

# *The Kingston Interfaith Council*

*United in Service to Justice, Mercy and Love*

September 9, 2018

Dear Congressman John Faso:

It is with profound concern that we, the undersigned clergy, again take umbrage with your attack ads against your challenger, Antonio Delgado, the Democratic Nominee for the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The deliberate intent of your ad is to erroneously stir racial animus by questioning his suitability for Congress because of his involvement in creating Hip Hop music as a young man.

This “tactic” is a racist attack designed to employ divisive intolerance and fear in our electorate. Your use of this approach is distasteful, offensive, and morally wrong. It seems desperate and childish.

We are calling on you to speak to and be responsible for your record on the issues facing our community. Your overt, racist attacks serve only to instill fear and divisiveness among New Yorkers.

You have chosen to denigrate your opponent while choosing to deny the rights of all Americans to quality affordable health care. You have turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the cries of immigrants seeking to be reunited with their children.

Where is your concern over the rampant gun violence destroying our communities? Where is your moral indignation regarding the treatment of women by men in power? Where is your concern about the assaults on policies protecting the environment? What policies have you espoused to advocate for the justice and equality for all Americans regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation?

We will never solve our problems by instilling fear and dividing our community. As religious leaders in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, we call upon you to retract your divisive attacks and continue this Congressional race with integrity and honesty.

With profound concern,

The Rev. Dr. G. Modele Clarke, New Progressive Baptist Church, Kingston

The Rev. Evelyn Clarke, New Progressive Baptist Church, Kingston

Rabbi Yael Romer, DD, Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley, Kingston

The Rev. Frank Alagna, Ph.D., Holy Cross/Santa Cruz, Kingston

The Rev. Maria Servellon, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston

The Rev. Erica Baron, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Hudson Valley, Kingston

Imam Khalid Kahn, Islamic Association of Ulster County

Deacon David Clegg, Saint James Methodist Church, Kingston  
The Rev. Michelle Meech, St. John's Episcopal Church, Kingston  
Vicar Suzanne Campise, MDiv, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Kingston  
Dr. Gregory Simpson, Presbyterian Church USA, Kingston  
Deacon Elke Heckler, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingston  
The Rev. Henry Albrechtsen, Reformed Church, Hurley  
The Rev. Deacon Susan Bonsteel, St. John's Episcopal Church, Kingston  
The Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor, St. Mark's AME Church, Kingston  
The Rev'd Susan Auchincloss, Priest Associate, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Woodstock, NY  
Cantor Robert Cohen, Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley, Kingston  
The Rev. Alison Quin, Christ the King Episcopal Church, Stone Ridge  
The Rev. Jordan Scruggs, Saint James Methodist Church, Kingston  
The Rev. Renee House, Old Dutch Reformed Church, Kingston  
The Rev. James Childs, Pointe of Praise, Kingston  
Pastor Erick Mercado, Vida Real Evangelical Center  
James B. Childs, M.Div., M.A., JaRa Consulting, LLC, Brooklyn