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Combatting Identity-Based Hate in Los Angeles County through a Comprehensive, Proactive, and Equitable Strategy

The County of Los Angeles (County) has taken meaningful steps towards combatting hate crimes and incidents across diverse communities. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) produces an annual hate crimes report and leads the County’s LA vs Hate education and reporting program. The LA vs Hate reporting system has provided an innovative and successful platform for victims to report hate crimes outside of law enforcement agencies, leading to an increase in hate crime reporting amongst vulnerable communities. In previous years, the County has also elevated the needs of specific communities facing spikes in attacks – such as a motion focused on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in 2021¹ and a motion focused on Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Intersex communities in 2022.² In recent months, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) also passed motions focused on “Increasing Jewish Community Safety throughout Los Angeles County”³ and strengthening the County’s “Emergency Response, Notifications, and Protections for

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/155178.pdf>
² <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/175391.pdf>
³ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/188180.pdf>

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Sensitive Sites.”⁴

However, despite the breadth of strategies and programming, hate and discrimination continues to rise in the County. The HRC’s 2022 Hate Crime report⁵ released on November 29, 2023, found that hate crimes reached their second highest level in two decades, increasing 18% from 2021 to 2022, and nearly three-quarters of the crimes were violent in 2022.⁶ The report also found that Black Americans were disproportionately targeted: although only comprising about 9% of the County’s population, Black Americans comprised 53% of racial hate crime victims in 2022. Officials have also reported a significant spike in hate crimes against Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Jewish residents since the Israel-Hamas war began. According to internal Los Angeles Police Department data that compared hate incidents from October 6-November 27, 2023 to the same months in the previous year, there was a 700% increase in hate incidents against Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian residents, and a 200% increase in hate incidents against Jewish residents.

Thus, the County must do more to prevent identity-based hate with a holistic, proactive, and equitable strategy. Although there are a range of County departments and entities involved in existing efforts – including the HRC, the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, the Office of Violence Prevention, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) – Office of Emergency Management (CEO-OEM), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) – the initiatives are frequently siloed, and motions adopted by the Board often respond to specific incidents in one community. A more coordinated approach to align existing initiatives and their implementation across County departments is needed. Further, the County also requires a centralized strategy to proactively tackle deeply rooted, systemic issues of hate and bias that impact all vulnerable communities.

Such an approach would enable the County to approach these challenges

⁴ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/188025.pdf>

⁵ [2022 Hate Crime Report \(kc-usercontent.com\)](https://www.kc-usercontent.com/2022-Hate-Crime-Report/)

⁶ This data should be considered in the context of LA County’s successful LA vs Hate system, which has contributed to the increase in reported hate crimes in recent years. However, hate crimes have risen in neighboring jurisdictions (that don’t have the LA vs Hate system) so experts believe there is still an upward trend in actual hate crimes (not just reported crimes) in LA County.

holistically and promote solidarity within and across its diverse communities. Given its mandate of advancing a range of anti-racist and inclusion efforts across the County and its cross-departmental position within the CEO's office, ARDI is best suited to play this critical leadership role in convening stakeholders, developing a Countywide proactive strategy, and overseeing the implementation of the County's anti-hate agenda.

! WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), through the Executive Director of Racial Equity for the County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative to collaborate with the Human Relations Commission, the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, the CEO Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Mental Health and request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office, in consultation with County Counsel, and other relevant County entities and community stakeholders, and report back to the Board in writing in 180 days on:
 - a. A landscape assessment of the current strategies and initiatives the County is taking to prevent and combat identity-based hate and their associated outcomes;
 - b. Recommendations on how the County can take a more comprehensive, proactive, and equitable approach to mitigating bias and preventing identity-based hate and violence, including the development of key outcome goals and priority issues to meet the needs of different communities;
 - c. Recommendations on how the County can better centralize, coordinate, and operationalize its strategies to prevent and combat identity-based hate and violence;
 - d. Recommendations on how County departments and partners can better promote LA vs. Hate's reporting system to impacted communities, and how departments can better coordinate providing culturally sensitive assistance to hate victims that are identified and connected to the County through LA vs Hate;

- e. Research on how the County can learn from other jurisdictions and adopt new evidence-based initiatives and strategies, such as Los Angeles City's New Hate Incidents System and West Hollywood's Community Safety plans; and
 - f. Estimated budget required to implement the expanded, holistic anti-hate strategy with recommendations on long-term, sustainable funding sources for this strategy, including for the County of Los Angeles Equity and Diversity Fund.
2. Delegate authority to the CEO to apply for and accept local, state, and federal grants to support the County's anti-hate efforts to prevent, address, and end hate, bias, discrimination, and xenophobia against marginalized communities, as well as celebrate the contributions of these communities. Also, delegate authority to the CEO to execute any agreements funded by these grant funds provided that any such agreements are approved as to form by County Counsel.
 3. Direct the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support state and federal legislation that seeks to mitigate bias within the County workforce, prevent discrimination and hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and enhance communities' capacity to effectively address intergroup relations issues.

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