

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 01:48 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** We oppose the use of public funds to pay for a private militia to protect some members of the Los Angeles community at the expense of others. The militarized police response to protests across the city, protected under the First Amendment, has already led to mass casualties among pro-Palestinian protesters. These private militias would only exacerbate this inequality in the provision of safety, and do so without the opportunity for public accountability. We must protect all citizens of Los Angeles, at their homes, campuses, and places of worship, but we must do so equally and fairly.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 04:23 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I write in opposition to Motion # 58 forwarded by Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky. The motion provides no evidentiary justification for connecting the events at UCLA, the Museum of Tolerance, and the two synagogues, and thus conceals that the only demonstrated instance of physical harm and violence that has taken place in recent months was during the attacks by outside pro-Israeli demonstrators during their attack on the UCLA encampment. As that incident remains subject to ongoing investigation, it is egregious for the city council to propose allocating funds to a private militia organization whose commitment to public safety for all remains in question.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maddie

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 04:00 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council: I urge you to vote NO on Motion #58, one million dollar transfer to community security services, training and grants. There are unhoused people lining the street by City Hall, these funds could help get them the services they need to turn their lives around. Why not use these funds to provide these desperately needed services? Does the need for a private security force, to be deployed at selected locations, reflect that our police force is unable to protect and serve the citizens of Los Angeles? Motion#58 references "incidents at UCLA" and "two synagogues". Would that be where Pro-Israel counter protestors violently attacked the Anti-Genocide encampment, while LAPD and campus police did nothing? Or the synagogue that was hosting a real estate company, that has sold land in Occupied Palestine in the West Bank, which breaks international law? These land sales discriminate, based on religion, against, Christians and Muslims. Isn't that illegal in this country? Why is a private security firm getting a NO BID contract? I'm appalled by motion#58 VOTE NO.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jamie

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 02:35 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** vote NO on allocating a million of Angelenos' tax dollars towards violent, Islamophobic security forces, including Magen Am. I am a Jewish Angeleno who does NOT support the use of increased policing under the guise of protecting Jewish communities. Jewish people have been among those brutalized by police and pro-Israeli agitators at the events promoting this disingenuous use of funds. If this were really about protecting Jews, anti-Zionist Jews and their perspectives would be included. Since they are not, it's clear that this is a means of delegitimizing the aims of the protestors at genocide-abetting real estate events which were selling stolen Palestinian land to create 'anglo neighborhoods,' clearly engaging in white supremacy and land grab practices that are immoral and illegal under international law. The presentation of the violence directed TOWARDS these protestors while police watched as evidence of their supposed antisemitism and justification for increased policing that collaborates with Israeli military forces is completely unjustified and will endorse harm against many Jews, Arabs, Palestinians, and anyone perceived as such. Furthermore, how is there no money for schools, homelessness, food access, and social services but somehow an extra MILLION dollars to increase policing? and in a time when the city budget is in a well-known deficit DUE TO allocating so much money for police? This motion is dangerous, disingenuous, and against the interests of the majority of Angelenos who do not benefit from increased policing. Put this money into schools, healthcare, housing, and infrastructure if you really want to make Angelenos safer.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Menelik Tafari

