

## **Applicant Statements for Open Board Seats**

**Candidate Name:** Kevin McCarthy

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** I am excited to apply for the At-Large seat on the SORO NC Board. With a history of active community involvement, I bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to enhancing our neighborhood. My passion lies in making our streets safer for kids and families, fostering a sense of community, and creating inviting public spaces that encourage social interaction and community bonding. I believe that a safe and welcoming environment is the cornerstone of a thriving neighborhood. If given the opportunity to serve as an At-Large Representative, I will work tirelessly to ensure that our community's needs and voices are heard, advocating for improvements that make a tangible difference in our daily lives. Thank you for considering my candidacy. Together, we can make our neighborhood a safer, more vibrant, and community focused place to live.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Katelyn Best

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** As a two-year resident of the South Robertson neighborhood, I would like to get more involved in the issues impacting our community. I am especially interested in homelessness and the issues upstream of this problem, including land use—a Council committee I would be very interested in serving on. Professionally, I work as a writer and editor for Angel City Football Club, LA's professional women's soccer team. I am a good collaborator with an interest in responding to the needs of the whole community.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Joshua Nathan Shapiro

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** I strongly believe local government is the primary vehicle for positive change in our communities. The more the citizens of our community can give back and be involved in the local government the better for everyone. My grandfather was the founder and mayor of South El Monte. He instilled in me a strong sense of duty and responsibility to help as much as a person is able to in their community. My wife, myself, and our four children live in the crestview neighborhood and I want to be as helpful as possible to my neighbors and community. I currently own and operate a watch manufacture business with 10 employees. Before that I was the general studies principal at Chofetz Chiam of Los Angeles, A Jewish boys high school at the corner of Pickford and Robertson. I was also a track and field coach for many years in the public school system, and a high school history and STEM teacher. I feel my experiences

could be very helpful as a board member in Soro, but if that doesn't work out I am happy to volunteer in another capacity. Thanks for your time, Josh Shapiro

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Meha Murthy

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** I am a professional creative living on Corning Street, who strives to make my community a better place. I regularly participate in our farmers markets, bike down our streets, and even volunteer at our local Cat Shelter. My day job is as a professional game developer, where I have an extensive background with community management (through online communities), video editing (for trailers), art and design (for assets on projects I've worked on), writing (as a narrative designer for stories in my work), and event and timeline planning (as a production manager on games). I'm a jack of all trades, and passionate about not only utilizing my current skills, but also developing new ones as I continue to help my community.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Kyle Domenic Cayce

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** My experience in social services and on going volunteer position with the Mayors Office of Public in the Crisis Response Team allows me to bring valuable insights, dedication, and a strong sense of community advocacy to the neighborhood board.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Cheryl Holstrom

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** I own and have resided at my property located at 842 S. Sherbourne Drive, Los Angeles, Ca. 90035 since 1978. My professional career includes me being a business owner of C J Holstrom Inc. which is a design and build firm. I have been a general contractor since 1996 and previous to that was a principal in an architectural design firm Levine Holstrom Associates from 1989 to 1996. Prior to that I was an interior designer at the firm Brown Buckley, Inc. in West Hollywood from 1985 to 1989. I feel I would be an asset to the community as a business owner and my vast background in building/design and knowledge with zoning issues that has been on the rise in our community now for sometime.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

**Candidate Name:** Margarita Guzman

**Board Seat:** At-Large

**Statement:** My name is Margarita Guzmán, and my family has owned and lived in our home on S. Corning Street for almost 25 years. We've witnessed and experienced first-hand the transformation of our neighborhood / street over time, especially after COVID - - some of it good, and some of it not so good, unfortunately. And, yet, despite the changes (and challenges) we see around us, my family and I continue to remain in the area because we believe in its potential as both (1) a hub of socio-economic & ethnic / racial diversity; and (2) a centrally located, generally safe, and quiet neighborhood where one can live, work and thrive in LA. I believe that I am a strong candidate for the SORO NC board (At-Large Representative 4) because I am an attorney with a long history of community service and with extensive community organizing experience. For example, from 2004 - 2007 I directed the Legal Check-Up Program for the HIV and Aids Legal Service Alliance (HALSA) in which I planned and organized drop-in, self-help legal clinics for predominately Spanish-speaking women and children newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. I provided brief counsel and advice on several areas of law -- privacy, family, criminal and estate planning. Moreover, on my street, I engage and communicate well with my direct neighbors to discuss any issues or concerns any of us may be dealing with on our block and I help search for potential resolutions. I take care of my neighbors and they take care of me -- we watch one another's children and homes; water one another's plants/grass; we inform one another of any notable happenings in the neighborhood; and we always show one another love and respect! As a member of the SORO NC board, I would work to continue and expand the legacy that my neighbors and I have started on my block to the rest of zone 4 -- be helpful, be mindful and be respectful. I would also use my community organizing skills to engage local law enforcement and neighboring businesses to find ways to create a safer, cleaner and more enjoyable area to work and live in. I would use my public speaking and community activism skills to engage and encourage more of my neighbors to get involved with the development and protection of our streets. Through my professional connections, I would investigate and identify potential resources or assistance from outside organizations that may facilitate the development or beatification of our neighborhood. The opportunities available and the potential for growth for La Cienega Heights are immeasurable; and as a long-standing resident, I am both committed to the social and economic advancement of this area and eager to be involved in the future of my home and neighborhood. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to apply for the SORO NC board (At-Large Representative 4) Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration.

