



MEDIA KIT

ANDERSON RESPONDS TO CAIR'S 'ISMLAMOPHOBIC SMEARS' ACCUSATIONS

Overview

At the October 5th board meeting, Supervisor Joel Anderson introduced a board letter that directed the County of San Diego to advocate that the Federal government use frozen Afghanistan assets towards covering the costs of resettlement for refugees. Anderson's colleague, Supervisor Lawson-Remer, added a friendly amendment to create a taskforce to help with the welcoming of these Afghan refugees in San Diego County. Supervisor Anderson asked that any organization that has known ties to terrorism in the Middle East, including the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), be excluded from participating in the taskforce. Anderson's specific exclusion was not part of the final vote. Days later, CAIR-San Diego sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors seeking reprimand for Supervisor Anderson's 'Islamophobic smears'. Anderson has since responded to CAIR, the Human Relations Commission, and others who have backed these claims.

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Timeline

August 25, 2021	Supervisor Anderson writes a letter to President Biden, urging him to return American and Afghan students and assist allies trapped in Afghanistan.
October 5, 2021	Supervisor Anderson introduces his plan for Afghan refugee resettlement to be funded using frozen assets SEE: The San Diego Union Tribune San Diego County prepares for influx of Afghan refugees SEE: East County Magazine SUPERVISORS ADOPT PLANS TO HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES
	Supervisor Lawson-Remer adds an amendment that would create a taskforce to assist with the welcoming of Afghan refugees
	Supervisor Anderson requests exclusion of any organization that has or had any affiliations with terrorism in the Middle East from participating in the taskforce, including CAIR
October 7, 2021	CAIR San Diego seeks reprimand for San Diego County District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson's 'Islamophobic Smears' (See Below for Letter)
October 11, 2021	Anderson responds to CAIR San Diego's 'Islamophobic Smears' accusation SEE: The Epoch Times San Diego Supervisor Responds to Accusations of Islamophobia Over Terrorism Comments
October 27, 2021	A coalition of San Diego organizations sent a signed letter to the Board of Supervisors (See Below for Letter)
October 28, 2021	Human Rights Commission sends a letter to the Board of Supervisors condemning Supervisor Anderson (See Below for Letter)
November 1, 2021	Supervisor Anderson responds to Human Rights Commission

Press Releases & Statements

Supervisor Joel Anderson responds to Human Relations Commission's accusation of "Islamophobic statements".

November 1, 2021

[Read Letter Here](#)

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**Letter from the Human Rights Commission
October 28, 2021**

**Leon L. Williams San Diego County
Human Relations Commission**

Chair: Ellen Nash

Vice-Chairs: Warsan Artan and Nicole Murray Ramirez

Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

Adeem Ismaiel	George Khoury	Herminia Ramirez	Sarah Farouq
Angela Elliott Santos	Gina Roberts	Julia Legaspi	Simona Ruderman Summer
Alex Villafuerte	Dennis Hodges	Kate Chasin	Stephan Taha Hassane
Bill Gore	Eleanor Evans	Kate Clark	Tammy Gillies
Cara Dessert	Elena Perez	Nicole Murray Ramirez	Tim Riemann
Christina Griffin-Jones	Ellen Nash	Pedro Anaya	Warsan Artan
Cinnamon Clark	Estela De Los Rios	Rodney Fowler	

October 28, 2021

To: Nathan Fletcher, Chair

From: Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

RECENT ISLAMOPHOBIC COMMENTS MADE BY DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON

The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission's (HRC) mission is to promote positive human relations, respect, and the integrity of every individual regardless of gender, religion, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or citizenship status.

The HRC is concerned, and seriously disturbed with recent Islamophobic comments made by District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson at the October 5th San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting and his subsequent statement addressing the comments on October 11th. Additionally, we are shocked and disappointed in the lack of outrage illustrated by the rest of the board regarding these Islamophobic attacks. We find these statements and inaction to be irresponsible, slanderous and in clear opposition of the County's Human Relation Commission's mission and goals. Anderson's regurgitation of vile Islamophobic smears target the nation's leading Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization which has a decades-long history of defending the civil and religious rights of all Americans. These abhorrent statements undermine the work that we as a commission have been brought together to address.

