

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Paul Koretz Announces New \$100,000 Hate Crime Prevention Security Fund for Vulnerable CD5 Organizations

March 2, 2021, LOS ANGELES – According to today’s report by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), 2020 saw 93 hate crimes reported, up from 79 during the same time in 2019, which is a 17.7% increase in hate crimes. Citywide hate crimes have steadily increased from 229 reported hate crimes in [2016](#) to 355 reported hate crimes in 2020. Across religions, anti-Jewish crimes were the highest last year and hate crimes against African Americans, Asian Americans and transgender and gay men have all increased as well. The largest increase in hate crimes were against the Asian community, a 114% increase over 2019.

It is imperative that marginalized institutions be as prepared as possible to prevent injury and harm to attendees. For this reason, Councilmember Koretz today announced a new \$100,000 fund to be made available, in grants of up to \$2500 each, to vulnerable institutions in Council District Five that are at high threat risks due to religious, lifestyle, cultural or ethnic practice.

“We are not immune to a rising tide of hate, and after what we saw happen in our nation's capital and the increase in hate crimes against individuals, it demands that we step up and protect every Angeleno - no matter what they look like, or how they pray,” said Councilmember Koretz. “Given the rise of hate motivated attacks, hate speech and increased hate crimes aimed at individuals and institutions, I have created a security fund to help institutions implement additional safety measures so that their members will be free to observe in peace. I encourage all faith, LGBTQIA and cultural institutions of Council District Five to apply.”

Councilmember Koretz wants to ensure that we take these statistics seriously and help make a difference in protecting more local vulnerable faith-based, cultural and LGBTQIA institutions physically located in Los Angeles’ Fifth Council District against rising threats. The funding will be provided through Council District Five discretionary funds, therefore security grants can only be awarded to organizations within Council District Five.

Funds can be used for specific infrastructure hardening security needs (i.e., security cameras, security gates, gated windows, upgrades to current security systems, bullet proof windows, gate for parking lot, etc.). Institutions within the boundaries of CD5 that serve a communal public service are eligible. Funds can be applied for items that will help shore up any physical security gaps and shortfalls and or current systems that need upgrades that will make the institution safer for people attending communal services and events. The grants may also be eligible for crisis response training for staff and membership and other security training needs should this make the core infrastructure hardening improvements stronger. The grants cannot be used for security staff salaries.

We should be increasing our funding and protection for vulnerable communities and be proactive about hate crime prevention. If City leaders don’t stand up for these communities, who will?

The application deadline is Friday, March 12. To access the Council District 5 Hate Crime Security Grant application, please follow this link: <http://www.councilmemberpaulkoretz.com/resources/security-grant-program>

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