

Township of Manalapan

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Mayor
ERIC NELSON



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MARY ANN MUSICH

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A Message From Mayor Eric Nelson:

I am deeply disturbed and heartbroken by the recent antisemitic posts allegedly made by students at Manalapan High School. The reported comments and behavior — mocking victims of the Holocaust and making vile references to one of history's darkest atrocities — are not only profoundly offensive, but they stand in direct opposition to the values of decency, empathy, and respect that define our Manalapan community.

Antisemitism is not a joke. It is hate — plain and simple — and it has no place in our schools, our town, or anywhere in our society. The Holocaust was one of humanity's most horrific chapters, and to trivialize the suffering of millions is to betray both our shared history and our moral responsibility to remember and learn from it.

I want to be absolutely clear: Manalapan condemns antisemitism in every form. We stand firmly with our Jewish residents, families, and students. Every person in our community deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued — free from fear or discrimination based on who they are or what they believe.

I appreciate the Freehold Regional High School District's commitment to investigating this matter and taking decisive action. However, this moment demands more than discipline alone. It calls for education, dialogue, and understanding. Hate is learned — and so is respect. We must all play a role in ensuring that our young people understand the real consequences of their words and actions.

As Mayor, I am committed to working with our schools, faith leaders, and community organizations to strengthen education around antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance, and tolerance. We owe it to our children — and to the memory of those who suffered — to confront ignorance with truth and hate with humanity.

Manalapan has always prided itself on being a caring and inclusive community. This incident reminds us that we must remain vigilant in defending those values. We cannot look away from hate — we must face it, reject it, and recommit ourselves to building a community rooted in respect and compassion for all.

Eric Nelson
Mayor
Manalapan Township, NJ

Mary Ann Musich
Deputy Mayor
Manalapan Township, NJ