

Communication from Public

Name: Sydney Triola
Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 10:00 PM
Council File No: 21-1476
Comments for Public Posting: See comment attached since your website isn't working.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Sydney Triola, and I am deeply concerned about the support for Targeted Violence Targeted Prevention program that is purported to prevent school shootings and White Supremacy. The website for TVTP Grant program [<https://www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants>], openly claims that the TVTP program is just a re-evolution of the widely condemned Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program that was ultimately found by many scholars, including the Brennan Center to be fundamentally racist and islamophobic. Claiming to fight “White Supremacy” or “School Shooters” with a program that models itself after CVE that used criteria such as: “Travel to a Muslim country,” “Increased activity in a pro-Muslim social group or political cause,” “Frequent attendance at mosque or prayer group,” and “Wearing traditional Muslim attire, growing facial hair” (Brennan Center for Justice, 2017, p. 13) makes it evident that TVTP is continuing a campaign of hate against our Muslim community members. Not only are these programs a violation of constitutional rights, but they also perpetuate harm in many realms of existence.

These programs not only violate individuals’ fourth amendment rights, to a reasonable expectation of privacy, but this program also treats community members as though they have already been convicted of a crime by a jury. Which is a direct violation of people’s fifth amendment rights.

The Brennan Center, and scholars like Robert Pape, Nicole Nguyen, and Faiza Patel have published widely how there is no proven “pathway” to extremism (see references below). Instead, scholarship by Simone Browne, Khalil Gibran Muhammad, and Elizabeth Hinton suggest that programs like TVTP are just the latest American eugenics program aiming to surveil, brutalize, and criminalize our youth of color, and youth in Muslim households.

Research by Legewie and Fagan (2019) also finds that this aggressive form of police presence in schools, significantly reduces test scores for the historical targets of said policing (Black and Brown Youth). A systematic literature review by McLeod, Heller, Manze, & Echeverria (2020) also found that police contact impacted the mental health of those who had any kind of contact with police. Finally Sarah Brayne (2014) found that police contact, and contact with police surveillance systems, significantly reduced the likelihood that people who came in contact with these structures felt safe interacting with many civic and religious institutions.

Legal scholars Froomkin and Colangelo (2020) recommend that this false binary between privacy and safety must end.

Please re-distribute our hard-earned tax dollars to community organizations that actually uplift our youth rather than surveil, criminalize, and brutalize our youth. I hope that you honor our communal wishes to abolish this hateful and prejudicial program.

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Communication from Public

Name: Jeff Baum

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 04:38 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I live in Venice and as an aspiring teacher, and someone supportive of community organizing efforts across the city, I cannot support the TVTP or the expansion of the PATHE program. While there are several reasons for this, the following ones resonate most for me: PATHE trains informants: This is a grant for LAPD to divide the community and cultivate informants - PATHE will create 500 new eyes on the street and in schools, mental health services, and religious spaces. These trained infiltrators will be using junk science and “risk assessments” to report on people they find suspicious, which will inevitably target Muslim, Black, Brown, Indigenous, Immigrant, youth, unhoused people, and disabled people Teachers Oppose CVE, PATHE, and TVTP: In 2016, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) wrote to the director of the FBI in sharp opposition to its “Don’t Be a Puppet” program, similar to PATHE and CVE, citing its “emotional and psychological toll on innocent children”. In 2018, the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) - representing more than 30,000 Los Angeles teachers and social workers - wholeheartedly rejected programs like CVE and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), and if the city council votes to approve this Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant, they will be blatantly disregarding the concerns and demands of the community of LA - including teachers. . PATHE endangers free speech and community organizing: PATHE casts certain communities and social movements under suspicion of “extremism”. A PATHE questionnaire obtained through a records request asks “Do you have a religious community affiliation?” and “Do you have a political or other community affiliation?” and “Do you have animosity towards any religious, community or political group?”. PATHE and CVE frameworks more broadly are a threat to political organizing and can be weaponized against movements for justice. This effort to expand PATHE coincides with the Biden administration’s recently released Domestic Terrorism Strategy, which criminalizes political activity, criticism of US policies, criticism of law enforcement, religious affiliations as indicators of “Domestic Violent Extremism.” The intent of the expansion of policing paradigms like Countering Violent Extremism is to neutralize political activity and repress movements, as well as any attempts to self-sustain communities