**Legal Affirmation:** yes

# **SORO NC Committee Memberships as of 7/18/24**

## **(Board Members)**

<b>Land Use Committee</b>	Barry Levine, Ken Blaker, Joseph Mollaie, <b>Mitch Cohen</b> , Jon Liberman, Stuart Weiss, Sara Messall, Avi Youshaei, Noah Damsky
<b>Business Advocacy &amp; Development Committee</b>	Ken Blaker, <b>Jon Liberman</b> , Barry Levine, Michael Lynn, Shirley Traum, Joseph Mollaie, Baila Romm
<b>Outreach Committee</b>	Terrence Gomes, Barry Levine, <b>Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman</b> , Baila Romm, Stuart Weiss, Sara Messall, Marlene Katz
<b>Parks and Recreation Committee</b>	Barry Levine, <b>Jon Liberman</b> , Laurie Levine, Sandy Block, Benji Karben
<b>Public Safety Committee</b>	Michael Lynn, <b>Terrence Gomes</b> , Ken Blaker, Jon Liberman, Laurie Levine, <b>Baila Romm</b> , Joesph Mollaie, Stuart Weiss
<b>Transportation Committee</b>	Barry Levine, <b>Joel Weinberger</b> , Terrence Gomes, Michael Lynn, Benji Karben, Jason Plummer, Tiffany Miller
<b>Homelessness Committee</b>	<b>Terrence Gomes</b> , Barry Levine, Michael Lynn, Ken Blaker, <b>Jon Liberman</b> , Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Tiffany Miller
<b>Education Committee</b>	Shirley Traum, Barry Levine, <b>Jon Liberman, Benji Karben</b> , Eitan Gershov
<b>Bylaws Committee</b>	<b>Ken Blaker</b> , Michael Lynn, Terrence Gomes, Jon Liberman, Barry Levine, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie
<b>Budget &amp; Finance Committee</b>	<b>Terrence Gomes</b> , Barry Levine, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Baila Romm
<b>Board Development</b>	<b>Baila Romm</b> , Sara Messall, Stuart Weiss



# Motion to submit a letter and a Community Impact Statement opposing Council File 24-0656 [Title: Gaza / Israel / Hamas / Permanent Ceasefire / Peaceful Diplomacy / Humanitarian Aid / Medical Care]

**Agenda Item:** GB07182024-08  
**Date:** July 18, 2024  
**Proposed By:** Executive Committee  
**Include motion in Consent Agenda?** Yes

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## Background

This motion was discussed at the June 20, 2024 General Board meeting and referred to the Executive Committee with instructions to produce a better draft.

A few days after that June meeting violence erupted in front of the Adas Torah synagogue on West Pico Boulevard, within the SORO NC boundaries, and widely reported as an international news story.

During the month since the June meeting the council has received approximately 8,500 emails from approximately 7,000 distinct email addresses voicing opposition to the proposed City Council Resolution and/or outrage at the city's failure to protect SORO NC stakeholders during the June 23 violence.

The resulting draft letter is attached to this motion.

## Proposed Motion

In order to voice strong opposition to the proposed City Council resolution in Council File 24-0656, SORO NC shall submit a letter to the City Council and to Mayor Bass, and shall also submit the same letter to Council File 24-0656 in the form of a Community Impact Statement.