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 02:58 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** No one wants city funds to go to Israel. The country is currently committing a genocide. Please don't make our city complicit in this horrific crime against humanity.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/30/2024 10:05 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** We need to focus on feeding our students, fixing our schools, fixing our streets, housing our homeless, paying our educators a livable wage, funding medical care and so much more. We have so many dire needs here. It makes no sense to fund this genocide.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 09:59 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** We need to fund schools not militarized militias.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 03:05 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing in regard to the violence outside the Adas Torah synagogue, in Los Angeles, and the surrounding neighborhood, on June 23, 2024. I am writing as an individual, since the Neighborhood Council, which typically has a full board meeting just once a month, has not YET taken any action on this issue. I am ashamed of the city of L.A which failed miserably to protect the community. The community should feel protected at all times. Free speech is ok but violent protesting and destruction of property and harm to the public should be punished, but more so, prevented.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 01:35 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** This proposal is disgraceful and should not be allowed to go through. As a UCLA student, I was never made to feel unsafe by the encampment or by pro-Palestinian protesters. What made me feel unsafe was the descent of Zionist attackers on our campus who were allowed to brutalize our students with impunity and the police violence against my fellow students which followed. I am deeply concerned by this effort to suppress peaceful protest both at UCLA and in Los Angeles and by the effort to anchor this suppression in pro-Israel sentiment. Protesting against the genocide and settler colonial project that Israel is undertaking in Palestine is not anti-Semitic. This should be obvious for many reasons but on the most basic level all we need to do is look at the number of Jewish folks who have been participating in and leading the pro-Palestine movement. As a Los Angeles resident, I do not consent to my tax dollars being used to fund pro-Israel defense training. This is a complete exploitation of the violent attacks perpetrated by pro-Israel agitators to de-legitimize pro-Palestine protesters who have been brutalized by police and Zionist mobs for opposing genocide and illegal land theft. If the city really cared about anti-Semitism, this money would be going towards educating people about Judaism, about the distinction between Judaism and Israel, and providing an unbiased view of the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict to help people understand the difference between being Jewish and supporting Israel. Please do not pass this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 01:38 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** STRONGLY OPPOSE: It is appalling that this motion is being brought how it is framed. Indeed, it is well-reported that the LAPD has failed to properly act in responding to violence both at UCLA and at the land sale event. As the LAT reported, police officers were instructed not to act, and thus allowed people to be violently attacked, followed to their cars, and harassed. Alarming, at the land sale event the LAPD actually kettled the crowd, rather than kept the opposing sides separated, and made it difficult to leave, instigating violence. Further, at all of these events the IDF security organization discussed in this motion was involved in the violence, colluding with LAPD prior to the events and during. There is a massive conflict of interest in these actions, as the LAPD is aligned with IDF in training and other allegiances. Notably, the CHP was captured on camera singing that they were "going to save Israel" while marching on UCLA students. As such, this motion should be opposed for the following reasons: 1) This IDF-aligned group has a conflict of interest, has been involved in the violence, instigates violence 2) this IDF-aligned group does not train in deescalation but rather using direct confrontational violence, endangering the public 3) Any contract should be open to bidding, there are serious ethical violations if this contract is awarded to this IDF-aligned group without an open bid for a cheaper amount 4) the LAPD has already been given a \$132million bonus, this is their job, by awarding these funds you are essentially stating that the LAPD is not able to do its job, thus the LAPD should be tasked with this activity not a private group 5) if the LAPD is not capable of doing its job, an independent investigation should be conducted with these funds as to why the LAPD is failing to protect the public during these protests 6) the city has demonstrated that it is not spending money on real violence-prevention activity, like unarmed crisis response, traffic safety officers, street safety infrastructure, drug rehabilitation, etc., thus it should not be spending money on increasing violence in our cities. My recommendation is that the city take the community's concerns seriously, pass the ceasefire resolution, utilize the new Civil Rights Department to hold dialogue with the community and improve community relations instead of stoke violence and division, sponsor multicultural events that can bring the communities together, and invest in real

infrastructure that prevents deaths as traffic violence has been exceeding homicides and you have still not acted on this serious health crisis. Do your job to protect the public and not stoke fear, this motion stokes fear and violence.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Katie Rotolo