and build autonomy. City Council must reject this money from the Department of Homeland Security that will be used to target dissent.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 11:18 AM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Lolly Lim and I am a resident of Los Angeles in zip code 90028. I urge you to reject the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant (TVTP Grant) on the City Council Agenda and refuse the money from the Department of Homeland Security. The LAPD is seeking to use this money to fund the expansion of its PATHE program, which will create a 500-person team of teachers, counselors, clergy, and law enforcement to surveil and target youth and other community members. Schools should be a safe place for students--not a place where teachers and counsellors are mandated to surveil youth and report them to law enforcement for exhibiting behavior that quote: "suggests extremism." Not only are these "indicators" based on junk science of predictive policing, but they have shown to disproportionately target Black, Brown, Muslim, and immigrant people. Though the LAPD claims that PATHE is a program meant to prevent school shootings or "domestic terrorism", it does nothing to address white supremacy. It instead reinforces and continues the white supremacist targeting of Black, Brown, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. I urge you to vote against this grant.

Communication from Public

Name: Akhil Gopal

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 06:53 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to you as a teacher and a resident of LA in zip code 90028, Council District 13. City council must REJECT the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant and comply with the wishes of the communities of Los Angeles. In the past few weeks, the City Council has received countless public comments, hundreds of emails and calls, and a letter signed by more than 40+ organizations in Los Angeles including the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), the ACLU of Southern California, Students Deserve, the California Faculty Association and others opposing this grant. If the council votes for it it will be a giant slap in the face of communities and will put youth of color in grave danger. This grant will be used by the LAPD to expand its PATHE program and train a 500-person team of informants to report on youth for "extremism". Despite LAPD's claims that this is a neutral program, it is nothing other than a vehicle for racial profiling, as well as targeting people with disabilities seeking mental healthcare. Previous iterations of this program have disproportionately targeted Muslims, especially Black Muslims and refugees in particular, and Black, Immigrant, Muslim, and Indigenous youth in general. Though the LAPD proclaims that the program will target people based on "behavior" and not ideologies or specific races, we know that they will use behavior as a proxy to target people, just as they did with the Suspicious Activity Reporting program which vastly disproportionately targeted Black residents of LA. A vote for TVTP is a vote for racial profiling. Reject the grant otherwise you will be complicit in this harm against youth and communities of color.

Communication from Public

Name: Felisha Miles

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 06:54 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Felisha Miles, and I am a resident of Los Angeles in District No. 10, Zip Code 90018. I'm deeply concerned about a proposed grant for the LAPD from the Department of Homeland Security called the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant or TVTP. I am calling today to urge you to reject the TVTP Grant on the City Council Agenda and refuse the money from the Department of Homeland Security. The LAPD is seeking to use this money to fund the expansion of its PATHE program, which will create a 500-person team of teachers, counselors, clergy, and law enforcement to surveil and target youth and other community members. Though the LAPD claims that PATHE is a program meant to prevent school shootings or "domestic terrorism", it does nothing to address white supremacy. It instead reinforces and continues the white supremacist targeting of Black, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. More money for policing is not the answer. The benign language condemning white supremacy serves only as a shield for encouraging more surveillance of the most marginalized. Turning the folks that people in the community actually trust into a surveillance force is not the answer. We urge you to vote against this grant.

Communication from Public

Name: Matyos Kidane

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 06:54 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: The Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant does nothing to address white supremacy, it's a rebranding of the Countering Violent Extremism a grant teachers and students rejected in 2018. The LAPD's own grant proposal is so telling of the grant's intent, the officer they've selected to lead this "mental health" oriented program touts his expertise in "Sunni Extremism" and his leading the surveillance of the George Floyd uprising as assets that would serve the implementation of this program. Over 40 organizations including UTLA and the California Faculty Association have signed on rejecting this grant. We urge City Council to do the same.



