



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Jimenez
District 2

SUBJECT: Hate Crime Prevention

DATE: August 15, 2019

Approved

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RECOMMENDATION

Direct the San Jose Police Department, in coordination with the City Manager's Office, to begin the following work:

- a) Provide an update to the full City Council on statistics related to hate crimes in San Jose over the last five years and provide information on any ongoing and future efforts by the San Jose Police Department to address hate crimes.
- b) Initiate conversations with the County of Santa Clara and support any efforts, including a task force, to address ongoing safety concerns and prevent acts of violence motivated by racism, white nationalism, xenophobia, and hate.

BACKGROUND

The recent mass shootings in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton are further evidence that targeted racial violence is escalating and can occur at any time and any place. As we mourn the loss of innocent lives taken by these senseless tragedies, we must also be proactive to prevent future acts of violence and purposefully have an open, honest, and thorough community dialogue on the topic. I am thankful that Mayor Liccardo has begun this conversation by proposing to require gun owners to buy liability insurance. This is one important way to improve gun safety.

We live in one of the most diverse parts of our nation, and, given the hateful rhetoric that spews from the White House, we must look at every possible solution to prevent further attacks on the diverse communities within our City. To do this, I suggest we start by analyzing and understanding hate crimes, hate groups, and trends that currently impact our communities. Furthermore, understanding what strategies and tools our police department is using to counter these forms of violence will help us work collaboratively to prevent such crimes. This data will guide us in supporting multi-agency and community-driven efforts focused on protecting the public.

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I am asking that the information be presented to the whole Council and not just to the Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee. Conversations on this topic require broad community input facilitated by open, public dialogue in accessible forums. The importance of this information requires that it be shared broadly so we can all better understand what is at stake.

Together, we must send a message that hate crimes and the groups that perpetuate them will not be tolerated in our City. We must show those currently emboldened by the normalization of such acts that San Jose is a welcoming, inclusive city that values and protects all its residents.

Now more than ever our City must express solidarity and continue to stand with communities of color, our Muslim and Jewish sisters and brothers, religious minorities, the LGBTQ community, the disabled, immigrants, and other marginalized groups that have been under attack and living in fear.

Councilmember Jimenez
District 2

For questions please contact Vanessa Sandoval, Chief of Staff at (408) 535-4925.