Words have the power to uplift our communities, but they can also be used to drag down our communities with fear and continue to promote unnecessary divisions. Labeling a community group that has a proven track record like CAIR San Diego (CAIR-SD), that has led the way in preparing for refugees as they arrived in San Diego County, should be celebrated. CAIR-SD does not deserve to be slandered with unproven rumors. It is also important to note that CAIR is not listed on any recognized U.S. State or Treasury department terrorist watch list. This community organization has been integral in the assistance of Afghan refugee and resettlement since early August and has been at the forefront of fighting racism and xenophobia, defending civil rights, and supporting civic engagement for all members of the San Diego community for decades.

October 27, 2021

Supervisor Anderson's irresponsible remarks endanger his own constituents and leaves refugees and other Muslims vulnerable to opportunistic hate groups and individuals who may see his words as a call to act out their hatred. This is the very same community that has experienced serious hate crimes towards refugees and Muslims.

The HRC stands in solidarity with our community and CAIR-SD to fight against bias, bigotry, and racism, regardless of where it comes from and will continue to work to bring our community together. Even if it means holding our elected officials accountable for their statements and actions. The HRC is seeking for the County Board of Supervisors to take a stance against the Islamophobia they are witnessing in their chambers and in their communities by formally censuring Supervisor Anderson unless a public apology and retraction is made. Additionally, we strongly urge for the whole board to schedule a meeting with CAIR-SD to learn the facts about the organization and their work to build-up our community. We urge County Leadership to act quickly to illustrate that Islamophobia has no place in San Diego.

The HRC will agenzied an additional discussion on this item at our next regular meeting on November 9th to provide the public a space to share their opinions and to act on further recommendations. We would encourage the participation of County Supervisor staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,



ELLEN NASH, Chair

Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission

C: Nora Vargas, Vice Chair
Joel Anderson, Supervisor
Terra Lawson-Remer, Supervisor
Jim Desmond, Supervisor
Helen Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrew Strong, Director Office of Equity & Racial Justice

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Letter from San Diego Organizations
October 27, 2021



October 27, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

San Diego, CA

RE: Joint Statement on Concern of Islamophobia in San Diego County Board of Supervisors Meeting

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

We are writing as leading community organizations to express our dismay and disapproval of the vile Islamophobic attacks on the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization who has a decades long history of fighting for the civil rights of all San Diegans and Americans which took place during the October 5, 2021, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Supervisor Anderson, who represents San Diego County's District 2, which is home to a large population of Muslim Americans, regurgitated unfounded and irresponsible Islamophobic attacks on the Council on American Islamic Relations-San Diego (CAIR-SD), a chapter of the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. These racist and unconscionable smears suggest CAIR's association with terrorist organizations, utilizing overtly Islamophobic stereotypes, put not only the Muslims of San Diego County at greater risk, but also that of CAIR-SD staff.

It is appalling that in the same community in which an Escondido Mosque was attacked with arson, that a County Board Supervisor would employ clear and overtly Islamophobic talking points to exclude the largest Muslim civil rights organization from participating in the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Taskforce, potentially inciting further violence on members of this organization and community. It is further astonishing that the Supervisor believes that using unfounded smears against Muslim organizations can, in any way, lead to constructing a welcoming environment for Afghan refugees and any other new San Diegans who follow the Muslim faith. We were also disappointed in the lack of moral outrage illustrated at the County Board of Supervisors meeting to these Islamophobic attacks which were on full display.

CAIR-SD has been integral in the assistance of Afghan refugee and resettlement since early August, helping families complete Humanitarian Parole applications to bring family members home and convening educational workshops with local immigration attorneys. They've also been at the forefront of fighting racism and xenophobia, defending civil rights, and supporting civic engagement for all members of the San Diego community for decades. Supervisor Anderson's bigoted comments not only ignore this reality while constructing an Islamophobic one of his own but will also undermine these efforts moving forward.

It is for these reasons and countless more that we, the undersigned community organizations, urge Supervisor Anderson to, at minimum, publicly apologize and retract these Islamophobic attacks. We also urge the County Board of Supervisors to take a stance against the Islamophobia they are witnessing in their chambers and in their communities. Excluding or attacking community organizations on baseless claims while simultaneously claiming to assist the communities they serve is disingenuous at best. County Leadership must condemn this speech that divides our marginal communities even further while propagating acts of violence against them.

