

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND  
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**Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Hate Crime**

On July 9, 2018, the California Department of Justice released its crime rates statistics reports showing that hate crimes increased by more than 17 percent across California in 2017, when compared to 2016.

Previously, on May 31, 2018, the California State Auditor released an audit report on the implementation of hate crime laws in our state (“the state audit”), and concluded that while “reported hate crimes increased by more than 20 percent from 2014 to 2016, law enforcement has not been doing enough to identify, report, and respond to these crimes.”

The state audit found that of the four law enforcement agencies audited (the Los Angeles Police Department, the San Francisco State University Policy Department, the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department):

- Three of the four law enforcement agencies audited “failed to properly identify some hate crimes”
- There was “underreporting and misreporting of hate crimes” to the California Department of Justice.
- Over 30 percent of law enforcement agencies surveyed “do not use any method to encourage the public to report hate crimes,” even though police “outreach is seen as an important factor in encouraging individuals from vulnerable communities to report hate crimes to the police.”

**MOTION**

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For the same time period as the state audit review - 2014 to 2016 - hate crimes in Los Angeles County rose 24 percent, even higher than statewide, as indicated by Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations reports. And for the first time ever, gay men/lesbians and LGBT people in general became the group most targeted for hate crimes in 2016, exceeding Blacks, which has consistently been the largest targeted group for hate crimes in our county. Disturbingly, anti-Latino hate crime rose 69 percent from 2014 to 2016, and white supremacist hate crimes went up 67 percent from 63 in 2015 to 105 in 2016. Anti-transgender crimes rose 72 percent in 2016 compared to the year before.

And hate crimes continued to rise by over 10 percent in 2017 in the City of Los Angeles, with transgender people increasingly being targeted, according to a report prepared by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Additionally, acts of hate and hate groups appear to be on the rise in our region, state and nation, even while intergroup relations have progressed, indicating rising social polarization in our communities.

Given the state audit findings regarding the LAPD, one of the agencies with the most developed hate crime training and policies, and its challenges in correctly identifying hate crimes, every law enforcement agency in our county should seriously consider the audit's findings, and assess their own performance in addressing hate crimes, and take action to strengthen their response, reporting and outreach.

Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal and international law, especially the universal basic human right to safety, free from discriminatory violence based upon one's race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin/language, disability, etc. The state audit findings are consistent with U.S. Justice Department studies that find year after year, hate crimes are severely underreported. Acts of hate and hostility cause trauma to people and communities, and they do damage to our sense of belonging, even when they do not rise to the level of crimes. These hate incidents are hardly reported at all, thereby limiting our ability to determine what is happening where, so we can mobilize partners and resources to take preventive actions. We need a campaign that raises awareness of the need to report acts of hate-motivated hostility, whether they are crimes or not; and make it easier to

report such hate incidents; so that people and organizations can express their support for victims, assist with resources, and build our communities' capacity to be proactive and respond in positive ways to acts of hate when they occur.

In one of the most culturally diverse places on earth, our County is proud of its appreciation for differences, inclusiveness, and equity efforts, and cannot be silent or passive in the face of acts of hate, discrimination, bullying and harassment.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations/Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (LACCHR/WDACS) to provide a report back in 90 days on the progress of the following:

1. Direct the Office of the Inspector General in consultation with the Sheriff's Department, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Office of County Counsel, to review, in accordance with the State audit findings and Assembly Bill 1985, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's hate crime policies, procedures, and training (including effective implicit bias reduction training and practices) to determine whether they are up-to-date, utilizing best practices and model policies on hate crime investigation and reporting, including those of past CCJCC Task Forces, the California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) resources, the California Attorney General, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
2. Direct CEO, with LACCHR/WDACS and Department of Public Health (DPH), to include in the strategic planning process for the Office of Violence Prevention the need for hate violence prevention strategies and resources, by working with County departments such as the Department of Mental Health, 211, the Teen Helpline, and the Los Angeles Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Center, along with local partner agencies such as the L.A. County Network Against Hate Crime and the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership, to address the interracial and interethnic tensions that can develop in our communities.
3. Direct the CEO, working with LACCHR/WDACS, to report back as part of the Supplemental Budget process on staffing and resources needed to provide LACCHR/WDACS the necessary support for a multi-year public outreach anti-

hate campaign beginning in FY 2018-19. This will allow recommendations to be made within the context of the overall budget and numerous funding priorities and requests. The multi-year public outreach anti-hate campaign should:

- a) engage communities, all County departments, and institutions through community partners such as the L.A. Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation team (TRHT) funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and led by Southern California Grantmakers, regional grant making foundations, L.A. County government, L.A. City, the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, and community nonprofits;
- b) encourage reporting by victims of hate crimes and bias-motivated hostility;
- c) facilitate reporting by utilizing multiple communication methods (such as texting, social media, internet, etc.), with the assistance of our Internal Services Department (ISD);
- d) build capacity of communities to leverage and expand existing resources to support those targeted by bigotry and hate through training and networks (in coordination with DPH and its violence prevention work);
- e) provide useful resources and personal follow up when needed for those experiencing hate crimes and bias-motivated hostility (such as the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance program, the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing which handles civil actions around hate crimes and incidents); and
- f) analyze the data on hate crimes and incidents to inform prevention and intervention strategies.

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