

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2023

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

We write to urge you to immediately rename “Black Lives Matter Plaza” and remove the street painting that reads “Black Lives Matter” due to that movement’s celebration of violent antisemitic terrorism.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel, murdering more than 1,300 innocent civilians and taking more than 100 hostages, including American citizens. Shockingly, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement expressed support for the murderers. For instance, the Chicago BLM Chapter posted an image of a Palestinian terrorist paragliding into Israel to kill Jews with the caption, “I stand with Palestine.” Further, the D.C. chapter of BLM posted that Israel is guilty of “apartheid,” while sharing posts that cast doubt on the atrocities that took place on October 7, including the beheading of babies. Moreover, BLM Grassroots, BLM’s main “on the ground assembly of chapters” and the ideological leader of BLM right now, also threw its support behind these murderous attacks.

These posts are meant to delegitimize Israel and rationalize brutal attacks on the Jewish people. It is hard to escape the conclusion that these statements are motivated by an ugly animus against the Jewish people. BLM Grassroots said the Hamas attack “must not be condemned but understood” as resistance to “75 years of settler colonialism and apartheid.” Those 75 years account for the entire existence of the Jewish state.

You stated after the attacks that you “reject terrorism in all its forms” and that “antisemitism has no place in our institutions, our country, our world or our hearts.” We wholeheartedly agree with this statement. We further believe that movements that celebrate violent anti-Semitism should not be honored by the government with a plaza, especially one located directly outside of our nation’s White House.

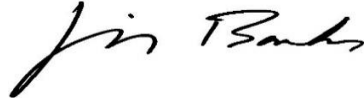
BLM continues to openly celebrate the antisemitic Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel. This stance is irreconcilable with American values. America must clearly affirm its stance against antisemitism, wherever it appears. We therefore urge you to immediately rename the Black Lives Matter Plaza, to remove the associated street painting in the plaza, and to end the city’s celebration of this terrorist sympathizer group.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



John Rose
Member of Congress



Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senator



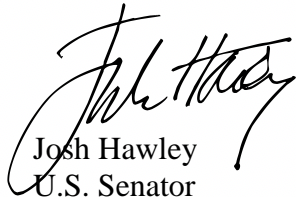
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress



Josh Hawley
U.S. Senator



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Russell Fry
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress