

Communication from Public

Name: Xanthe Scheps

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Comments for Public Posting: It is an unfortunate truth that German Shepherds, intelligent, hard-working, affectionate dogs, have had to spend the last 8 decades or so shedding their associations with the Nazis. Hitler kept German Shepherds. German Shepherds were used for intimidation and control at concentration camps. Through no fault of their own, the image of a German Shepherd has had to slowly disentangle itself from a tableau of Nazism. Which is why it is so alarming to see a donation come in for two German Shepherds purchased from a company named Adlerhorst, the same name as Hitler's bunker during the Holocaust. It wouldn't matter what department these dogs were being donated to - beyond the question of whether you believe in the use of dogs in policing or not, this is an issue of the City's interest in feelings of Jewish safety. Adlerhorst International claims the name is not derived from its Nazi history. Whether that's the case or not, they've had more than enough time to learn the connection and, out of respect for the Jewish community, change it. I, for one, cannot imagine being a breeder and trainer of German Shepherds and, upon learning the associations my company name holds, feeling comfortable pushing forward, disregarding any trauma it may stir up for the Jewish-American community. Jewish safety has been a topic of increasingly frequent conversation in these chambers, and as we all know, a large part of safety is being able to perceive a feeling of safety. Part of feeling that safety is in the knowledge that those in charge of governing the City are looking out for not only your community's physical safety, but also its emotional well-being. I was deeply saddened to see this item pass back through Public Safety with no discussion. Where was LAPD to answer "why this company?" To tell us what other companies do comparable work? When Councilmember Blumenfield raised concerns at Council, I was hopeful that at the very least there would be some public interrogation of this donation. But there was absolutely none. Even giving Adlerhorst International the benefit of the doubt, even if we assume they didn't know the association their name had, is it not worth interrogating once the issue has been raised? Isn't it worth understanding why members of the Jewish community might feel frightened, offended, or hurt by accepting a donation purchased from this company? As a proud lifelong Jewish Angeleno, I feel betrayed, and I do not feel

that accepting this donation moves us closer to Jewish safety. It moves us backward.