

**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: August 12, 2021

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *KEK for*  
Chief Legislative Analyst  
Council File No: 21-0002-S148  
Assignment No: 21-08-0607

SUBJECT: Resolution (Blumenfield – Raman) to support Los Angeles Unified School District’s Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Blumenfield – Raman) to include in the City’s 2021-2022 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT for LAUSD’s Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Blumenfield – Raman), introduced July 28, 2021, advises that hate crimes in Los Angeles have increased for the seventh straight year and are the highest since 2010. People have increasingly been targeted due to their actual and perceived race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexuality throughout the country. In the first half of 2021 there were 43 hate crimes targeting Jewish people, a 59 percent increase from the same timeframe in 2020, and more than double the number in 2018. On July 13, 2021 the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education unanimously approved a Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism.

The LAUSD resolution declares the need for updated bulletins; curricular and instructional resources; and training to address anti-Semitism. The LAUSD resolution also directs the Superintendent to direct all schools and offices to affirm the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families; to report acts of anti-Semitism; and to establish a curriculum and professional development working group to recruit teachers and administrators with expertise in Jewish history and culture.

The Resolution recommends that the City support Los Angeles Unified School District’s Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism.

BACKGROUND

Over the past four years there has been a significant rise in hate crimes in Los Angeles and across the United States against many racial, ethnic, and religious groups. Property and vandalism crimes against Jewish places of worship and physical assaults against people who are perceived to be Jewish have also significantly increased over the past four years. In May 2021, clashes between Israel and Palestine resulted in strikes launched by Israel and Hamas. This conflict resulted in a rise of harassment or violence against persons perceived to be Jewish in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is home to the third largest Jewish population in the world and approximately 15 percent of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students are Jewish or have Jewish family members. Reports of white supremacist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israeli graffiti, bullying, harassment, and violence on LAUSD campuses has also been on the rise for the past four years. LAUSD regularly publishes policy

bulletins and memoranda on an annual basis to affirm the value and dignity of all racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

On July 13, 2021 the LAUSD Board adopted a resolved introduced by board member Mark Schmerelson to declare the need for updated bulletins, curricula and instructional resources, and training for teachers, to address and prevent anti-Semitism (LAUSD Resolution). The LAUSD Resolution also calls for training for staff to be able to respond appropriately when anti-Semitic vandalism, bullying or harassment, or violence occurs either on campus or in the community. The Resolution directs the Superintendent of LAUSD to direct all LAUSD schools and offices to affirm the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and to report acts of anti-Semitism in schools and the workplace.

The Resolution further directs the Division of Instruction and Office of Human Relations, Diversity, and Equity to establish a curriculum and professional development working group to recruit LAUSD teachers and administrators with expertise in the areas of Jewish history and culture. The Resolution directs staff to invite expert groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and Simon Wiesenthal Center to update and revise any existing LAUSD curriculum, recommended grade level reading lists, or instructional resources to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people. The Superintendent of LAUSD is further instructed to report to the LAUSD Board within 90 days with an update on these efforts.

Support for LAUSD's Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism would be consistent with City efforts to prevent harassment and bullying, combat racism, and ensure the safety of all residents of Los Angeles.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

  
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Andy Galan  
Analyst

Attachments: 1. Resolution (Blumenfield – Raman)

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, hate crimes in Los Angeles increased for the seventh consecutive year in 2020, and are at a record high since the Los Angeles Police Department starting making these statistics public in 2010; and

WHEREAS, people in Los Angeles and throughout the country have increasingly been targeted due to their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexuality; and

WHEREAS, in the first six months of 2021, there were 43 hate crimes targeting Jewish people, which is a 59 percent increase from the same time-frame in 2020, and more than double in the same time period in 2018; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2021, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education unanimously approved a Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution declares the need for updated bulletins, curricular and instructional resources, and training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents to address and prevent anti-Semitism and respond to incidents of anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution additionally directs the Superintendent to direct all schools and offices to affirm the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and to report acts of anti-Semitism in schools and the workplace, and establish a curriculum and professional development working group to recruit and compensate LAUSD teachers and administrators with expertise in the areas of Jewish history and culture and the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, education is one of the most effective ways to reduce or eliminate hate-motivated crime and violence;

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 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Los Angeles Unified School District's Resolution Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families and Addressing Anti-Semitism.

PRESENTED BY:

  
BOB BLUMENFELD  
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

  
NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District



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