

Prominent Leftist Blames Milwaukee Pro-Palestinians For Alderman Jonathan Brostoff's Suicide

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

An outspoken Milwaukee activist is accusing local pro-Palestinians led by Assemblyman Ryan Clancy of bullying Milwaukee Alderman Jonathan Brostoff over his Jewish faith and Zionist beliefs. The activist claims the bullying is directly responsible for Brostoff's suicide death November 4.

In a series of social media posts, leftist activist Alexa Safer says Brostoff and his family have been relentlessly bullied since the 2023 Palestinian terror attack on Israeli citizens. Safer called out fellow local leftist Ryan Clancy by name. Safer claims Brostoff and his family, who live on Milwaukee's east side, had to go into hiding because of bullying and harassment from pro-Palestinians.

Pro-Palestinian activists have set up encampments on or near the UW-Milwaukee campus and public statements have been made that Jews are not welcome in the area. Brostoff himself is a longtime leftist activist and former member of the state assembly who represented the east side on the Milwaukee Common Council until his suicide.

In a responding social media post, Clancy denied any responsibility for Brostoff's death, saying the two had been friends but stopped speaking after the October 7, 2023, Palestinian massacre of Israeli citizens. Since that attack, local pro-Palestinians have increased their verbal attacks on Israel and local Jews. This has caused a deep rift among many local leftists. Clancy was targeted for defeat in a Democrat primary in August in which many mainstream Democrats called him too radical. Clancy won the election.

In his social media rebuttal to the allegations his behavior contributed to Brostoff's suicide, Clancy wrote "I am gutted and deeply sorry Jonathan felt bullied and unsafe in our community."

There has been no public explanation for Brostoff's suicide. However, Brostoff had spoken in the past about his mental health issues and even advocated publicly for taking guns away from people with mental health problems. Brostoff ultimately shot himself.

In addition, only days before Brostoff's death, he was criticized by some over the rapid deterioration of Milwaukee's Brady Street which reached near riot levels a couple of Saturdays ago. A community meeting was held in which business and bar owners demanded a more aggressive police response to the increasing weekend chaos on the street which is in the middle of a dense residential area.

For her part, Alexa Safer, herself a prominent pro-Israel activist in Milwaukee's leftist community, stated that the harassment of Brostoff over his religion and pro-Israel views was relentless and affected him deeply.

Safer, Brostoff and Clancy were allies as recently as 2020 during the anti-police, pro-BLM protests and riots. Now, Brostoff is dead and Safer is implicating Clancy and his rhetoric in the suicide.

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