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## Considerations

<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For:	5	Against:	0
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<b>Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:</b> <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	N/A
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**Michael Lynn**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Jon Liberman**  
Secretary

**Stuart Weiss**  
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**Arguments for:**

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The draft letter properly addresses reasons for opposition to the Council File of the majority of board members

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The draft letter properly addresses reasons for opposition to the Council File of all of the people who emailed the board in the weeks since the Council File was created.

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The proposed resolution is outside the responsibilities and authorities of City Council.

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The proposed resolution supports a ceasefire solution to violence between Israelis and Gazan Palestinians despite the well documented fact that repeated ceasefires have failed to secure peace and security.

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The proposed resolution supports a ceasefire solution to violence between Israelis and Gazan Palestinians despite the well documented fact that repeated ceasefires have failed to secure peace and security.

**Arguments against:**

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Despite the failure of all previous ceasefires, this one will magically succeed.



# South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

City of Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Council

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July 18, 2024

**LA City Council**  
**200 North Spring Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Mayor Karen Bass**  
**200 North Spring Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

RE: Council File: 24-0656 (Gaza / Israel / Hamas / Permanent Ceasefire / Peaceful  
Diplomacy / Humanitarian Aid / Medical Care)

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Bass,

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) is unanimously in favor of peace and prosperity for all people worldwide, including those in the Middle East. And we hope to see a time when all violence and armed conflict end permanently.

For that reason, the SORO NC opposes the motion contained within Los Angeles City Council File 24-0656 as explained below, and we urge the Los Angeles City Council to reject it or for the authors to withdraw it from consideration.

The essence of the item is to call for a permanent ceasefire. However, it ignores both recent and distant history.

The events of October 7, 2023 were a unilateral Gazan violation of a cease fire agreement that had gone into effect on May 13, 2023. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The May 13, 2023 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of May 21, 2021. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The May 21, 2021 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of November 14, 2019. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.



The November 14, 2019 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of July 20, 2018. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The July 20, 2018 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of August 24, 2014. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The August 24, 2014 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of November 21, 2012. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The November 21, 2012 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of August 21, 2011. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The August 21, 2011 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of January 18, 2009. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The January 18, 2009 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of November 26, 2006. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

The November 26, 2006 cease fire agreement was in response to a unilateral Gazan violation of the cease fire agreement of February 8, 2005, and occurred despite the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. When that ceasefire went into effect it was hailed as a victory by the very aggressors who went on to break it.

It is worth noting that Israeli control of Gaza before that time had been a condition of the 1978 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt and was a demand of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, who refused to take responsibility for Gaza.

It is also worth noting that the extreme violence of the ceasefire breach on October 7, 2023 took place on land that was within the borders of Israel described in UN Resolution 181 in 1947 (sometimes called the UN partition plan).

There is no evidence to suggest that a new "permanent" cease fire can or will be effective at establishing or maintaining peace, and there is no factual basis for believing that a cease fire





could end the future loss of innocent lives on either side of the conflict. To the contrary, repeats of October 7, 2023 have been promised by the aggressors, who are by their founding principles sworn to disregard the legitimacy of the state of Israel and to kill all Israelis and all Jews.

While mass media frequently presents images of casualties in the Gazan civilian population, history books recount the bloody massacre of Jewish innocents in the region for thousands of years. Major genocidal massacres of Jewish residents occurred in 1929, 1848, 1517, 1096-1192 (during the three Crusade wars), and all the way back to Biblical times. As stated at the beginning of this letter, we are against all massacres.

The call for a cease fire in the CF 24-0656 resolution is blind to history. Its passage would make our Los Angeles City Council appear foolish. At worst, it caters to the same interests that equates a cease fire to a victory for Hamas and other hate groups. Hate and violence have no place in Los Angeles, or anywhere in the world.

International affairs are clearly outside the authority and scope of the Los Angeles City Council, but we understand the desire to see peace in the Middle East and in the many other locations where violence and armed conflicts are currently causing innocents to be killed and hurt.

We are bothered by the fact that CF 24-0656 recites Hamas propaganda as fact. Repeatedly we have learned of “facts” that turned out to be fabrications or exaggerations, or complete perversion of truth. Even the casualty figures reported by the Gazan authorities have been found to be unreliable by organizations such as the Associated Press (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-deaths-womenchildren-e258a4c14641978a00dfb957ce348957>), and others. Our Los Angeles City Council should not tarnish its reputation by using slanted assertions as the basis for a resolution that has no chance of achieving the stated goals.