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:11 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Members, Please use your conscience, and vote no today! Stop conflating being pro-Palestine with antisemitism. It does not make anyone safe, in fact it makes Jewish people and Palestinians of all faiths less safe! Stop weaponizing antisemitism. Do you know Palestinians are Semitic people? More police and “security” means more violence!!! Look at what the police did at UCLA and many other campuses to CHILDREN! Look at what pro Israel Zionists, many of which are former IOF military, exactly who you want to hire, have done to directly cause harm in our community, a microcosm of what they are doing in Palestine!!! If you want anyone to be safe, stop allowing illegal Palestinian land sales!!! Stop emboldening Zionist violence while police participate or standby and watch. Stop criminalizing protesting the murder of children, a genocide, systematically wiping out entire families; stop criminalizing being unhoused and invest in actual systems of care, not foreign military!!! Our police budget has already been wildly inflated in another increase of their budget instead of systems of care that actually keep our communities safe. We’ve also seen how the Mayor is not transparent with money going to non-profits within our unhoused communities. We need transparency and systems of care, not more police, not more state sanctioned violence!!! VOTE NO! No to a militia that will harm our communities further, especially Black people, people of color, and people defending the lives of millions of Palestinians murdered with our tax dollars. Vote NO!! Do not fast track more police, more police trained by the very violent foreign military the people are protesting! Ask yourself, why would we want to invest in foreign military? Who does that serve? No one except a foreign interest and those who are paid actors of that interest! Stop supporting war crimes and being apologists for the murders of half a million Palestinians in the past 9 months, nearly half of which are children!!! Vote no! Vote no to extremist views and violence! Vote no to more guns in our communities! Vote no to targeting Palestinians and people speaking out against genocide. “From slave patrols to the criminalisation of Black communities, racism has been a feature of US policing for centuries.” -Candace McDuffie

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bianca Quintero  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 01:01 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a Los Angeles County resident and taxpayer I am vehemently against our funds being transferred to "community services, training and grants," and the City Administrative Officer to enter into a sole-source contract with the Jewish Federation, Magen Am and Jewish Community Foundation for supposed "community safety initiatives." The proposed reasoning behind this motion is unfounded and illogical. I have closely followed every protest led by our students and community members on campuses around Los Angeles and have not once found that they have acted in a violent, irrational manner. In fact, they have always led protests in a peaceful, orderly fashion, always caring for their community. Violence has only ensued after administrations have deployed the LAPD. Supplying the aforementioned organizations with taxpayer dollars will only further terrorize our students-- our future-- and lead to more violence inflicted on students and protesters. If this is truly the goal of the Los Angeles City Council then you will accept this motion. But, if you truly represent the people of Los Angeles, you will stand against funding private militia to attack young students, community leaders and the very rights we all have as citizens of the United States. These protests have nothing to do with anti-semitism and you all know it. Never has there been an instance of hatred against a person for their religion or creed during these protests, but against a colonizing state. Anti-zionism does not equate anti-semitism. Do not allow yourselves to be misled. Truly sit with what is being asked of you: funds for private security forces to beat down peaceful protesters. You know exactly what those funds will be used for. How can you possibly convince yourselves that these funds will be used for "community safety"? No. I refuse to allow our taxes to go to private armed militias that do nothing for the safety and well-being of the ENTIRE community, of all of us. That money will be better served funneled directly to social programs, schools, recreation centers and parks. I urge you all to please vote no.