

"Last Tuesday, prior to the start of our council meeting, I joined in on a Zoom to hear Mark Wallach discussing a postcard that members of council had received. I did not receive the correspondence. The postcard touched on topics that I am passionate about: The Holocaust and Naziism, and prairie dogs. The writer of the postcard compared council to Nazis for their vote to kill tens of thousands of prairie dogs via gas. A few (sigh) sentences were exchanged between Mark and me in the short time before the meeting commenced. This incomplete conversation, which has now been quoted all over the media, in NO way represents my full views on this situation. I want to begin by sincerely apologizing to those who were hurt by my words during this abbreviated exchange. I had no intention to minimize the immense human suffering that resulted from the murders perpetrated during the Holocaust. I regret that my statements caused pain to those listening and to those who read incomplete accounts of them, and I am sorry. I believe that the Holocaust and the events surrounding it are some of the most abhorrent acts of all time. For anyone who knows me, they understand that this issue is deeply personal to me, especially because of my Jewish heritage. Anyone who attempts to make light of the Holocaust has been immediately removed from my life. ... (continued at 10:34) Tweeting this incomplete conversation was a reckless use of the media that has spread misinformation and hatred. This type of reporting only serves to decrease our humanity and compassion (*sic; Editor's note: I believe she meant compassion*) which is already lacking in our world today. I'm disheartened that people have spread this incomplete and inflammatory conversation on social media, with no understanding of who I am and what I stand for. Animals and the environment are something I have stood for since I was a child. This passion has only grown as I have become increasingly aware of the mass devastation that humans cause to this planet. Helping to preserve our natural world is one of the main reasons I ran for council. It is said that serial killers and abusers start on small animals and eventually move to humans. As the culture of killing is so prevalent in our world, the question is, where does it stop? Almost every hardware store sells inhumane poisons and traps that kills (*sic*) mice and other quote unwanted pests. End quote. Almost every state in the United States allows the killing of cats and dogs that are in perfect adoptable conditions. The overpopulation of pets occurs frequently, due to people who don't pay and neuter their animals. This contributes greatly to the overpopulation and, thus, killing of these pets. 98% of prairie dog habitat has been claimed by humans for development and agriculture. How are all of these animals killed? By poison and gas. The Jewish Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer has drawn comparison between the treatment of animals and the Holocaust. Edgar Kupfer-Koberwitz, a Holocaust victim, sent to Dachau concentration camps, wrote in his Dachau diaries, 'I have suffered so much that I can feel other creatures suffering by virtue of my own. I believe that as long as man tortures and kills animals, he will torture and kill humans as well. And wars will be waged, for killing must be practiced and learned on a small scale.' End of quote. If there had been more time before the meeting, this important point from Mr. Koberwitz is what I had wished to convey to Mark. When we kill animals on a mass scale, we and our children become numb to the atrocities. I believe this creates a global consciousness that life is

disposable. And thus leads to the killing and genocide of humans. Gassing humans or animals is an act of such atrocity that I am often kept awake at night with the gut-wrenching truths of what is currently occurring on our planet. The bottom line is, do you value human lives over animal lives? Or do you value all lives equally? I believe that all life is precious. How we treat the small and innocent translates to how we treat each other. These are my values, my morals and my opinions. No one need agree with them. However, I am allowed to have them. As each of you, is allowed to have your own. I hope my statements today will correct any and all misinformation and conjecture that has been made about me. Now I hope you understand that all lives are dear to me, and every single day, I strive to act in a way that brings support, caring and compassion to the world. Thank you."