

Increasing Jewish Community Safety throughout Los Angeles County

Antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents are on the rise. In 2022, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), reported a total of 3,697 incidents of assault, harassment, and vandalism, the largest number of incidents against Jews in the U.S. since the ADL began tracking hate crimes and incidents decades ago.¹ This represents an over 300% increase since the onset of the current conflict in the Middle East on October 7, 2023.²

Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish resident of Westlake Village, was killed in October 2023, having sustained a fatal head injury following an altercation during a demonstration regarding the conflict in the Middle East. In November 2023, disturbing antisemitic graffiti appeared under the Fairfax Community Mural depicting the history of the Jewish community in Los Angeles. In December 2023, an elderly couple in Beverly Hills was attacked on their way to sabbath services. Unfortunately, these examples

¹ "Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022 | ADL." *Anti-Defamation League*, 23 Mar. 2023, www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2022.

² "ADL Records Dramatic Increase in U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Following Oct. 7 Hamas Massacre." *Anti-Defamation League*, 24 Oct. 2023, www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-records-dramatic-increase-us-antisemitic-incidents-following-oct-7.

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highlight just some of the many stories of antisemitism that continue to proliferate throughout Los Angeles.

Jewish residents report feeling fearful of going to religious events, sending their children to school, wearing religious attire, or having other objects that identify them as Jewish. Nobody should be forced to endure crimes and incidents of hate, harassment, physical violence, or other disturbing incidents at community institutions, such as places of worship, schools, or other community-centered locations. At a time of heightened aggression towards the Jewish community, the County must take steps to reduce and ultimately eliminate antisemitism, and to protect Jewish and Israeli-American residents from antisemitic acts.

The phrase “never again” became prolific after the Holocaust to remember the atrocities and ensure history does not repeat itself. But in 2023, “never again is now” has become a common refrain. As we approach Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2024, immediate action is critical.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors (Board):

- 1) Direct the Los Angeles County Fire Department, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management, to report back to the Board within 120 days with a plan to develop an antisemitism and mass violence attack preparedness and training exercise, including implementation timelines;
- 2) Direct the Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) to create and produce training videos for local law enforcement agencies regarding antisemitism prevention and response, including resources and tactics for

increased safety, collaborating with Jewish community-based organizations as necessary; and

- 3) Direct ARDI, in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission, to compile a list of Countywide public safety, nonprofit, and mental health resources for the Jewish community modeled after the City of West Hollywood's [Community Safety in the City of West Hollywood](#) (November 2023) brochure.

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