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 12:05 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** In regards to Item 104 on today's agenda, the Council should be absolutely embarrassed to even consider hearing a call to allocate public funds for such a thing. Our streets are strewn with trash and human feces; there are homeless encampments that take up entire city blocks. I believe your tax payers would like to hear a single reason why this is an appropriate use of our tax dollars, if you can think of one. The citizens of this city do NOT support attacks on protesters by law enforcement, citizens, or security personnel whose beliefs and actions are not in alignment with peace. Misrepresenting criticism of a nation committing horrific crimes, in violation of international law, as anti-Semitism is both irresponsible, manipulative, and harmful to our city and our communities. We are all equal citizens under the law and it is unfathomable that this council would even consider using public monies to fund private security that protects one part of the community, while endangering another. We need public housing, not private security.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 07:51 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** No money from MY tax dollars for ARMED PRIVATE SECURITY FORCES This motion will give our tax dollars to armed private security forces that endanger our communities. Councilmember Yarslovksy has identified Magen Am (“Shield of the Nation”) as one of the main firms she plans to fund. Magen Am is an NRA-backed organization staffed by former Israeli soldiers and instructors with documented far-right ideologies. Voting ‘Yes’ means you condone their extremist views. Council Member Yaroslavsky pretends to speak for all Jews when putting forward this motion. She promotes a fallacy that more guns on our streets will keep Jews safer. She is wrong. Do not let misdirected claims of antisemitism convince you that a ‘Yes’ vote is what Jewish Angelenos want. Jews are not a monolith.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 12:32 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** This knee jerk reaction to spend \$1m of OUR tax dollars to fund private security in the form of Magen Am (many of which are former Israeli soldiers) to police our local communities is a bad idea. It emboldens these far right ex soldiers and makes our communities more unsafe. It is a waste of public funds that could be better spent on our homeless communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Dudum  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 12:33 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** NO PUBLIC MONEY FOR ARMED PRIVATE SECURITY FORCES This motion will give our tax dollars to armed private security forces that endanger our communities. Yarslovksy has identified Magen Am (“Shield of the Nation”) as one of the main firms she plans to fund. Magen Am is an NRA-backed organization staffed by former Israeli soldiers and instructors with documented far-right ideologies. Voting ‘Yes’ means you condone their extremist views. MORE MONEY FOR POLICING MEANS LESS MONEY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES WE NEED Every dollar we spend on more policing and security takes money away from public services like housing, education and healthcare that actually promote the wellbeing of our communities. This motion capitalizes on people’s fears and wastes valuable resources while doing nothing to make us safer. LAND THEFT, OCCUPATION, APARTHEID AND GENOCIDE ARE NOT JEWISH VALUES We are anti-Zionists because we want a world in which Palestinians, Jews and all people are safe and free. Voting ‘Yes’ on this motion communicates to your constituents that our movement to end the genocide should be met with increased repression. As the State of Israel continues the destruction and slaughter in Palestine, whose side will you be on? Don’t choose the side of fear, hate and supremacy. Vote NO. COUNCIL MEMBER YAROSLAVSKY DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ALL JEWS. Council Member Yaroslavsky pretends to speak for all Jews when putting forward this motion. She does not speak for all Jews, many of which are at the forefront of the Free Palestine movement. She promotes a fallacy that more guns on our streets will keep Jews safer. She is wrong. Do not let misdirected claims of antisemitism convince you that a ‘Yes’ vote is what Jewish Angelenos want. The Jewish community is not a monolith & many are fighting for a Free Palestine, calling for an end to the Israeli apartheid, occupation & ethnic cleansing of Palestine. THIS MOTION EMBOLDENS GENOCIDE SUPPORTERS TO ATTACK US Anti-Zionist Jews speaking out against the genocide are experiencing increased discrimination, intimidation and violence. This motion does nothing to protect them. In fact it only emboldens the genocide supporters who already have the blessing from law enforcement to attack anti-Zionist Jews without repercussions, as we saw at