With grave concern,

Tazheen Nizam
Associate Executive Director
*Council on American Islamic Relations
- California (CAIR-CA)*

Katia Hansen
President/CEO
*Unitarian Universalist Refugee &
Immigrant Services & Education
(UURISE)*

Caroline Theiss-Aird
Social Justice Chair
Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Dulce Garcia Executive Director <i>Border Angels</i>	Estela De Los Rios Executive Director <i>CSA San Diego County</i>	Gloria R. Conejo <i>Escondido Young Democrats</i> <i>BIPOC Educators & Association</i> <i>Los Geys de Esco</i>
Lisa Shafer Former Encinitas Deputy Mayor	Paulina Olvera Canez Executive Director <i>Espacio Migrante</i>	Ghouse Mohammed Chairman <i>Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego</i>
George Majeed Khoury Member of National Board of Directors <i>American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee</i>	Ojeni Touma President <i>American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee of San Diego</i>	Dulce Garcia, Chair <i>San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium</i>
Sara Kennedy Leadership Team <i>Indivisible San Diego Persist</i>	Pedro Rios Director <i>US-Mexico Border Program</i> <i>American Friends Service Committee</i>	Robert Vivar Co-Director <i>Unified US Deported Veterans Resource Center</i>
Homayra Yusufi Deputy Director <i>Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)</i>	Jose Lopez Director <i>Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)</i>	Moina Shaiq Founder <i>Meet a Muslim Conversations</i>
Paul Alexander Founder and President <i>Pillars of the Community</i>	Arcela Nunez-Alvarez Director <i>Universidad Popular</i>	Luca <i>Showing Up for Racial Justice, San Diego</i>
Annie Rios, Esq. Executive Director <i>Uprise Theatre</i>	Mariam Kanter-Plotkin Voter & Social Action Coordinator	Curtis Bell President <i>Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)</i>
Timothy Evilsizer Board President Elect <i>Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship</i>	Rev. Madison T. Schockley II Pastor <i>Pilgrim United Church of Christ</i>	Jean-Huy Tran Vice President <i>We the People, San Diego</i>
Yasmen Obaid Advocacy Coordinator <i>Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego</i>		

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[ANDERSON RESPONDS TO CAIR'S 'ISLAMOPHOBIC SMEARS' ACCUSATION](#) – October 11, 2021

“My statements on Tuesday were targeted at one specific organization, CAIR, for its shameful history of radical ties.

CAIR does not represent all Muslims in America. I have heard from victims in my district who fled their home countries due to persecution and they don’t feel safe working with CAIR.

I support the many reputable American Muslim residents and organizations in Southern California currently engaged in the resettlement of Afghan evacuees.

I have spoken with Afghan-Americans, refugees, and veterans who have told me these Afghan evacuees have put their lives on the line to promote freedom and peace.

That's why I wrote a letter to President Biden urging his assistance with evacuations from Afghanistan, and why I wrote the board letter requesting the County prepare a welcome for the Afghans expected to resettle in my district.

I was elected to fight for my district's residents, of whom there are over 2,000 Afghan-Americans."

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From: Tazheen Nizam <tnizam@cair.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Anderson, Joel <Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: BOS, District1Community <District1Community@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Lawson-Remer, Terra <Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Fletcher, Nathan (BOS) <Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Desmond, Jim <Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] CAIR San Diego Seeks Reprimand for San Diego County District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson's 'Islamophobic Smears'

October 7, 2021

CAIR San Diego

CAIR San Diego Seeks Reprimand for San Diego County District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson's 'Islamophobic Smears'

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

As a chapter of the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations San Diego (CAIR-San-Diego) respectfully requests that the San Diego Board of Supervisors issue an official reprimand for District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson's Islamophobic smears made against our organization at the board's Oct. 5 meeting.

Supervisor Anderson smeared CAIR during a discussion of our role in assisting Afghan refugees arriving in San Diego County.

We were appalled to hear that supervisor Anderson regurgitated vile Islamophobic smears to target the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization that has a decades-long history of defending the civil and religious rights of all Americans.

Supervisor Anderson needs to apologize for his false and irresponsible comments and the board needs to issue an official reprimand for his Islamophobic actions.

Mr. Anderson's smears will undermine the needed efforts of the Afghan refugee resettlement process and could endanger CAIR San Diego staff.

