treat them . . . with respect."

Sincerely,

Ilana Meirovitch
CEO
Jewish Community Action Network

Joey Good
Senior Director
Community Relations Jewish Federation of Orange County

Inbal Greenberg
Regional Director
Israeli American Council

cc: Wyn Spiller, Rotary International Director 2025-2027
Steven Routburg, General Counsel, Rotary International