



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE  
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DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH  
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January 9, 2018

Dear Council Members,

As a doctor and a public health researcher who studies ideologically motivated violence I write in support of the LA City Mayor's Office grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent ideologically motivated violence in LA.

DHS recently funded two teams of public health scholars (our team from UCLA and the University of Illinois at Chicago and another team from Harvard University) to formally evaluate programs to prevent ideologically motivated or hate-inspired violence. It's no coincidence that DHS chose public health scholars to evaluate these programs. Public health has been working on the forefront of violence prevention for decades and made gains in prevention of child abuse, partner violence and even gang violence. The type of violence being prevented in the current LA city grant is just another form of violence, albeit mass, public, frightening and seemingly random—one that we must address through local public health violence prevention programs.

I recently participated in a workshop, *Exploring the Use of Health Approaches in Community-Level Strategies to Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization*, hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The group's rich discussion addressed a myriad of medical, legal, ethical and practical issues. I came away with two observations that might be particularly helpful to LA City Council as it is considering approval of the grant.

First, the threat of ideologically motivated violence in the US is real and perhaps increasing; it spans the political, religious and ideological spectrum; and it has serious individual and population-level health effects. It therefore deserves the attention of health care and public health professionals, because we might encounter patients and communities fearful of being targeted by violence and we might be able to put a useful public health lens on approaches to preventing IMV.

Second, any program must use public health approaches to violence prevention such as we use in preventing gang violence, domestic violence or child abuse. Public health providers recognize their responsibility to reduce violence in general, and preventing ideologically motivated violence can be seen as one part of our efforts, which also includes other issues of targeted violence, such as school shootings, workplace violence, and bias-motivated hate crimes.

The grant under consideration addresses these concerns. The Office of the Mayor seeks to implement a public health model to reduce violence and provide culturally appropriate services to individuals, families and communities. It is adapting public health approaches to violence prevention that are evidence based. These include community-level strategies that mitigate modifiable risks (e.g., social isolation, personal crises, mental health issues) and leverage protective factors (e.g., parenting support and education) that are empirically associated with *all types of violence*.

I recommend that preventing ideologically motivated violence become be part of our City's public health efforts for preventing violence.

Sincerely,

David P. Eisenman, MD MSHS  
Professor in Residence  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
Fielding UCLA School of Public Health  
Director, UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters

January 9, 2018

Councilmember Mitchell Englander

RE: Council File No.: 17-1228

Councilmember Englander,

Please allow me to introduce myself and offer my apologies for the length of this letter, however it is an issue I am most passionate about and would like to share some important information as you are making your decision regarding this important funding opportunity to address the risk of extremist violence. We understand the only solution to this challenge is a neighborhood effort, designed to address all forms of extremism and in that regard, Los Angeles is uniquely positioned to offer the interdisciplinary response it will require.

My name is Erroll Southers and I am forwarding this letter of cooperation/support as the Director of the Safe Communities Institute (SCI) at the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy, whose mission is focused on violence prevention generally, and extremist radicalization and recruitment, specifically. I am a counterterrorism subject matter expert, having served in public safety and counterterrorism roles at every level of government; as a municipal police officer (Santa Monica PD), rising to the level of assistant chief of police (Los Angeles World Airports Police) and a former FBI special agent, assigned to matters of counterterrorism and foreign counterintelligence. I have also had the honor to serve as a Governor Schwarzenegger's appointee to the California Office of Homeland Security, President Obama's first nominee to head the Transportation Security Administration and testified at several congressional hearings on terrorism related matters. I have been a USC professor for 15 years, responsible for several university domestic and international homeland and national security education and research programs.

The Safe Communities Institute was honored when Mayor Garcetti's office invited us to join the Building Healthy Community (BHC) Advisory Group, as we were able to contribute to discussions and forums intended to develop violence prevention strategies for the City of Los Angeles. We were sought after as a result of ongoing work we are conducting in the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, another American community plagued with the challenge of radicalization and recruitment. This work has also provided us an opportunity to engage in countering violent extremism efforts in Paris, Lyon and Marseille, France.



These activities culminated in the **2017 USC Summit on Global Solutions in the Age of Homegrown Violent Extremism**, which received extraordinary support and participation from Mayor Garcetti personally, as well as members of his staff.