You may recall bias-motivated attacks on a synagogue and mosque in San Diego County. These incidents are often the result of ignorance, hatred and demonizing rhetoric such as that advanced by Supervisor Anderson."

SEE: CAIR-San Diego Welcomes Life Sentence of San Diego Resident Who Shot Up a Poway Synagogue and Burned an Escondido Mosque
https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-san-diego-welcomes-life-sentence-of-san-diego-resident-who-shot-up-poway-synagogue-and-burned-escondido-mosque/

Since the beginning of the recent Afghan refugee and resettlement crisis in early August, CAIR-San Diego has helped families complete Humanitarian Parole applications to bring family members' home. In addition, CAIR-San Diego has convened educational workshops, along with a local immigration attorney, to answer questions and complete Humanitarian Parole applications. Currently CAIR-San Diego is working with community-based organizations and resettlement agencies to ensure the refugees are getting the help they need. Supervisor Anderson's bigoted comments undermine these efforts.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tazheen Nizam | Associate Executive Director

Council on American-Islamic Relations, California

San Diego Office

7710 Balboa Ave. Ste. 326 | San Diego, CA 92111

858.278.4547 | Cell: 760-201-7626

ca.cair.com/sandiego

<https://ca.cair.com/sandiego/ways-to-give/give-online/>

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Media Coverage

The San Diego Union Tribune

[CAIR-San Diego helps newly arrived Afghan families acclimate to life in U.S.](#)

October 30, 2021

East County Magazine

[LOCAL ARAB GROUP CALLS ON SUPERVISOR ANDERSON TO APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS LINKING CAIR TO TERRORISM](#)

October 28, 2021

The Epoch Times

[San Diego Supervisor Responds to Accusations of Islamophobia Over Terrorism](#)

[Comments](#)

October 14, 2021

The San Diego Union Tribune

[San Diego County prepares for influx of Afghan refugees](#)

October 11, 2021

East County Magazine

[SUPERVISORS ADOPT PLANS TO HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES](#)

October 8, 2021

Groups in Support of Supervisor Anderson

Farhad Hashimi

December 2, 2021

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

I write to you as an American, a San Diegan, of Afghan descent, and an American Muslim.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Board for your support of Afghan evacuees. I know that as a community, we are proud to welcome those who served alongside the U.S. military in Afghanistan. To build a better world together, these Afghans put their lives on the line to advance a common objective of peace and security and they are deserving of their place in America as set forth in the 2008 Defense Authorization Act which established the SIV visa program.

In this letter, I would like to highlight a Supervisor who has made the strongest proposals to support Afghan evacuees, that is Supervisor Joel Anderson. In addition to coming out as the earliest and strongest supporters of vetted Afghans who supported the U.S. military, Supervisor Anderson seems to be the lone Supervisor laboring to preserve the unity in our community that exists to support this important mission.

As an Afghan-American leader in the community, I have spoken with countless Afghans regularly. As Afghan Americans and Muslims, we are firmly behind Joel Anderson. That is why we were frankly disturbed and dismayed by this manufactured political smear campaign against Supervisor Anderson for being "Islamophobic" due to his stating established facts about a single organization that does not represent Afghan-Americans and does not represent the overwhelming majority of Muslims in America, no matter what false internal data might be put forward.

No single organization can or should dare claim to represent "Islam" writ large, such that an attack on an organization is an attack on all Muslims and Islam itself. That is erroneous and intentionally misleading. Further, it is absurd to ascribe that level of religious authority upon oneself. We reject this transparent self-aggrandizement.

Afghan-Americans are led by nobody. American Muslims are led by nobody. We

are free. We are independent as individuals and as families. We are diverse not just in race and ethnicity, but we are diverse in thought. Afghan Americans did not elect any organization to represent us. American Muslims did not elect any organization to represent us. Any organization claiming that an attack on them is an attack on all Muslims should apologize to all American Muslims first, then to Supervisor Anderson for such malice. What is worse, all this has produced is a distraction from the mission at hand: support Afghan evacuees. It has produced division. It has produced tension. As Afghan Americans and American Muslims, we call on all organizations to cease from false representation.

Supervisor Joel Anderson has shown his support over the years to countless Muslims in the community and Afghan-Americans. That is why we urgently call on you to stop amplifying this side show which threatens to disintegrate us all, unnecessarily. We do not believe any elected Supervisor is naive enough to fall for this engineered and baseless smear. But in case any Supervisor believes this political stunt and its absurd slogans, we call on you to see through it, drop it, and get back to the important work of supporting Afghan evacuees.

