

MOTION

On the morning of August 12, 2020, the Police Department (LAPD) received a 911 call alleging that an armed individual was holding hostages in the home of Dr. Melina Abdullah, the co-founder of Black Lives Matter LA and a prominent activist against police misconduct in Los Angeles. Several police officers swarmed her street with guns drawn in response to a potential hostage situation, only to find out that there was no one being held hostage.

This call resulted in a significant response by LAPD, who were met by a baffled and terrified Dr. Abdullah, who had no idea why armed police officers were outside of her family's home. After their response, LAPD was able to determine that this call was likely a 'swatting' call targeting Dr. Abdullah and her family. 'Swatting' calls are false reports, usually alleging a violent act has occurred or armed criminals are at the scene, that are made by individuals seeking to draw a large armed police response to the home of an unsuspecting victim. In this case, the LAPD was able to determine the call was false and leave the scene. However, not all swatting calls end this way and there have been incidents where people have been injured or killed.

This incident is particularly troubling, as it targeted a prominent activist against police misconduct, and may have been conducted by an individual trying to silence her. We are fortunate to live in a country that protects the right to protest- Angelenos should be confident that their protesting won't lead to violent retribution from police or the general public. The LAPD should report promptly on this incident and its ongoing investigation into the matter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department be directed to report to the City Council, the Mayor, and public within 21 days on the 'swatting' incident that occurred on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 targeting Dr. Melina Abdullah, the co-founder of Black Lives Matter LA. This report should include information on what occurred, the nature of the false 911 call, any information on the suspect or suspects and if their actions were politically motivated, and background on LAPD's investigation into this matter.

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