PALESTINIAN
YOUTH
MOVEMENT



حركة
الشباب
الفلسطيني



February 7th, 2022

Los Angeles City Council

President of the Council Nury Martinez

President Pro Tempore Mitch O'Farrell

Councilmember Gil Cedillo

Councilmember Paul Krekorian

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

Councilmember Nithya Raman

Councilmember Paul Koretz

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Councilmember Curren Price

Office of City Council District 10

Councilmember Mike Bonin

Councilmember John Lee

Councilmember Kevin de León

Councilmember Joe Buscaino

RE: LAPD TVTP Grant

Councilmembers:

We, the undersigned organizations, demand that the LA City Council reject the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant for \$250,000 from the Department of Homeland Security. Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) is a rebrand of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), and this grant will be used to fund a program called Providing Alternatives to Hinder Extremism (PATHE), which is itself a rebrand of LAPD's program Recognizing Extremist Network Early Warnings (RENEW), instituted under LA's pilot program for CVE. In 2018, the community successfully forced the mayor of LA to reject a \$425,000 grant to expand and continue LA's CVE program, in large part due to [a landmark statement by the United Teachers of Los Angeles \(UTLA\) unequivocally rejecting Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) and a related program called Preventing Violent Extremism \(PVE\)](#). Despite this outpouring of opposition, the LAPD has now violated the demands of the communities of Los Angeles by attempting to accept this \$250,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to expand this program. They want to use this money to create a 500-person team of spies and informants by training "community members" - including educators and social workers, to monitor people using a risk assessment tool and report on "suspicious behaviors." This deputization of educators and counselors as informants weaponizes the trust between students and the adults meant to support them. Teachers have repeatedly rejected these programs as well. Not only did UTLA wholeheartedly oppose CVE and PVE, but the

American Federation of Teachers (AFT), in opposition to a similar program instituted by the FBI, [highlighted its harmful impact on youth, their families, and their communities](#).

PATHE is not an ideologically-neutral violence prevention program. We've seen implementations of CVE programs in Minnesota similar to PATHE result in the targeting of [Black Muslim, East African, Somali and Native Youth](#). The racist intent of these programs would only be compounded by the racist LAPD. PATHE will be headed by Alex Vargas, the deputy director of LA's fusion center, a cop who oversaw the surveillance of protests in LA during the uprisings for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, and who claims to be an expert in "Sunni extremism". Alex Vargas has trained at an Israeli counterterrorism center, learning counterterrorism strategies that were tested on Palestinians under occupation. [CVE as a framework for policing \(of which PATHE is an example\) has been developed with support and collaboration with Zionist organizations](#). While claiming to only take behaviors into account, PATHE is also a powerful tool for political repression and wholesale targeting of communities. A PATHE questionnaire obtained by the ACLU through a records request asks "Do you have a religious community affiliation?" and "Do you have a political or other community affiliation?" and "Do you have animosity towards any religious, community or political group?"

PATHE is rooted in the behavioral surveillance of Suspicious Activity Reporting and the iWATCH program, which the police falsely claim has been a "huge success." In fact, [this program was repeatedly shown in LAPD OIG audits to be a license to racially profile](#), with Black people vastly over-represented among Suspicious Activity Reports, and the majority of the reports not even meeting law enforcement's own basic standards.

PATHE is also grounded in radicalization theory, the presumption that monitoring behaviors using risk assessments can indicate which individuals are on a "pathway to violence." This program provides the police and their informants the ability to profile and target community members by criminalizing ordinary behaviors as well as political organizing, which will target Muslim, Black, Brown, Indigenous, Immigrant, youth and communities, unhoused people, disabled people, political organizing, and liberation movements, and it will contribute to the deportation pipeline.