One of the main reasons for our participation in the City's efforts is its commitment to address hate bias and extremism in all of its forms, which may ultimately result in homegrown violent extremism. The facts clearly indicate the threat is diverse and growing. A recent study of domestic terrorism incidents from 2008 to 2016, identified 194 cases of executed and/or foiled terrorist acts. There were 63 cases of extremist Muslim terrorism, 115 cases of right-wing terrorism and 19 committed by left-wing adherents. What is more, many of these incidents escape the "terrorist" label, as they are designated as hate crimes. Making matters more complicated is the fact that hate crime statistics are typically flawed; bias and criminal motivation are not always easy to determine, and exacerbated by the fact that victims and law enforcement underreport such crimes.

The issue of homegrown violent extremism is a complex problem, made worse by the increased political polarization. It should come as no surprise to learn we now have the Southern California-based "Rise Above Movement" (RAM). This group of white supremacists has been engaged in violence from Charlottesville to Berkley and is very public about their engagements. Undoubtedly, groups like this add to the dilemmas we are already facing.

Los Angeles is a national leader in violence prevention efforts that are community-led and holistic in nature. Most important, these initiatives understand the need to operate outside the scope of law enforcement and justice-involved organizations. This grant funding will address the challenges presented by hate and extremist violence through a public health approach, and in doing so, create a more pluralistic cohesive and safe community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Dr. Erroll G. Southers  
Professor of the Practice of Governance  
Director, Safe Communities Institute  
Director, Homegrown Violent Extremism Studies  
Director, International Programs (CREATE)



January 9, 2018

**Muslims for Progressive Values' statement in support of DHS CVE Grant Funds  
Council File No.: 17-1228**

Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV) wholeheartedly supports the City's use of the DHS CVE grant to fund programming aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism in the City of Los Angeles. To ignore the rampant rise in violent extremism - not limited to radical theology, but including white supremacy, anti-Islam, and neo-Nazism, would be irresponsible. As an American organization concerned with human rights issues perpetuated in the name of Islam, preventing and countering violent extremism is a top priority for us and a critical component of achieving an egalitarian society.

Due to systemic oppression and prejudices towards marginalized communities, many constituents of Los Angeles fear these funds will contribute to a continued targeting of Muslims, brown, and black individuals or groups. While this fear is reasonable and understood, it is misplaced. MPV's close working relationship with the Mayor's Office for the past four years allows us to contest these assumptions, particularly as a Muslim organization. It is the result of convening the various grassroots organizations, community leaders, academia, social and data scientists, and subject-matter experts, that the City has developed strategies for this P/CVE program. This multifaceted participation is evident of the City's transparency and intent on promoting inclusivity and integration both in intra-communities and inter-communities. This strategy aligns with the various programs that the DHS CVE Grant will be funding, including the Not In Our Town (NIOT) program to counter white supremacy, and the Tiyya Foundation aimed at raising awareness and understanding of refugees and immigrants.

As active members of the community, our judgement is that the allocation of these funds is paramount for the City of Los Angeles. The success of grassroots activism and social change is too often barricaded by the lack of funding available, an issue that this fund will alleviate. We at MPV, as a non-beneficiary of this grant, recommend Council Members approve and accept this DHS CVE grant.



January 9, 2018

Honorable Council Members of the Public Safety Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
Room 1010, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Countering Violent Extremism Grant-Item 5 (Council File 17-1228), Public Safety Committee Agenda for January 10, 2018**

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation (Esperanza), I am writing to urge your opposition to the “Countering Violent Extremism” (CVE) grant that will be taken up by the Public Safety committee on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

Esperanza works with low-income communities of color in South Central Los Angeles to achieve long-term equitable development, which includes issues related to health, public health, affordable housing, environmental justice, economic justice, immigrant rights, and racial justice. We firmly believe that upholding equity and dignity in how we work together is the key to a healthy and safe community. Toward this end, we firmly disagree with the tenets of the CVE program.

CVE is a flawed program that uses the disguise of “community-involvement” in law enforcement to target Muslims. In a climate where xenophobia has intensified, we are seeing increased attacks on all our immigrant communities, including the current administration’s active attempts to enact policies specifically targeting Muslim communities at home and abroad. We urge you to reject this agenda of hate and to ensure that all Angelenos are treated fairly, equitably, and with respect. Concerns we have regarding CVE include the following:

1. It is based on a debunked theory, without empirical evidence, that assumes there is a reliable way to identify behavioral indicators to predict who may be prone to radicalization.
2. It discriminates against an entire community based on religion, stigmatizing Muslims as criminal and implying that they, because of their religion are more prone to committing terrorist acts.
3. It chills activities protected by the First Amendment, such as worship, activism, and expression of ideological beliefs, and stigmatizes Muslims as inherently suspect.

