

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND SHEILA KUEHL

August 2, 2022

**Addressing Service Gap in Los Angeles County’s Commission on Human Relation’s LA vs. Hate Program**

In 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) created the anti-hate campaign that has become the *LA vs. Hate* program, which is under the Los Angeles County (County) Commission on Human Relations (HRC). This program is a collaboration among County and community organizations to “support all residents of Los Angeles County...[to] address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it, build understanding about what constitutes a hate act and how to report it, [and] support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate.”<sup>1</sup>

Data demonstrates that hate violence is not just increasing in 2022 but is likely to be a sustained movement, a movement that needs adept, precise prevention strategies to address the hate violence currently gripping our County.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lavshate.org/about>

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According to local data, there were 1,235 reports/cases created (77% of contacts made) and tracked via the CareLinQ care management system in the first two years of gathering hate incidents and hate crimes reporting data through *LA vs. Hate*. In the first year of the *LA vs. Hate* reporting line, October 2019 to September 2020, there were 491 reports and in year two, October 2020 to September 2021, there were 744 reports, for a total of 1,235 - an increase of 66% from year-to-year.

While all hate acts can be traumatic to victims, the breakdown for types of crime or harassment indicates that 68% of hate acts/crimes reported to LA vs. Hate reporting system implicate some trauma. The types of crimes reported include bias motivated physical assault/battery at 17%; burglary/robbery, 4.5%; sexual assault, 4%; attempted murder, 3%; and bomb threat/actual bombing, <1%. Nearly half of these crimes are based on race, ethnicity or national origin bias, 12% are based on disability bias and 12% are based on religious bias; 12% are based on sexual orientation bias and nearly 9% are based on gender bias.

When comparing the year one and year two distributions of anti-hate contacts across Supervisorial Districts (based on residency zip code of the person reporting the hate) the data indicates that the First, Third, and Fifth Districts had a slight increase in the proportion of contacts made in their districts, while the percentage of calls from the Second District went down slightly, and the proportion of calls from the Fourth District remained the same.

Across both year one and year two, race, ethnicity, and national origin was the leading motivation, by those who committed the offense, of reported hate acts. In year

one, this accounted for 47% of cases and in year two it was a motivation in 40% of the reported cases.

*LA vs. Hate* also uses this data to pinpoint where to respond. For example, bullying is on the rise as schools return to physical format. In comparing school years, bullying has increased 55%, from 39 reports in 2020-21 to 71 reports in 2021-22. *LA vs. Hate* responded with Dream Resource Centers in locations experiencing intergroup issues or increases in bias-motivated violence. To date, the operating costs for these Dream Centers have been funded by one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Likewise, *LA vs. Hate* is embarking on other data-driven priority responses. Based on a significant number of calls indicating that hate occurs when people seek housing, *LA vs. Hate* has embarked on a joint initiative with the State of California's Department of Fair Employment & Housing to inform housing providers of their legal obligation to provide housing environments free from hate, under the "covenant of use and enjoyment." Likewise, *LA vs. Hate* is working with key partners to address the rise in hate targeting small minority owned businesses, again using data driven priority setting. Finally, reports from victims of hate acts repeatedly pointed to the need to build awareness and competencies on the part of first responders – law enforcement, county department's security forces, school police – on the importance of encouraging victims of hate to report such acts, and to access services through *LA vs. Hate*.

*LA vs. Hate* is a program that is building needed infrastructure that is able to engage community to report acts of hate not previously known, captures those hate acts for analysis, offer free assistance to every single person experiencing hate or hostility, provide technical assistance, and expands practices for preventing and addressing hate

violence or bias motivated bullying in Los Angeles County. However, without critical, sustained County funds there will be both service gaps and the inability to respond quickly to data driven priorities, such as the initiatives noted here. Potential service gaps include the following:

- Community-based service providers will be limited in their capacity respond to victims and to communities impacted by hate. Plans for the Hate Response Intervention Prevention (Hate R.I.P.) Program to hire three additional case workers will be thrown out at a time that hate violence is on the rise.
- Would discontinue education and prevention messaging to broaden public awareness of the need and how to report hate via social media and public spaces.
- Art interventions which promote anti-hate awareness and heal communities affected by hate that could be used in schools – through the eight planned Dream Resource Centers, as well as schools that are waiting to partner more closely with *LA vs. Hate* – will not be available.

This summer, when tensions are likely to continue to persist as historic intergroup conflict remain unaddressed, we can sadly predict additional, preventable hate violence incidents will continue. That means that, when intergroup prevention strategies could be used in places where youth congregate, *LA vs. Hate* will be hard pressed to support the needed intergroup solidarity building efforts. Amplifying the *LA vs. Hate* messaging via celebrities, influencers, and sporting organizations to address the lack of awareness still among many of why and how to report hate, will not happen. Work with small nonprofit organizations that we are able to provide with small mini-

grants, which assist with providing healing interventions to address the trauma of hate, will not happen.

For ongoing needs, HRC will need funding for:

- The community-based network providers for Hate Response Intervention Program (Hate R.I.P.)
- The eight Dream Centers in LA County
- Task Force outreach and marketing, public education, engagement, and healing
- Three consultants handling the aforementioned initiatives
- Programs and initiatives evaluator
- Hate reporting line's case managers
- AAPI-speaking Care Coordinators
- Special Initiatives:
  - Economic Development/Small Businesses Impacted by Hate –
  - LA County's "United Against Hate" Week
  - Bystander Training Cohort Development and Support
  - Housing Providers Outreach
  - New Initiatives to support communities and city-based Human Relations Committees, Commissions, and Taskforces.

The *LA vs. Hate* program is seen as a model with decisionmakers across the country looking to the County as a beacon of hope against hate. The County has committed to standing up with and supporting victims and survivors of hate. It is time to ensure the work continues with sustainable, ongoing funding, so that the looming threat of a service gap is one that victims and survivors of hate do not have to contend with on top of their trauma.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission, report back during the 2022-23 Supplemental Budget phase with a recommendation to provide identify at least \$2.6

million of ongoing funding to support the *LA vs. Hate* program.

2. Direct CEO's Legislative Affairs, in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission, to support state and federal legislation that advances funding, support, and advocacy for victims and survivors of hate incidents.

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