

**From:** [Kat Snyder](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Report on Palo Alto's Response to Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents  
**Date:** Monday, May 9, 2022 11:41:41 AM

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Hello City Council,

I 100% agree with the staff report's conclusion that a city ordinance against hate speech would be both unconstitutional and ineffective. In the cities where it has been adopted, it has tended to backfire by making it easier for people who already have systemic power to charge marginalized people for hate speech - for example, a police officer bringing charges against an activist who called him a Nazi.

That being said, the concern that we are not doing enough about hate crimes in Palo Alto is understandable, particularly as hate crimes and hate incidents continue to rise both locally and nationally.

I think we have an opportunity, now that more funding for library hours and programming are in the budget, to add some library programming and other resources around this issue.

For one, while it'd be good to have information about where/how to report incidents available via City Hall and the city hall's website, it would also make sense to have a display on that in the public libraries, including free physical copies of any paperwork that might have to be filled out alongside a link to the digital version of any paperwork to be filled out. It is psychologically taxing to anyone who is a victim of a hate incident, and hard to come forward and report things while also taking care of the other responsibilities in their lives. Having a dedicated space where resources are available with someone who can walk them through that could be a lifesaver.

Second, the HRC already has a piece of programming on the books - 100 Conversations about Race. It seems a natural partnership for the library to take on the legwork to getting this programming out on a more frequent basis to a larger audience.

Third, another way to help with decreasing hate incidents via increasing community cohesion. The Human Library program would be a great thing to try bringing into the Palo Alto public libraries. "Human libraries function similarly to other libraries except that in a human library, people—rather than books—are available for checkout. Those who volunteer to be “human books” are “people with a particular personal experience or perspective on life” and have often been stereotyped in some way. The human books agree to converse openly with other members of the community, called “readers.” " Here are two articles on the Human Library program: [http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/human\\_librar/](http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/human_librar/) and <https://www.nextavenue.org/courageous-conversations-human-library/>

Lastly, libraries can involve programming that increases community cohesion in a more general sense, such as cooking programs or book clubs or sewing circles or moderated community debate, where people get to know community members they might not otherwise meet in a safe and free environment. So it could also be good to increase funding the public libraries in order to both increase community-based programming and help with any costs

associated with altering library infrastructure to be able to safely engage in said community programming during COVID.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kat Snyder

Palo Alto Resident

**From:** [herb](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#); [Clerk, City](#)  
**Subject:** May 9, 2022 Council Meeting, Item #12: Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents  
**Date:** Saturday, May 7, 2022 4:59:56 PM

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Herb Borock  
P. O. Box 632  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

May 7, 2022

Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

**MAY 9, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA ITEM #12  
RESPONSE TO HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS**

Dear City Council:

The list of hate crimes in the Police Department Policy Manual that appears at the bottom of Packet Page 220 could be increased by adding other perceived characteristics of victims to provide you an opportunity to evaluate whether you are being asked to protect those victims with the politically correct characteristics and to determine what are the appropriate remedies, if any.

Among the categories of victims that might be included are:

1. Unhoused residents;
2. Transients;
3. Alcoholics; and
4. Drug addicts.

Some people might believe that people with the following characteristics should be considered victims if they are subject to hate crimes or hate incidents:

1. Suspected criminals; and
2. Criminals.

On September 1, 1964, Bob Dylan first sang the following lyrics in concert:

As some warn victory, some downfall  
Private reasons great or small  
Can be seen in the eyes of those that call  
To make all that should be killed to crawl  
While others say don't hate nothing at all  
Except hatred

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock

**From:** [herb](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#); [Clerk, City](#)  
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