UCLA and again in Pico-Robertson. And lastly, what is City Council doing to protect Palestinian residents? A people who are crying out for justice, for equality, for an end to our country's complicity in ethnic cleansing? The city of Los Angeles has many Palestinian residents who are great contributors in their communities & it is a shame that as an oppressed group in their homeland, they are now also being oppressed here, in the "land of the Free."

## Communication from Public

**Name:** CD-13 Member  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 07:54 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please VOTE NO to funding armed private security forces to patrol our neighborhoods. We do not need more militarized security entities in Los Angeles! Our cops are already too militarized and aggressive towards peaceful protesters and other innocent civilians. How about continuing to make progress in solving the homelessness crisis? There are so many other services that the citizens of LA desperately need funded.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sara Prado

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 11:23 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am absolutely appalled that the City Council would consider a motion to give \$1mil to radical Zionist groups, at least one of which employs former IDF soldiers, while the IDF is currently carrying out a genocide against the Palestinian people and while Israel continues to make land grabs to create more illegal settlements. Every time pro-Palestinian protests have become violent, it has been because Zionist counter-protesters have come in to attack. This occurred at the UCLA encampment when Zionist counter-protesters sprayed encamped students with pepper spray and bear mace, threw fireworks at their tents, blared techno music loudly all night so they couldn't sleep, physically attacked them with 2x4's, spit on them, etc. This is also what happened at the protest at the Adas Torah synagogue. The pro-Palestinian protesters were there NOT to prevent Jewish people from worshipping, as the Zionists continue to insist. The protest was planned because the synagogue was being used as a venue for a real estate event selling stolen Palestinian land to create additional settlements, which are ILLEGAL according to international law. The flier for this event actually stated that it was selling land located in the "best ANGLO neighborhoods in Israel." It should go without saying that the Levant is not a natively Anglo region, so this clearly shows that it is to create white neighborhoods exclusive of Palestinians from whom the land is stolen. This is ethnic cleansing and it is illegal. The people protesting this illegal real estate event were viciously attacked by a group of Zionists who threw eggs, spit on people, and physically attacked them. I cannot believe the wildly irresponsible reaction of some City Council members to insinuate that the protest was purely based in antisemitism, blame protesters for the violence when they were the ones attacked, and then propose we use taxpayer money to pay companies that employ former IDF soldiers to militarize civilians who are already causing violence in our streets and on our campuses. I STRONGLY urge the council to vote NO on CF 24-0771.

**To:** LA City Councilmembers; Chief-of-Staffs; Deputy Directors

**From:** Sara Prado, 8th District constituent

**Date:** July 1, 2024

**Subject:** Funding for Jewish Federation / Magen Am / Jewish Community Foundation / Community Security Services; CF 24-0771 - OPPOSE

Dear LA City Council Members:

I am writing in strong opposition to the Los Angeles City Council resolution calling for \$1 million in funding to be allocated to Jewish Federation, Magen Am, the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Community Security Services with Council File #24-0771.

I recognize that many citizens in Los Angeles feel profoundly unsafe in the wake of rising incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia, and in our organizing efforts we fight for a city where no one fears for their safety, including while they worship. However, after years of city-wide calls to take a more humane approach on public safety, we feel strongly that private, armed security forces will not improve the safety of the community, but rather guarantee future violence.

We cannot afford to spend limited city funds advancing privatized armed security, especially after the Los Angeles City Council has failed to fund and expand non-violent forms of public safety through unarmed crisis response. Additionally, in the recent budget cycle, Los Angeles City Council made major cuts to essential city services on which Angelenos depend. For example, we are about to lose the Rapid Response Senior Meals Program, a critical service for LA seniors. **We cannot afford to cut meal programs for house-bound senior citizens and then turn around and find money for private armed security forces.**

This motion calls for a portion of the grant to be awarded to the private security organization Magen Am, which actively recruits and trains former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers<sup>1</sup> to provide armed security and patrols. These are the same soldiers who are tasked with perpetuating the generations-long occupation of Palestine and the violent displacement of communities in the West Bank<sup>2</sup>. IDF soldiers are trained to respond to crises with violence, so we must ask—how can they be expected to de-escalate tensions and treat Angelenos with dignity and respect? Awarding a grant to Magen Am is not only irresponsible; it is contrary to the Los Angeles City Council's commitment to uphold human rights, promote non-violent public safety, and encourage civic engagement to resolve political differences.

Furthermore, we are disappointed to witness how recent critiques of unjust power structures are misconstrued as equivalent with acts of hatred. The June 23rd protest cited as a motivation for this motion was a protest against a real estate company, My Home in Israel, which has violated international law by selling real estate in the West Bank<sup>3</sup>. The company's sales in the West Bank

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.standwithus.com/amp/israel-defense-forces-veterans-hired-to-protect-jewish-communities-in-los-angeles>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/#:~:text=Unlawful%20killings&text=Accordding%20to%20OCHA%2C%20Israeli%20forces,Bank%20including%20Jerusalem%20in%202023.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/jun/26/los-angeles-west-bank-protest>

are illegal under international law<sup>4</sup> because they encourage settlements of occupied territory in Palestine. It is most unfortunate that the event was hosted at a Jewish sacred space because it allowed attempts for accountability to be conflated with antisemitism.

**Those protesting the real estate event came from a diverse array of backgrounds, including Jewish and Israeli community members. The organizers of the protest intended for it to be peaceful, but the counter-protestors present on June 23rd escalated tensions, much like they did when they attacked UCLA's student solidarity encampment.**

I am calling on the Los Angeles City Council to oppose the allocation of these funds to the aforementioned organizations and to vote NO on Council File #24-0771.

