

Major Charities Cancel Events at Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida



Washington, August 21 (RHC)-- Several charitable groups have cancelled plans to hold fundraising events at U.S. President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, amid anger over his comments on Charlottesville.

The American Red Cross, the Cleveland Clinic, the American Cancer Society and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and several other medical organizations have canceled galas at Mar-a-Lago.

The American Red Cross said in a statement that it would cancel its annual fundraiser at the club because "it has increasingly become a source of controversy and pain for many of our volunteers, employees and supporters."

"After careful consideration, Cleveland Clinic has decided that it will not hold a Florida fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago in 2018," the Cleveland Clinic said in a statement, according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "We thank the staff of Mar-a-Lago for their service over the years."

The American Cancer Society also said it would move its 2017 Island of Palm Beach gala from Trump's

club, according to The Washington Post. "Our values and commitment to diversity are critical as we work to address the impact of cancer in every community," the group said in a statement. "It has become increasingly clear that the challenge to those values is outweighing other business considerations."

According to The Washington Post, the Salvation Army, the Autism Project of Palm Beach County and Susan G Komen have all also canceled fundraisers.

The latest developments came after the president's controversial press conference at Trump Tower last week where thousands of white supremacists, KKK members and neo-Nazis descended on Charlottesville for a "Unite the Right" rally. The march however turned violent when a man plowed a vehicle into a group of anti-hate demonstrators protesting against the white supremacist rally, killing at least three people and injuring 20 others.

Laurel Baker, the head of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, also started discouraging businesses from hosting events at Mar-a-Lago. "If you're looking at your mission statement," she in an interview with The Washington Post, "can you honestly say having an event at Mar-a-Lago, given all that has transpired, is the best stewardship of your efforts?"

Trump has been criticized both in the country and abroad over his response to the violence in Charlottesville. In the US, many lawmakers, including members of his own party, and business executives have distanced themselves from him. Also, officials in Britain, Germany, the UN and elsewhere have denounced his remarks.

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