

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: December 4, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Placeholder for* Council File No: 14-0002-S77
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 14-06-0486

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell - Englander) to support increased funding for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution (O'Farrell - Englander) to include in the City's 2013 - 2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for increased funding for the Obama Administration's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP).

SUMMARY

On June 20, 2014, a Resolution (O'Farrell - Englander) was introduced in support of increased funding for the White House's Countering Violent Extremism Strategic Implementation Plan, a grassroots strategy for addressing and mitigating violent extremism, with a significant focus on cooperation and coordination with local law enforcement agencies and community organizations. The Resolution states that violent extremists – individuals who support or commit ideologically motivated violence to further political goals – have been and continue to support and engage in violence against American citizens. The Resolution further states that, in an effort to address violent extremism, the Obama administration released a white paper on its Strategic Implementation Plan for countering violent extremism, which focuses on cooperation with local law enforcement and community engagement.

The Resolution states that the Police Department (LAPD) is at the forefront of the federal government's community engagement strategy, and has benefitted from federal support of its efforts. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support increased funding for the White House's Countering Violent Extremism Strategic Implementation Plan, including funding for support for community engagement programs, training, and legislative efforts that are part of the CVE program.

BACKGROUND

Throughout American history, violent extremists have posed a threat to the lives and safety of Americans. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the federal government has placed new emphasis on addressing the threat posed by extremists, including those who are radicalized within the United States and carry out attacks, such as the individuals who carried out the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 and the Fort Hood shooting in 2009. In an effort to address radicalization before it becomes a threat to the safety and security of the United States, the White House released a white paper outlining how to implement successful CVE programs, entitled the

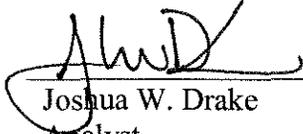
Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, in December 2011.

This strategy is based on significant communication and collaboration with local communities that may be targeted by Violent Extremists, as well as local governments, and local police departments. This is a community-based approach to the issue, with the federal government providing support and assistance as needed to local communities and local law enforcement agencies to identify and deal with the violent ideology at the lowest level, in an effort to bolster resiliency against recruitment efforts by violent extremist groups. The SIP is applicable to all forms of violent extremism, but the federal government has prioritized preventing the violent extremism and terrorism that is inspired by Al-Qa'ida and similar groups.

The Police Department's (LAPD) CVE program has been identified by the Department of Homeland Security as one of the most developed and successful programs in the United States. LAPD has built a strong relationship with communities that may be targeted by violent extremists, particularly Muslim community groups in Southern California. Federal funding and support for the SIP is essential for its continued success, and it is important that the federal government continue to provide that support.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department


Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:MF:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (O'Farrell - Englander)

14-0002-577

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GENERAL SERVICES & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, violent extremists - individuals who support or commit ideologically motivated violence to further their political goals - continue to support and engage in violence against Americans; and

WHEREAS, in August 2011, the Obama Administration released its Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for countering violent extremism (CVE), based on positive engagement with the community and working closely with local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, this strategy, outlined in a document entitled *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, utilizes the strength of local agencies and work with communities; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department (LAPD) has followed the federal government's example and has made countering violent extremism (CVE) through engagement with the community a top priority; and

WHEREAS, LAPD along with local city, county and federal partners, is at the forefront of the federal government's community engagement strategy, and has benefited from federal support of its efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support these efforts, as they promote a sense of community while protecting the rights of American citizens and promoting security;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013 - 2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for increased funding for the White House countering violent extremism (CVE) Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), which is based on a grassroots strategy with a significant focus on cooperation and coordination with local law enforcement and community groups, including support for community engagement programs, training, and legislative efforts that are parts of the CVE program.

PRESENTED BY



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY



JUN 20 2014



ORIGINAL