Finally, this grant is another cash grab for the LAPD, temporarily funding a program that the LAPD will inevitably demand public money for later, contributing to LAPD's constant budget creep and ignoring calls from the community to defund the police. The LAPD has already demanded a \$213 million dollar budget increase and now they want even more money for more surveillance. The community demands that the Los Angeles City Council reject this grant and permanently terminate the PATHE program.

Stop the LAPD from going around the community's back. We rejected this program in 2018 and we reject it again today, and will continue to fight all programs that target our community and our youth as "extremists."

Signed,

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA)
California Faculty Association, Los Angeles (SEIU Local 1983)
Black Lives Matter - LA
Palestinian Youth Movement LA-OC-IE Chapter
Vigilant Love

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
Students Deserve
Black Lives Matter Youth Vanguard
International Indigenous Youth Council LA
Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)
Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)
Union del Barrio
MSA West
SAALT
MuslimArc
For the Binat
White People 4 Black Lives
UCLA Center of the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health
UCLA/CDU COVID-19 Racism and Equity Taskforce
ACLU of Southern California
Reimagine Public Safety USC
Anakbayan LA
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
We the Unhoused
Streetwatch LA
Mar Vista Voice
Western Regional Advocacy Project
NOlympics LA
The Feminist Front
Jewish Voice for Peace-Los Angeles
The Sidewalk Project
Ground Game LA
Muslim Justice League
Defending Rights and Dissent
Justice for Muslims Collective
HEART Women and Girls
CAIR LA
LatinxFacutly4BLM
Angeles Workshop School
Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid (PUMA)
Neurodivergent-U
JTown Action & Solidarity
Armenian-American Action Network
People's City Council

Communication from Public

Name: Sabrina

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 06:58 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing a public comment to urge the rejection of proposed grant for the LAPD from the Department of Homeland Security called the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant or TVTP. This grant and proposed program clearly targets Black, Brown and muslim youth under the guise of violence prevention and only streamlines money that will be wasted on yet another ineffective and violent LAPD program that does nothing to help the community. PATHE uses racial profiling-- grounded in the iWATCH/Suspicious Activity Reporting program, which the LAPD is falsely claiming was a "huge success". In fact, LAPD OIG audits repeatedly showed that this program was nothing more than a license to racially profile, with Black people vastly overrepresented and the majority of the SARs filed not even meeting law enforcement's own basic standards. A vote for this TVTP grant is nothing more than a vote for racial profiling. It will do nothing to counteract "domestic terrorism" or white supremacist violence that it claims to justify its existence and will only bring more institutionalized surveillance and oppression to Black and Brown youth. Additionally many teachers and community members opposed TVTP. The implementation of this program will be under constant scrutiny by the community and your constituents and is an infringement upon free speech and the right to assemble and protest.

Communication from Public

Name: Hannah Cornfield

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 07:00 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Hannah Cornfield, and I am a resident of Los Angeles in 90025. I'm deeply concerned about a proposed grant for the LAPD from the Department of Homeland Security called the Targeted Violence and Prevention Grant or TVTP. I am writing today to urge you to reject the TVTP Grant on the City Council Agenda and refuse the money from the Department of Homeland Security. The LAPD is seeking to use this money to fund the expansion of its PATHE program, which will create a 500-person team of teachers, counselors, clergy, and law enforcement to surveil and target youth and other community members. Though the LAPD claims that PATHE is a program meant to prevent school shootings or "domestic terrorism", it does nothing to address white supremacy. It instead reinforces and continues the white supremacist targeting of Black, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. Covering this up and veiling this as a means to address white supremacy is SO deceptive and unacceptable because the program actually racially profiles and harms Black, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. I urge you to vote against this grant which is a serious threat to our children and perpetuates white supremacist violence. By outsourcing policing to the community leaders (that youth should be able to trust) by training them to profile people based on religion, race and politics, this program manipulates relationships of trust that exist between youth and community members and their teachers and counselors and faith leaders in order to police them, which sows distrust in communities, alienates people from needed services, and expands policing further into other sectors of society. PATHE impacts the most vulnerable. The majority of LA DMH patients that seek mental health care are poor/ working class community members who do not have coverage and cannot afford other facilities. By training providers at DMH, PATHE in turn creates a dynamic that reinforces the policing of the poor. Similarly, DMH has many contracts with youth spaces, especially child abuse cases. This leaves our youth subject to criminal scrutiny in times of high stress, trauma, and uncertainty. The community rejected the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program in 2018 and we reject this rebranding of CVE (now PATHE) again today no matter what LAPD wants to call it.