We have an uncommon moment where all walks of life are together on this important mission to support Afghan evacuees. Please cease from the sideshow, keep this community united, and proceed with your work honorably. Afghan refugees are here and I am noticing a huge lack of commitment to keeping them feeling welcomed and supported. Please do not let us down. We are all watching.

Respectfully,

Farhad Omar Hashimi
Real Estate Portfolio Manager, CPB
US Army Reservist, 315th Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton
2024 MBA Candidate, UCLA Anderson School of Management

Nima Mobasser
November 26, 2021



WEST LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REFERRAL | ADVOCACY | EDUCATION

November 26, 2021

The Honorable Nathan Fletcher
Chair
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chair Fletcher,

As the Executive Director of the West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to inform you of my organization's strong support of San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson's leadership to prepare for incoming refugees from Afghanistan.

Along with other members of the Chamber's leadership team, I worked closely with Joel during his time serving as a California State Legislator. I can personally attest to his dedication to supporting human rights and small business owners – both issues of great importance to the incredibly diverse communities of West Los Angeles. In fact, he was so supportive in these areas that the Chamber recognized his commitment to lifting up and protecting the best interests of all Californians by presenting him with our California Legislator of the Year award in 2018.

I am pleased to see that Joel has continued to stand up for all people, of every background, faith, ethnicity, and culture. The West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce represents business owners from all faiths and backgrounds, including first, second, and third generation immigrants from all over the world. We applaud Supervisor Joel Anderson's actions to ensure that the refugees fleeing Afghanistan to protect themselves and their families are welcomed and well-positioned to begin their new lives in Southern California.

It is unfortunate that organizations in San Diego who disagree with Supervisor Anderson's politics are seeking his censure for simply speaking up in support of his constituents who hold differing viewpoints. I urge you and your colleagues on the Board of Supervisors not to give credence to the outrageous disparagements made against him.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at (310) 853-2291, if you would like me to provide more context or if you want to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nima Mobasser".

Nima Mobasser - Executive Director

WWW.WESTLACHAMBER.ORG

907 WESTWOOD BLVD, SUITE 222, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

Roozbeh Farahanipour
November 8, 2021

November 8, 2021

The Honorable Nathan Fletcher
Chair
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chair Fletcher,

I am writing regarding correspondence recently submitted to you by the County's Human Relations Commission and a few other organizations alleging that Supervisor Joel Anderson made insensitive comments during the October 5, 2021, Board of Supervisors meeting. Having reviewed the recording of this meeting, it is clear these accusations are patently false.

As someone who personally knows the Supervisor and has worked closely with him to defend the rights of oppressed and persecuted people, I consider Joel Anderson to be a champion of human rights.

By way of background, I have worked for over three decades as a freedom fighter, attempting to replace Islamic republic of Iran with one of a democratic secular rule. As a member of the largest expatriate Iranian community, located in Los Angeles, I continue to assist in the global effort to help those in Iran who face the everyday threat of torture and execution for simply speaking up for human rights.

When it was discovered that billions in assets controlled by the State of California's two largest employee pension funds, – CAIPERS and CalSTRS – were invested in companies conducting business with the country of Iran, Joel Anderson led the effort to divest those investments. He introduced legislation in the State Legislature, Assembly Bill 221, to prohibit these two retirement systems from holding investments in companies affiliated with Iran's defense or nuclear sectors, or doing business with Iran's petroleum or natural gas industries.

It is because of this leadership – standing up against tyrannical regimes with a long-standing history of human rights violations – that I chose to work with Joel Anderson to stand up for the people of Iran by acting against their tyrannical and oppressive regime. For any organization or individual to question or target Joel Anderson's exemplary track record of standing up for human rights for people of all backgrounds and religions is beyond comprehension.

The Muslim community in America and worldwide is incredibly diverse and do not unilaterally share CAIR's politics. Individuals and organizations worldwide are rightfully critical CAIR's history and motives, and that does not make them Islamophobic.

If you are interested in discussing this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at 310-500-8116.

