

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: To whom it may concern, It has recently come to my attention that at the Jul 2 council meeting there were votes on whether or not to use public funds to pay Magen am to patrol certain Jewish neighborhoods. I would like to remind you all that it is not only Jewish people living in these neighborhoods. I am a Palestinian American and moved to the Fairfax district last October. Upon moving here I quickly picked up on the politics and the sentiments on my presence in the area. I get dirty looks, people will leave shops when I walk in, cross the street to avoid me, and sometimes even make comments to me in languages I do not pretend to understand. While I would never deny that antisemitism is on the rise as the war on Palestine rages on, I would also like to point out that Islamophobia is also on the rise and Palestinians across the United States have been experiencing hate crimes and been being murdered for no reason other than being Palestinian. I am always on guard right now, and often feel unsafe in my neighborhood due to the way I am treated. Magen Am often patrols our neighborhood already and their presence makes me feel even more unsafe as their website is clear that their interests are in protecting the Jewish community only. Using city funds to support one religious community while making other communities (who also pay rent and taxes) feel unsafe in their own communities is not only purporting the division in the community, it is also unconstitutional. There are plenty of security companies in Los Angeles that could be used for this same purpose that do not discriminate who they protect. I urge you to use one of those companies instead.