



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

August 27, 2024

Dear Chairwoman Rodriguez,

Thank you for holding CF-24-0463 Police Service Dogs / Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) / Metropolitan Division / K-9 Platoon / Los Angeles Police Foundation / Donation until I had an opportunity to meet with our police department and the donor, Adlerhorst International, LLC.

When this item came forward to Council, I raised concerns about the name of the company donating the two police dogs, Adlerhorst, because it is a name largely associated with one of Hitler's military complexes and field headquarters. I had little time that day to research the company and as I stated then, I could not vote in favor of doing business with, or even accepting a donation from, a company that was intentionally glorifying Hitler and I needed time to research and understand why the company would use such a name. I needed to go beyond the articles that popped up on google which raised these important issues. And, I wanted to find out from constituents, and others such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) if accepting this donation would be of concern to Survivors or cause other problems.

Just as when I wrote the Holocaust Survivors Responsibility Act (AB619) while I was in the Legislature to ensure that the French railway company SNCF owned up to its role in transporting Jews to the concentration camps before it was allowed to bid on high speed rail in California, I felt I had a responsibility to check the background of Adlerhorst International LLC, before supporting any donation.

I have since met with LAPD and the owner of Adlerhorst International LLC and learned more about the history of the company and the origin of its use of the name Adlerhorst. While they acknowledged the unfortunate association of the word, the owner has personally assured me that their use of the word was not intended to have any connection to Hitler or his heinous ideology. The current owner told me about how his father named the company after the bloodline of the original dog that inspired the creation of the company, and how he and his father abhor Hitler's ideology. He also noted that the name has been used more broadly in Germany to this day and is not on Germany's decommissioned list of names associated with Hitler.

Additionally, I spoke with a representative of the ADL, an organization that tracks neo-nazi's and extremists, who assured me that neither the owner nor the company had any known ties to neo-nazi's or other anti-Semitic extremists groups. While I still have some concern about the name

awakening traumatic feelings in Survivors or family members of Survivors, I am satisfied that there is no intended or actual association of Adlerhorst International, LLC to Hitler, his ideology or anti-Semitism and I am comfortable with supporting the acceptance of the donation and grateful for it.

Consequently, I would urge the committee to vote aye on the item and I intend on voting to support it, if and when it comes to Council. Thank you again for holding the item long enough for me to do my due diligence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Blumenfeld', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name.

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

