

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 22, 2016

**Halting the Post-Election Hate Crimes**

In the days after the recent election, I have received several reports of acts of hate, harassment, and bullying throughout the County. For example, the Sheriff’s department reported that on Wednesday a woman in Azusa was pushing a stroller down the sidewalk. She was approached by an adult male with gray hair who drove a red pick-up truck alongside her. The man allegedly got out of his vehicle and said, “Get out of my country you [expletive] [expletive], you Mexicans infest this country and are all free loaders.” He then allegedly threw a cup full of soda onto the woman and said “You’re lucky if I would have had my gun, it would have gone worse for you,” before driving away.

Other reported incidents include a Muslim-American high school student in the San Fernando Valley who had her headscarf yanked off before being called a “terrorist” and being told “ “You shouldn’t be wearing that, you towelhead. You’re not American. This isn’t what America stands for.” Another incident involved an African American man who found a note slipped under his door telling him to “go back to the plantation,” and a physical education teacher at a South Los Angeles middle school who told his Latino students that their parents would be deported, leaving them to be placed in foster care. Other despicable acts have been aimed at female, religious affiliation, and LGBTQ community members.

Los Angeles County residents pride ourselves on our inclusiveness, diversity, and respect for one another. We cannot tolerate these loathsome acts of hate, discrimination, bullying and harassment. We must not yield to the forces of scapegoating and intolerance.

Last year, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, this Board acted to condemn the violence and to express condolences to the family and friends of

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RIDLEY-THOMAS\_\_\_\_\_

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the victims. In addition, the Board asked that the District Attorney, Sheriff, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), and the Human Relations Commission to proactively deter hate violence and offer immediate assistance when it does occur. As a result, CCJCC established a Task Force led by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) to develop best practice recommendations for the prevention and response to hate crimes that occur in the aftermath of a major event.

Over the past year, Taskforce members, including the LACCHR, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Long Beach Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Chiefs Association, the Los Angeles Unified School District School Police, the District Attorney, and many other relevant governmental and community organizations such as the Muslim Public Affairs Council, the Sikh Council of California, and the Anti-Defamation League, worked together to develop and approve these best practices recommendations. Other best practices are included in the recently published Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations 2015 Hate Crime Report.

While written specifically for the period after situations like those that have recently occurred in San Bernardino, Paris, and Beirut, many of those recommendations are applicable today and should be reviewed and adopted by law enforcement, government and community organizations with hate crime responsibilities and commitments, whenever feasible. All of us must join together now to reassure vulnerable communities that they are supported and to put a stop to these acts of hate and discrimination.

### **I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

1. Direct the County Public Information Officer to immediately issue a statement on behalf of Los Angeles County that:
  - a. Calls upon all County residents and all County Departments to speak out against acts of bullying, discrimination and hate violence and to stand up for those who are targeted for such acts;
  - b. Calls upon the Sheriff's department and the other law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County to implement the best practices identified by the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) Hate Crimes Task Force and the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) 2015 Hate Crime Report, including to act

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swiftly to proactively contact communities likely to be targeted to reassure them of support, of their policy of not inquiring about immigration status of victims or witnesses, providing information on protecting their organization, and opening lines of communication to encourage reporting of hate crimes and incidents.

2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the LACCHR, the Sheriff's Department and CCJCC to report back in 60 days on actions taken to implement the best practice recommendations developed by the CCJCC Task Force, including:
  - a. Establishing protocols for quickly sharing information about hate crimes or incidents with partners including the County Commission on Human Relations, local elected officials, and Board offices;
  - b. Coordinating actions with other policing agencies to investigate, arrest, and ensure appropriate consequences (including, e.g., alternative educational sentencing) for those who engage in crimes motivated by hate and prejudice; and
  - c. Utilizing mass messaging through press conferences, internet and social media apps to show support for victimized communities and to counter scapegoating and hate crime targeting of affected communities.
3. Direct the Los Angeles County Office of Education to report back in 60 days on current efforts and a plan for implementing best practices in promptly responding to and taking preventive measures to discourage bullying, targeting, demeaning and harassing behavior at their schools in order to ensure a safe environment for learning. In addition to the work that LACOE will conduct with their own schools, additional efforts to support the 80 school districts in Los Angeles County will be defined and implemented.