



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

February 27, 2026

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Hon. Julie Menin
New York City Council Speaker
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Menin:

The leadership you have shown in combating anti-religious bigotry is commendable. As president of the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, headquartered in New York City, I have not only fought anti-Catholicism, I have fought anti-Semitism, joining forces with Jewish allies on many occasions for over three decades.

Accordingly, I would like you to add the Catholic League to the list of organizations that support your efforts to protect houses of worship from being bullied, harassed and otherwise threatened. Freedom of speech is precious, but when it is invoked to inhibit another First Amendment right, namely the free exercise of religion, it is indefensible.

In particular, the attack on the Park East Synagogue last November was despicable, and I said so in print, on radio and on TV. Yet some New York City notables, such as Zohran Mamdani (before and after he won the mayoral race), have made light of it.

It would help if you could put us in touch with those on your staff with whom we can work. Thank you for your defense of religious liberty.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.

President

P.S. See enclosures