

## MOTION

The greater Los Angeles area calls itself home to nearly 3.5 million immigrants, who trace their roots to scores of countries, cultures, ethnicities and religions. For nearly 150 years, immigrants have played a vital role in shaping the region's economy and culture time, and time again, the residents of Los Angeles have chosen to embrace the diversity that continues to strengthen our City.

There are also, unfortunate examples throughout our national history in which these values have been violated by individuals, groups and governments. From the passage of the Northwest Ordinance in the late eighteenth century, through the early twentieth, the United States government pursued a campaign of forced relocation and cultural assimilation that all but eradicated Native Americans in the western states. During World War II, we witnessed the forced relocation and incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans, many of whom were US citizens. And in the summer of 1939, the German ocean liner *St. Louis* and its 937 passengers, almost all Jewish, were turned away from the port of Miami, forcing the ship to return to Europe – more than a quarter of the passengers died in the Holocaust.

Unfortunately, the rhetoric that precipitated some of the darkest moments in our nation's history have crept back into our policy making and political discourse. Equally troubling, however, are the acts of violence that have accompanied this shift. Department of Homeland Security Secretary, John Kelly, observed, "[o]ver the past several weeks, the country has seen unacceptable and escalating threats and actual harassment directed at faith-based communities around the country, with a particular focus on threats to Jewish Community Centers." And according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 90 anti-Semitic attacks have taken place at 73 Jewish synagogues, cemeteries, schools and community centers in 30 states, since the beginning of the year. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, over 100 tombstones were found overturned at the Chesed Shel Emeth Society cemetery in University City, Missouri. The following day 21 bomb threats were called in to 13 JCCs, including the Westside JCC which was evacuated, and eight Jewish schools in 13 states. And on the 26<sup>th</sup>, over 100 headstones were discovered toppled and cracked in Philadelphia's Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Over the last few weeks, the City of Los Angeles has seen an uptick in vandalism, including the spray painting of swastikas on public and private property, and on February 27<sup>th</sup>, a brief protest organized by the Westboro Baptist Church prompted a temporary morning closure of Shalhevet High School at 910 South Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles to avoid exposing students to the Church's message.

Jolted into action by the wave of hate crimes that occurred in the wake of President Trump's November, 2016 election victory, faith-based organizations have united to stem bigotry in our communities. One of the more prominent being the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council — a partnership of the Islamic Society of North America and the American Jewish Committee — comprised of a mix of business executives, religious leaders and politicians. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Andrew Cuomo allocated \$25 million to religious schools throughout New York State to pay for added security, and deployed extra state police to investigate such incidents. And in Los Angeles, The Jewish Federation, through its Community Security Initiative, has been working with synagogues and schools to improve security around facilities and proactively monitor threats.

With the second largest Jewish population outside Israel, we should take recent instances of anti-Semitism seriously. It is incumbent that the City of Los Angeles secure its residents and protect the diversity that continues to define and strengthen the region.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the LAPD, with the assistance of the City Attorney, be REQUESTED to report to the City Council on recent trends in reported hate crimes and religious, ethnic or racially motivated violence, particularly those directed at Los Angeles' Jewish community; efforts to respond to hate crimes and increase security around Jewish facilities, including, synagogues, cemeteries, schools and community centers; enhanced security protocols that can be taken during Jewish holidays; and any cooperative efforts to help determine the vulnerability of these institutions and secure their facilities.


I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD, with the assistance of the City Attorney and City Administrative Officer, be REQUESTED to report to the City Council on any federal, state or local funding that could be sought by the City to help enhance security around faith-based facilities, as well as any security grants that could be secured by non-governmental or faith-based entities to help defray the costs of security assessments, site visits and infrastructure improvements to further secure their facilities.

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