

Communication from Public

Name: Akhil Gopal

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Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Akhil Gopal, and I am a resident of Los Angeles in Council District 13 in zip code 90028. I'm deeply concerned about the continued funding of the LAPD Providing Alternatives to Hinder Extremism (PATHE) program through the Department of Homeland Security's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant. Today, the Council is voting on completing funding of this program by allocating \$100,000 from the TVTP grant. The community of LA overwhelmingly rejected the TVTP grant in March this year and despite this, the council disregarded the wishes of its constituents to approve \$250,000 to fund LAPD's PATHE program. The LAPD is seeking to use this money to create a 500-person team of teachers, counselors, clergy, and law enforcement to surveil and target youth and other community members. Though the LAPD claims that PATHE is a program meant to prevent school shootings or "domestic terrorism", it does nothing to address white supremacy. It instead reinforces and continues the white supremacist targeting of Black, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. We urge you to reject further funding for the PATHE program.