We ask that you oppose the CVE grant proposal, and instead embrace and protect our communities from the hate politics of this current federal administration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Executive Director

CC: Sharon Dickinson, Legislative Assistant, Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org

**Building hope with community**

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January 9, 2018

Councilmember Mitchell Englander  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
City of Los Angeles

Dear Chairman Englander:

AJC (American Jewish Committee) is a diplomacy and advocacy organization representing over 175,000 members and supporters in 22 US regional offices and through 10 offices overseas, as well as in 34 global partnerships. AJC is the global advocate for the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and for the advancement of democratic values for all. We promote these goals through diplomacy, legislative advocacy, building bridges across diverse ethnic and religious groups, and multi-media communications.

Since our founding in 1906, AJC has worked closely with legislators at every level of government and across the political spectrum on significant legislation pertaining to domestic and foreign policy. By promoting pluralism and democracy, combating terrorism, anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defending human rights for all people - and, for more than a decade, countering Iran's drive for nuclear weapons - we work to ensure that Jewish communities continue to flourish in the United States, in a peaceful and secure Israel, and around the world.

For more than 100 years, we have worked across the globe to advance human rights and combat extremism in all its forms. In this work, it is important to apply holistic strategies that are driven by affected communities, promote social cohesion and pluralism, and provide services for early prevention. These are the key ingredients to a sustainable strategy to combat extremism, and these are the approaches the Mayor's Office is taking. This grant will provide funding to community organizations that can offer these types of services. In line with AJC's organizational values and our work in the Los Angeles region, we support this work and its objectives.

Sincerely,



Dan Schnur  
Director, Los Angeles Region  
AJC

Cc: CM Mitch O'Farrel  
CM David Ryu  
CM Monica Rodriguez  
Joumana Silyan-Saba



Go Beyond the G.A.M.E | Humanitarian Day Projects | Social Empowerment Educational Development

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May the Creator's Peace and Blessings be upon you ~ As'salaamu alaykum ...Los Angeles City Council,

**Council File No.: 17-1228**

Since 1998, Intellect-Love-Mercy Foundation (ILM) has facilitated its mission **“to teach life skills with opportunities for intellectual and economic empowerment.”** We are a South Los Angeles 501c3 organization. We work to build and rebuild the personal capacity of LA's youth and parents to become more responsible social leaders. We offer annual programs and workshops, that are designed to provide alternative thinking for safer environments, to counteract Los Angeles social ills. We also address homelessness – with advocacy, direct services, and education for the city's 23%.

We are living in times of conflict, physical – mental abuse, and division on many levels. Not all policies that were implemented over communities of color were in our best interest. So, when Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) was first revealed and examined, responsible voices rallied against its structure.

The African American, African American Muslim and Latino leaders were truly tested in the past by historic policies that dismantled trust between community and its government. As a resilient stakeholder of urban life, this is why we remained at the Mayor's table; so, our interests would be considered and to create a professional understanding between our community and its local government. We were among other organizations and leaders who advised the Mayor's staff against any form of Islamophobia and those who violated civil rights to be held accountable for all forms of racism, white supremacy, and physical – mental abuse. It was important for ILM, to remain not only for South Los Angeles Muslim interest, but all Angelinos who would be affected.

Over the last couple of years, the Mayor and his staff have revised and developed a grant that would morally suit community organizations, by creating a space that align with our social missions between prevention and intervention, so we can further help educate and preserve lives, without the interdiction of law enforcement. We hope this opportunity, is a next step to rebuild what was damage in the past to the leadership of African Americans, African American Muslims and Latinos in your districts.

The Qu'ran, our Holy Book is considered as direct Speech from the Creator who says to, **Establish weight with justice And fall not short in the balance (55:9)** That we seek to develop professional agreements, for sustainability and support one another with good intentions. Our intent to serve Angelinos has never compromised our character. The grant's revision for building healthy communities in the City of Los Angeles has been carefully





**Go Beyond the G.A.M.E | Humanitarian Day Projects | Social Empowerment Educational Development**

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considered and with your decision will help further social benefits and provide safe alternatives for South Los Angeles youth and residents.

Respectfully...

Umar Hakim | Director

ILM Foundation | [www.ilmercy.com](http://www.ilmercy.com)