

MOTION

On Tuesday, May 16, 2017, shortly after Turkish President Recep Erdogan met with President Donald Trump in the White House, armed Turkish security personnel brutally attacked Americans who were peacefully protesting against Erdogan. After breaking through police lines set up by the outnumbered officers of Washington DC's Metropolitan Police Department, these Turkish security forces violently beat women and elderly men to the ground and repeatedly kicked people in the head. At least eleven people were injured, including a Metropolitan Police Officer, and nine of them required hospitalization. All of these outrages occurred in our nation's capital, in full view of President Erdogan and apparently with his personal approval, shortly after he met with the President of the United States.

This outrageous violent assault against Americans who were peacefully exercising their constitutional rights, and against American police officers working to protect those rights and maintain public safety, was an extraordinary affront to American values by the thuggish agents of an autocratic Turkish regime. Such criminal conduct would be entirely intolerable under any circumstances. The fact that it involved Turkish government personnel indicates that the Turkish regime and its diplomatic missions hold American laws and constitutional principles in contempt and disdain.

In Los Angeles, Americans sometimes exercise their constitutional rights by protesting in front of Turkish government facilities, especially the Turkish consulate on Wilshire Blvd. Every year in April, for example, a coalition of community organizations and advocates for human rights gather in front of the Turkish consulate to demand justice for, and recognition of, the Armenian Genocide. This year, that protest included Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Paul Koretz, Controller Ron Galperin and California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, among many other elected officials and community leaders. Accordingly, any Turkish government policy that tolerates or encourages lawless and violent response to protesters by Turkish diplomatic personnel poses a direct threat to Angelenos and to public safety in Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department to consider the events of May 16 in Washington, including examining video of the attack by Turkish personnel, and report on the measures necessary to protect the safety and free speech rights of protesters near the Turkish consulate in Los Angeles, and whether any change in tactics or resource deployment will be required in future marches and protests at the consulate or at any other location or event at which Turkish security personnel may be involved.

Presented by:



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Seconded by:



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MAY 19 2017