Communication from Public

Name: traci ishigo

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 01:58 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council members, my name is Traci Ishigo. I am a social worker, and one of the co-directors of Vigilant Love, a grassroots organization based in Los Angeles that strongly opposes the proposed Targeted Violence & Terrorism Prevention Grant for LAPD from the Department of Homeland Security. I am also a resident of North Hollywood in Councilmember Paul Krekorian's district, and I am urging our council member to once again vote NO against this harmful program that is similar to Dept of Homeland Security CVE grant that Councilmember Krekorian spoke out against in 2018. This grant, for "Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention" (TVTP), is a rebrand of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), which will fund the expansion of PATHE, a program that was created during LAPD's CVE pilot program. CVE is a policing framework that outsources policing to the community leaders that youth should be able to trust by training them to profile people based on religion, race, and politics. This program manipulates relationships of trust that exist between youth and community members and their teachers and counselors and faith leaders in order to police them - sowing distrust in communities, alienating people from services, and expanding policing further into other sectors of society. The community rejected CVE in 2018 and we reject it again today no matter what LAPD wants to call it. As a social worker, I am strongly concerned with how PATHE and CVE programs are grounded in racial profiling, predictive policing, and covert surveillance. If this grant is approved to fund the training of 500 Dept of Mental Health clinicians who would be trained in the PATHE/CVE frameworks, it is such a disservice to the social work field which has its ethical responsibilities to clients and their self-determination and right to informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, and mental health services that are culturally competent. We know that the majority of LA DMH patients who seek mental health care are poor/ working class community members who do not have coverage and cannot afford other facilities. By training providers at DMH, PATHE in turn creates a dynamic that reinforces the traumatizing policing of the poor- insidiously in therapeutic spaces that community members should be able to access and safely trust with their mental health. Similarly, DMH has many contracts with youth spaces, especially

child abuse cases. This leaves our youth subject to criminal scrutiny in times of high stress, trauma, and uncertainty. All residents in Los Angeles should have access to mental health resources that center the clients' safety & well-being, rather than undermining the trust and therapeutic relationship that PATHE programs are designed to weaponize against many communities of color who are wrongly viewed as "threats" to public safety. Racialized and predictive policing should never be a protocol that mental health professionals are trained in, because a therapist's countertransference and wrongful views can negatively impact a client's view of self, sense of identity, can lead to retraumatization, and poor mental health outcomes. There is no validated research to support the efficacy of such CVE programs, and these programs run the detrimental risk of harming the rights and well-being of many LA residents. I strongly urge City Council members to vote NO on this TVTP grant, and to further educate yourselves on the dangers of CVE, TVTP and PATHE programs. We are counting on your NO votes, and hope take our community's concerns seriously. Over 5,000 other residents who have already vocalized their concerns to your offices, and we hope that you can be a trusted city council member who takes the time to listen to the people. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Maraky Alemseged

