



Fwd: Calling on you, my Elected Representative, to Fight Back Against Antisemitism on Campus

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Wed, May 8, 2024 at 1:08 PM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

For general public comment, please.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gary**

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Date: Tue, May 7, 2024 at 4:27 PM

Subject: Calling on you, my Elected Representative, to Fight Back Against Antisemitism on Campus

To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Dear City Clerk Holly L. Wolcott,

I write to you as an activist with Zioness Movement, a multiracial coalition of Jewish activists and allies who are both unabashedly progressive and unapologetically Zionist. As you can imagine, we are feeling immense vulnerability as it relates to our identities at this moment, especially as we watch what unfolded on college campuses around the country—including here in California. Now is the time for strong leadership from our elected leaders rejecting hatred of Jews, incitement to violence, and physical assault. We need you to name the hate we are experiencing so we can feel seen and protected.

While we respect and stand defiantly in favor of free speech, including hateful speech, knowing it to be a fundamental freedom that allows democracy to thrive—the only system under which the Jewish community has ever been safe—we have become increasingly alarmed and disturbed by the events around the “Pro-Palestinian” encampments at UCI and UCLA. We know many of the protestors are there for a righteous cause—to stand against war and for human life—but unfortunately many of the activists are engaging in activity that is unequivocally not protected, with many being outside provocateurs exploiting Palestinian suffering in order to harm Jews on campus. Jewish students have been expressly targeted with antisemitic slurs coupled with intimidation and harassment, and have been unable to access the benefits and opportunities that are supposed to be afforded to students across the UC system.

Examples:

- Videos at UCLA show Jewish students being blockaded from an entrance to the quad
- A different Jewish student was being blocked from entering the library, and asked if he was a Zionist.
- Another Jewish student—wearing a Magen David necklace—was prevented from entering a part of the UCLA campus by “human-chain.”
- A Native American-Jewish activist was physically assaulted simply for holding a sign that disagreed with the protestors.
- A member of the Zioness community had her hair aggressively pulled by a protestor who would not release her until her brother came to her defense.
- This community member’s sister, a junior at UCLA, has been blocked by the protestors’ private security
- The protestors have also prevented members of the press and the public from freely moving about the public campus or recording on public property.

At UCI, a call for incitement to terrorism against Jews is displayed on a large banner stating “UC Intifada.” Chants of intifada have also been repeatedly heard at UCLA. “Intifada” has been used in regards to the Israel-Palestinian conflict during the two intifadas in Israel that resulted in well over 1,000 dead Israelis from stabbings, rocks thrown into moving vehicles, car rammings, and suicide bombers on buses and in cafes.

The lack of action by Administration at UCLA and UCI, and campus security, has left Jewish students vulnerable and experiencing discrimination—both of which can be elements of a hostile environment claim under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Jewish students have a right to education and to be free from discrimination in every square foot of our beautiful state—including on public university campuses.

What the Jewish community is experiencing today is particularly triggering as it echoes a ghastly history. In 1926, The National Socialist German Student League was founded to recruit German university students and instill in them the

ideological underpinnings of Nazi antisemitism. Young minds are both curious and impressionable. Please show up for the California Jewish community, especially our children, and provide the leadership so desperately needed across the state and on campus in particular. Please reject hatred of Jews, incitement to terrorism, and discrimination against Jewish students—which can be done even while unequivocally standing up for free speech and the right to protest. As progressives, we know these values can coexist and need leaders to model how.

Sincerely,
Mr. Gary