

February 27, 2015

Dear Mt. San Jacinto College Leadership:

As a former elected official, I am a strong defender of free speech. However, I also understand government does not have to provide a vehicle for or support for speech that may be deemed offensive to our community.

As an openly gay Republican, I have taken on my own political party to defend the notion of respect and equal protection under the law. I believe in diversity of views and that well-intentioned individuals can disagree without being disagreeable.

Given my own experiences in controversial speech, I am very distressed to learn that your school is sponsoring Miko Peled to speak on your campus in May.

Miko Peled is known for his divisive commentaries and views. Peled has accused Israelis as a whole of serious crimes and has called for the end of the Israeli state.

A simple review of his published works and his Twitter feed will reveal commentaries embedded with an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish theme that leads to nothing close to respect among all peoples.

My understanding is that this speech is being sponsored by your school's "Diversity Committee." This committee "seeks a campus and community climate that embraces, celebrates, and promotes RESPECT FOR THE ENTIRE VARIETY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE" (emphasis mine).

Your speaker stands for none of those values.

Please don't let him pollute your campus with his insensitive and divisive rhetoric. Please address the Israeli-Palestinian issue with the respect, scholarship, and sensitivity it merits.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl DeMaio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carl DeMaio