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 02:05 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: This grant, for “Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention” (TVTP), is a rebrand of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), which will fund the expansion of PATHE, a program that was created during LAPD’s CVE pilot program. CVE is a policing framework that outsources policing to the community leaders that youth should be able to trust by training them to profile people based on religion, race, and politics. This program manipulates relationships of trust that exist between youth and community members and their teachers and counselors and faith leaders in order to police them - sowing distrust in communities, alienating people from services, and expanding policing further into other sectors of society. The community rejected CVE in 2018 and we reject it again today no matter what LAPD wants to call it. In 2018, LA community fought hard to reject the implementation of CVE programming- LA is the only city that successfully pushed back against the Department of Homeland Security’s attempt to implement CVE. LA is a major reason why the DHS rebranded CVE into TVTP. They openly name this in a 2020 report reflecting on the CVE grant cycle of 2016. The program itself has not changed and never will- DHS was created after 9/11 to explicitly surveil community in the name of national security- there never can be a community-safe program designed/funded by the DHS. This is a grant for LAPD to divide the community and cultivate informants - PATHE will create 500 new eyes on the street and in schools, mental health services, and religious spaces. These trained infiltrators will be using junk science and “risk assessments” to report on people they find suspicious, which will inevitably target Muslim, Black, Brown, indigenous, immigrant, youth, unhoused people, and disabled people. If the City believes in racial justice and in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, then it should reject TVTP and any other attempt at CVE which is built by design to surveil and criminalize youth and other vulnerable community members. The majority of LA DMH patients that seek mental health care are poor/ working class community members who do not have coverage and cannot afford other facilities. By training providers at DMH, PATHE in turn creates a dynamic that reinforces the policing of the poor. Similarly, DMH has many contracts with youth spaces, especially child abuse cases. This leaves our youth subject to criminal

scrutiny in times of high stress, trauma, and uncertainty. In 2016, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) wrote to the director of the FBI in sharp opposition to its “Don’t Be a Puppet” program, similar to PATHE and CVE, citing its “emotional and psychological toll on innocent children”. In 2018, the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) - representing more than 30,000 Los Angeles teachers and social workers - wholeheartedly rejected programs like CVE and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), and if the city council votes to approve this Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant, they will be blatantly disregarding the concerns and demands of the community of LA - including teachers. PATHE is grounded in the Suspicious Activity Reporting - SAR and iWATCH program, behavioral surveillance, and data mining, as well as the pseudoscientific radicalization theory that claims that certain behaviors are indicative of a “pathway to violence”. This is nothing more than a “scientific” veneer for racial profiling and surveillance. The cop leading this program, Alex Vargas, led the surveillance of protesters in the George Floyd uprisings from his post as deputy director of the fusion center. He also claims to be an expert in “Sunni extremism” and trained at an Israeli institute of counterterrorism, learning techniques and tactics tested on Palestinians under occupation. The LAPD may claim to be neutral or targeting all forms of extremism but we know that is false. This program will be used to target specific communities, political organizing, and protests - regardless of what the LAPD says. The LAPD claims that they want this program to be “sustainable” after the grant period, meaning they want PATHE to be folded into existing budgets - possibly requesting more money from the city to pay for it in the future. This is yet another example of budget creep, in which LAPD turns the “gift” of a federal homeland security grant subsidy into demands for more public money for more surveillance and more grave harm on our communities. Earlier this month the police pushed for a \$213 million dollar budget increase which would result in their largest budget ever - and now they’re requesting even more money for more surveillance. Our communities need housing, food, and education, not more money for the police. A vote for TVTP is a vote for racial profiling and criminalization. Again, if the City truly cares for the most marginalized and vulnerable, then rejecting TVTP will be a no-brainer.