Sincerely,

Sara Prado  
8th District Constituent

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<sup>4</sup> Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." It also prohibits the "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory".

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 09:24 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** Do not approve one million dollars of taxpayer money for security forces like Magen Am! This is horrible for anyone in the Palestinian community and those who support Palestine and abhor the ongoing genocide against them. This is giving money to the very people who have attacked protestors of the Palestinian genocide.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Francisco Barcena

**Date Submitted:** 07/01/2024 07:21 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** We must not fund private security forces like Magen Am with one million dollars of public money. We work hard for our money and our tax money should not go to zionists and their agenda. Magen Am is an NRA-backed organization staffed by former zionist soldiers and instructors with documented far-right ideologies. Voting 'Yes' means you condone their extremist views.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Haley

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:30 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** As her constituent, I am deeply disturbed and disappointed in CM Yaroslovsky's motion to allocate \$1M precious taxpayer money to an armed paramilitary group with ties to the IDF. The group's association with IDF alone should disqualify them for any public funding: the IDF, led by war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, currently conducting genocide of the vulnerable populations of Gaza. This IDF-affiliated group orchestrated an attack on peaceful UCLA students demonstration against the genocide, which demonstrates beyond doubt their true purpose which is to protect and advocate for IDF interests in the United States of America. Why is CM Katy Yaroslavsky actively funding a foreign force to interfere with US public opinions and affairs? Why is CM Yaroslovsky ignoring the ongoing genocide by the IDF? One should question if CM Yaroslovsky is fit to serve her office and constituents at all - for her actions are those of an IDF asset not American public servant.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** E.A.  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 05:59 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Vote no. We need more funding for housing, education and healthcare—things that will help ALL people thrive. Our city doesn't need to spend more money on weaponization. We need to take care of our most vulnerable communities, not spend more money to hunt and kill them.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarah P Burns

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:31 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please immediately drop the idea of hiring Israeli Defense force related military units from being funded by the city of Los Angeles. This is no way to fight antisemitism. Education programs and community policing and directing resources into interfaith and intergenerational discussions about the situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza today and, combat the growing anti-Islam sentiment anti-Muslim sentiment and anti-Jewish sentiment needs to be examined but this is not the way! Please stop this foolish wasteful funding.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 06:01 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** This nation's continued conflation of Zionism and Judaism is very dangerous and very intentional. It is clearly doing what it was always intended to. Which is to criminalize the opposition of their violent colonial ways. It is heartbreaking to me as a native Angelena to see first hand the blatant fascism occurring in this city. This proposed budget reallocation comes at the heels of President Biden, Governor Newsom, and Mayor Bass's negligent misinformed statement. Or perhaps they blatantly lied as it fits all of their agendas to uphold Zionism and make the U.S. into a militarized police state. Mayor Bass has already increased police funding. There is no need for additional police or "community security services" which is nothing more than a code term for this private Zionist former IDF terrorist organization you're trying to fund. There is countless evidence of what truly transpired on Sunday, June 23, 2024. It was not pro Palestine aggressors attacking Jewish people trying to worship, it was in fact Zionists attacking peaceful pro Palestine, anti-genocide activists. I have personally seen countless footage from that day, all of it is on public forums. The evidence exists, you choose not to see it. No innocent worshipers were being prevented from entering a house of worship at any point. In fact, the Zionists are on video footage making hateful and threatening statements of killing, rape, hoping people die, and racial slurs. And it didn't just stop at words, as I've said, they are seen antagonizing, being the aggressors, and clearly physically attacking peaceful protesters. This motion that is being proposed is simply a license to kill. In simpler terms, it's accept Zionism or die. We reject Zionism and will continue to reject Zionism. You can reject Zionism while loving our Jewish brothers and sisters as the two are not one in the same. Furthermore as tax payers and your constituents, need I remind you that your roles are to do what is best for the people of this city. The \$2,000,000 allocation that is being proposed should instead be used for the housing crisis this city is facing. The city of Denver gave \$1,000 a month to 800 unhoused people, a year later half of the recipients have secured housing. That \$2,000,000 would be of better use on a smaller scale test run of this same program. Prove that you actually care about the welfare of the people of this city. Do not approve the proposed budget allocation that Katy Yaroslavsky and Bob Blumenfield are presenting.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:39 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** In a time when the city is facing massive budget shortfalls and vital services for our communities are being cut, investing taxpayer money into private security groups is a serious waste of city resources. The city already allocates billions of dollars to security via the LAPD. Instead of spending an additional \$1 million on private security, the LAPD should be held accountable for their lack of performing duties. In fact, they idly stand by while Pro-Palestinian protestors at various locations throughout the past 9 months, including at the UCLA student solidarity encampment, have been brutally beaten up, physically and verbally assaulted, and assailed by Zionist militia groups. The council members, elected officials, and organizations behind this city council motion are propagating a false narrative about antisemitism and weaponizing the brutalization of pro-Palestinian protestors to reproduce the same violent outcomes we've witness by Zionist forces in Palestine, here at home. While protecting all religious organizations and addressing hate is crucial, this motion fails to enhance community safety and does not equitably use city funds. City funding should be accessible to all religious communities through an equal application and vetting process. Equal funding should be available for muslim religious centers, Palestinian/Arab American community centers, and religious centers belonging to marginalized communities, such as the African American community. Funding Magem Am, a private armed security organization, poses liability risks, and raises safety concerns for Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab Angelenos. The City Council should not pass this egregious and irresponsible motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lauren Boumaroun