Sincerely,
Roozbeh Farahanipour

Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting

November 1, 2021

To
Office Joel Anderson
County Supervisor, District 2
San Diego County, CA



November 1, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as the founder and Executive Director of the NGO Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting, DAFOH. DAFOH has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 2016 and 2017. In 2019, DAFOH has received the Mother Theresa Award for Social Justice. Over the past 15 years, DAFOH has provided the medical community as well as the public with objective findings about forced organ harvesting from living prisoners of conscience in China. Our work contributed to the passing of U.S. House Resolution 343 in 2016. From 2012 to 2018, DAFOH has organized a global petition to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights against forced organ harvesting collecting over 3 million signatures from over 50 countries and regions.

I am in communication with Mr. Joel Anderson since 2018, then CA State Senator, when he initiated the noble State Joint Resolution 10 (SJR 10), condemning the persecution and forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners in China. In this context, I learned to appreciate State Senator Anderson as a courageous and committed community leader, who stands firm and undeterred for basic human rights, not looking for a convenient, easy resolve, but going the extra mile to defend the basic rights, in particular from minorities.

In 2018, DAFOH interviewed State Senator Anderson for its quarterly newsletter. Here is, in his own words, what Mr. Anderson stated in March 2018:

"Condemning genocides and standing up for human rights has never been a partisan issue in the past. I believe this episode is demonstrative of the inherent problem of single party rule in a democracy. The voice of the minority is silenced and I have fewer rights than the members of the super majority to have my resolutions heard. I never said anyone has to support it, every legislator is free to vote their conscience, but shouldn't all our constituents have the opportunity to know where we stand? Don't my constituents have a right for the person they elected to be their voice, to have an opportunity to bring my resolution up for a vote?"

- State Senator Joel Anderson

State Senator Anderson is a responsible community leader who puts his constituents first, and in this regard, he expresses his views in a transparent and clear form. While doing so, he never forgets the noble and solemn causes and professional standards of his position.

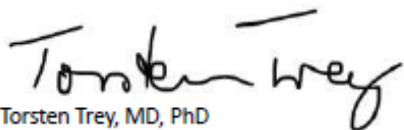
It came to my attention that Supervisor Joel Anderson has been described as "xenophobic". Nothing could be further away from the truth than such a mis-characterization.

By initiating SJR 10, and expressing support of the minority group Falun Gong in China, State Senator Anderson has written into a bill draft that he cares about a foreign group, an action that is per definition the opposite of what one would expect of a person with a xenophobic agenda. In subsequent years, when the world learned more and more about forced organ harvesting from the Moslem Uighurs minority group in China, again, Mr. Anderson followed the emerging news and opposed the practice of forced organ harvesting and maltreatment of the Uighurs in Xinjiang, China.

The word “xenophobic” is a sensitive term in our current times, easily used—and abused—to frame an unwanted political opponent. While there might be disagreements between opposing parties and groups, these disagreements are not always based on xenophobia, but related to a substance and content that is independent from one’s origin or status. We as a society would be better off, not to use the term “xenophobic” in an inflated, inadequate context.

I can speak in support of Supervisor Joel Anderson as a rational, committed person, who stands for and supports basic rights of every human being, independent from being a U.S. citizen or a foreigner. Describing Mr. Anderson as “xenophobic” is inadequate, inappropriate and appears to be a defamation of character.

Yours sincerely,



Torsten Trey, MD, PhD
Executive Director DAFOH

About Supervisor Anderson

Supervisor Joel Anderson served East County San Diego in the State Legislature for 14 years prior to being elected to the County Board of Supervisors in 2020. He has been a longtime grassroots advocate and it was his experience running his own business that ultimately inspired him to run for public office.

During his time in the state legislature, Supervisor Anderson worked across party-lines and successfully co-authored more than 450 bills with Democrats for the betterment of his constituents. Throughout his tenure in the Senate, he was recognized as “Legislator of the Year” by 27 different organizations including American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Being a strong supporter of taxpayers, Supervisor Anderson earned 100% ratings from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the California Taxpayers’ Association.

Supervisor Anderson currently represents East County’s District 2. The 2,000 square-mile district includes over 400,000 constituents in more than 50 communities. Supervisor Anderson’s policy priorities are increasing attainable housing, economic development, behavioral health, and homelessness resources in East County.

Media Assets

[Anderson Official Headshot \(8x10\)](#)

[County Seal \(Black & White\)](#)

[County Seal \(Color\)](#)