Communication from Public

Name: Maraky Alemseged

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 02:11 PM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: This grant, for “Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention” (TVTP), is a rebrand of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), which will fund the expansion of PATHE, a program that was created during LAPD’s CVE pilot program. CVE is a policing framework that outsources policing to the community leaders that youth should be able to trust by training them to profile people based on religion, race, and politics. This program manipulates relationships of trust that exist between youth and community members and their teachers and counselors and faith leaders in order to police them - sowing distrust in communities, alienating people from services, and expanding policing further into other sectors of society. The community rejected CVE in 2018 and we reject it again today no matter what LAPD wants to call it. In 2018, LA community fought hard to reject the implementation of CVE programming- LA is the only city that successfully pushed back against the Department of Homeland Security’s attempt to implement CVE. LA is a major reason why the DHS rebranded CVE into TVTP. They openly name this in a 2020 report reflecting on the CVE grant cycle of 2016. The program itself has not changed and never well- DHS was created after 9/11 to explicitly surveil community in the name of national security- there never can be a community-safe program designed/funded by the DHS. This is a grant for LAPD to divide the community and cultivate informants - PATHE will create 500 new eyes on the street and in schools, mental health services, and religious spaces. These trained infiltrators will be using junk science and “risk assessments” to report on people they find suspicious, which will inevitably target Muslim, Black, Brown, indigenous, immigrant, youth, unhoused people, and disabled people. If the City believes in racial justice and in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, then it should reject TVTP and any other attempt at CVE which is built by design to surveil and criminalize youth and other vulnerable community members. The majority of LA DMH patients that seek mental health care are poor/ working class community members who do not have coverage and cannot afford other facilities. By training providers at DMH, PATHE in turn creates a dynamic that reinforces the policing of the poor. Similarly, DMH has many contracts with youth spaces, especially child abuse cases. This leaves our youth subject to criminal

scrutiny in times of high stress, trauma, and uncertainty. In 2016, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) wrote to the director of the FBI in sharp opposition to its “Don’t Be a Puppet” program, similar to PATHE and CVE, citing its “emotional and psychological toll on innocent children”. In 2018, the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) - representing more than 30,000 Los Angeles teachers and social workers - wholeheartedly rejected programs like CVE and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), and if the city council votes to approve this Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant, they will be blatantly disregarding the concerns and demands of the community of LA - including teachers. PATHE is grounded in the Suspicious Activity Reporting - SAR and iWATCH program, behavioral surveillance, and data mining, as well as the pseudoscientific radicalization theory that claims that certain behaviors are indicative of a “pathway to violence”. This is nothing more than a “scientific” veneer for racial profiling and surveillance. The cop leading this program, Alex Vargas, led the surveillance of protesters in the George Floyd uprisings from his post as deputy director of the fusion center. He also claims to be an expert in “Sunni extremism” and trained at an Israeli institute of counterterrorism, learning techniques and tactics tested on Palestinians under occupation. The LAPD may claim to be neutral or targeting all forms of extremism but we know that is false. This program will be used to target specific communities, political organizing, and protests - regardless of what the LAPD says. The LAPD claims that they want this program to be “sustainable” after the grant period, meaning they want PATHE to be folded into existing budgets - possibly requesting more money from the city to pay for it in the future. This is yet another example of budget creep, in which LAPD turns the “gift” of a federal homeland security grant subsidy into demands for more public money for more surveillance and more grave harm on our communities. Earlier this month the police pushed for a \$213 million dollar budget increase which would result in their largest budget ever - and now they’re requesting even more money for more surveillance. Our communities need housing, food, and education, not more money for the police. A vote for TVTP is a vote for racial profiling and criminalization. Again, if the City truly cares for the most marginalized and vulnerable, then rejecting TVTP will be a no-brainer.

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine F

Date Submitted: 03/08/2022 08:40 AM

Council File No: 21-1476

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Katherine, and I am a resident of Los Angeles County (90503). I'm deeply concerned about a proposed grant for the LAPD from the Department of Homeland Security called the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant or TVTP. I am writing today to urge you to reject the TVTP Grant on the City Council Agenda and refuse the money from the Department of Homeland Security. The LAPD is seeking to use this money to fund the expansion of its PATHE program, which will create a 500-person team of teachers, counselors, clergy, and law enforcement to surveil and target youth and other community members. Though the LAPD claims that PATHE is a program meant to prevent school shootings or "domestic terrorism", it does nothing to address white supremacy. It instead reinforces and continues the white supremacist targeting of Black, Muslim, Indigenous, and Immigrant youth. I urge you to vote against this grant.