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:24 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am asking that the council members vote "no" on using our tax dollars to fund firms like Magen Am. The more money we spend on unnecessary policing, the less money we have for public services like housing, education, and healthcare. This motion is merely about giving into people's unfounded fears and won't do anything to make people safer. In fact, it will make life unsafe for a lot of Jews who have been targeted by their own community for being against Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people. Zionists have been the ones starting the violence, not anti-genocide protestors. This motion merely emboldens the genocide supporters who have violently attacked peaceful protestors at UCLA and in Pico-Robertson. Please put money toward other public services that will actually benefit the citizens of Los Angeles. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lydia Spielberg  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 07:44 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose in the strongest terms Motion #58, and the allocation of public funds to for any privately organized security force or militia. I write as a Jewish faculty member at UCLA, one of the institutions mentioned in the motion as in need of enhanced community security. In fact, the only demonstrated instances of directed physical harm and violence not peepetuated by the police that have occurred during pro-Palestine protests in recent months occurred at the hands of a mob of counter-demonstrators from the Los Angeles community who attacked the UCLA Palestinian Solidarity encampment. On social media, these violent protestors claimed to be affiliated with both Israeli paramilitary groups and with local community defense organizations. I will note also that the counter-protestors who attacked the UCLA encampment in the name of clearly did not care about the safety of all members of the LA Jewish community for whose protection they claimed they were acting, as Jewish students and faculty were among those whom they attacked. An investigation into this attack is ongoing, but its occurrence shows the danger that vigilante "community defense" squads pose to public safety--especially when they have the tacit or actual cooperation and approval of the public police. Even if it turns out that no participants or organizers of the attack had affiliations with Mag Am specifically, and that no one affiliated with Mag Am has been a participant in provoking and attempting to provoke violent altercations at the many Gaza protests in LA in these last months, giving funds to a private militia emboldens and legitimizes vigilanteism of all forms. We are already witnessing militarized police repression of pro-Palestine protestors whose safety during protest should be protected by the First Amendment, justified by a false equivalence of opposition to the state of Israel and antisemitism. Authorizing private militias would only exacerbate this inequity. All people in Los Angeles should be safe at their homes, campuses, and places of worship, but as this safety is a matter of the public interest, it must be extended to all impartially, and through security and policing that is publically accountable.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** J

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:48 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a Jewish resident of LA I am encouraging city council to vote no on this egregious proposal to give \$1 million or more to private security forces that will endanger our community. At least one of the primary named benefactors of this proposed spending has a history of far-right violent ideology and extremist views that do not represent the Jewish community. Additionally, every dollar spent of our precious public resources on security and policing means a dollar less spent on housing, healthcare, transportation, and other things that improve quality of life for all Angelenos. Land theft, apartheid, occupation and genocide are not Jewish values. Jewish people are not a monolith and no one person or state can ever claim to speak for all of us. Respecting our diversity of views and our right to free expression and to resist genocide and crimes against humanity means not empowering some at the expense of others. As Jewish people protesting genocide we have been targeted, attacked, harassed and more. This proposal does nothing to protect Jewish people like me and countless others. This proposed spending would merely empower those who wish to harm us (and in many documented cases have already done so). Please vote no.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Molly McLean  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:48 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771  
**Comments for Public Posting:** 104 No money for private security firms like Magen Am. Accountability for police is hard enough, who will make private security accountable?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mary

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:50 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I vote NO on funding Zionist private security. There is absolutely no advantage to funding and authorization a foreign military entity to operate in the United States. I have seen firsthand the way IDF soldiers conduct themselves in their country. It's on par w the racism and corruption consistently demonstrated by the LAPD. I've been an Angeleno for more than a decade and a Californian twice that time, but I was born in Soviet Russia, a place where private militaries were commonly hired to protect the wealthy. Which is all this would accomplish.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Isadora Reisner

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:46 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a Jewish UCLA law student and resident of Pico Robertson and I am appalled at Councilmember Yaroslavsky's proposal to send \$1mil of hardworking Angeleno taxpayer dollars to Israel and the IDF. Our city needs that money for important things like housing, infrastructure, schooling, help for the homeless, and more. As a Jewish student on UCLA campus this past semester I was NOT afraid of antisemitism. That is fake news. If anything, I found the presence of non-students on campus who came to protest pro-Israel to be xenophobic and aggressive. Our neighborhood could use that money in other ways that would be more positive and soul-enriching for the residents here, ways that model positively what tax dollars should be for: helping the general welfare of our community.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacqueline Calvache

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 08:47 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Jackie Calvache and I'm a life long resident of Los Angeles. I have seen throughout my life the desperate need to fund city and public services to better the life of Los Angeles residents. This motion will NOT contribute to collective community care, it will only contribute to over policing. Stop funding private companies and bring investment into our communities! Fund city and public services!! Do right by your people, community, and city. We are not a private city! We do not stand for hate. Free Palestine! End the occupation!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daniel Garvin  
**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 06:51 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** No public money for right wing "security" forces! It is obscene and ridiculous that LA public taxpayer money may be used to sponsor right wing violence against peaceful protesters exercising their first amendment rights. By sponsoring these forces, this city council not only would neglect the real needs of the LA community and effectively endorse the far right views of groups like Magen Am, which is backed by the NRA. The Jewish community is not threatened at all by the movement to end the genocide in Gaza. Many of the participants in this movement are Jewish themselves. Paying for armed security to brutalize protesters is a breach of the duty you members of this city council have to your constituents. As a voter in CD-14, I demand that this proposal to fund right wing private security forces be rejected. Your children and grandchildren will one day ask you what you did while the most brutal genocide of your day took place in front of the whole world. Will you answer that you helped support it by crushing the opposition to that genocide at home? I pray that you make the right choice and reject this proposal. Sincerely, Daniel Garvin

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nicole

**Date Submitted:** 07/02/2024 06:54 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0771

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge all council members to vote NO on funding Zionist-backed private security forces here in Los Angeles. I have been to several protests demanding a ceasefire in Gaza over the past several months. They have all been peaceful. The only time tensions rose was when counter protesters arrived and caused trouble. Providing more “security” funding will not keep Los Angeles safer. It will only embolden those who support the ongoing genocide in Gaza to take even more drastic action against those protesting the violence. And the protests in question? They are not protests against Judaism or the Jewish people, despite the narrative surrounding the recent event in front of a synagogue. The protests have always been against Israel’s violence toward the Palestinian people (bombings, starvation, bogus arrests, illegal land grabs, etc.) The event at the synagogue that drew the protesters was a real estate event for property in the illegally occupied West Bank. That land is not Israel’s to sell, under international law. THAT is what people were protesting.