Even the issue of humanitarian aid is mischaracterized in the resolution. Due to aid delivery being blocked by military-like violence, including rocket fire against the delivery workers and vehicles, the huge amount of aid that has been sent to Gaza has not made it to its civilians. We condemn any blockage that keeps humanitarian aid from reaching the intended recipients.

Considering the well-documented tactics of Hamas, which has openly pledged to commit future massacres, which used Gazan civilians and civilian properties as shields and operational bases, and is sworn to the genocidal obliteration of Jews, we are opposed to any resolution that is predicated on leaving Hamas in power. We believe that the continued control of Gaza by Hamas is as much, or perhaps even more, of a threat to Gazans as it is to Israelis.



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We believe that the proposed resolution completely ignores the fact that Israel is under continuous attack from Iranian proxies on all sides: from Hamas and other sponsored groups in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iraq and Iran, and the Houthis in Yemen. Concurrently Israel is under frequent attack from the Palestinian Authority Security Forces in Judea and Samaria. War is tragic, and the current situation does not need a temporary solution; a long-term solution is needed.

Finally, we note that the proposed City Council's ceasefire resolution seeks to end Israel's defensive action and fails to address the violent strategies of Hamas and other Iranian proxies that pose a long-term threat to both Israelis and Palestinians.

If the city passes this lopsided pro-Hamas resolution, it will send a signal of support for antisemitic violence. Antisemitic crimes are already rising rapidly in Los Angeles, and such an action by City Council would inflame even more violence and endanger the Jewish residents in Los Angeles.

We urge all City Councilmembers to reject antisemitic violence and hate, and to oppose this misguided ceasefire resolution.

Sincerely,

*Michael W. Lynn*

Michael Lynn  
President  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

## Motions from Public Safety Committee

July 1, 2024

Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter and CIS to the City Council condemning the violence on the events of June 23, 2024 on Pico Blvd. that was directed at Jewish Houses of Worship, local Jewish businesses and Jewish residents on the surrounding streets. After meeting with the LAPD and CD5 there were lessons learned and that strategies and tactics will be improved moving forward in the event of direct attacks anywhere the SORO community.

**Moved: Baila Romm    Second: Laurie Levine**

**Vote Yes: Jon Liberman, Terrence Gomes, Laurie Levine, Dan Braum, Ken Blaker, Stuart Weiss, Baila Romm, Sheina Gilbert**

**8 yes 0 no 0 abstain**

**Motion Passes.**

GB07182024-11

Motion for the SORO NC to create a tab on the SORO NC website where stakeholders can find links to report certain crimes online (with examples of what can be reported online), 311 City Services, and other import city department resources as well as a guide what to say when calling 911.

Moved: Terrence Gomes                  Second: Jon Liberman

**Vote Yes: Terrence Gomes, Jon Liberman, Dan Braum, Stuart Weiss, Laurie Levine, Sheina Gilbert, Baila Romm (7)**

**Vote Abstain: Michael Lynn**

**7 yes    0 no    1 abstain**

**Motion Passes**



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July 18, 2024

**LA City Council**  
**200 North Spring Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Dear City Council Members,

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council condemns the violence that occurred on June 23, 2024 on Pico Blvd. that was directed at Jewish Houses of Worship, local Jewish businesses and Jewish residents on the surrounding streets.

After meeting with the LAPD and CD5, everyone agreed that there were lessons learned and that strategies and tactics will be improved moving forward in the event of direct attacks anywhere in the SORO community. There has been a visible increase of LAPD patrol throughout the SORO Boundaries since June 23rd. The community is grateful for this proactive response by the LAPD.

Within the SORO Boundaries is the largest and most recognizable Jewish Community in the city of Los Angeles- Pico-Robertson. It is incumbent upon the city of Los Angeles to enact forward thinking projects to enhance safety and security for the Jewish Community as antisemitism is at its highest level of vitriolic hate and violence against the Jews since World War II.

A few things the City Council could do to enhance the safety of the Jewish Community and other vulnerable groups:

- The creation of a Fast-Track Bureau of Engineering permit process to install bollards in front of Houses of Worship, Religious Schools and other identifiable religious sites throughout the City of Los Angeles.
- Create a "Protective bubble" around Houses of Worship, Religious Schools and other identifiable religious sites throughout the City of Los Angeles that make it unlawful to stage protests or engage in any type of civil disobedience, including but not limited to defying direct command from law enforcement to move out of the "bubble" zone.
- Enact a civil code that makes it illegal to engage in a protest while wearing any type of mask for the purpose of concealing one's identity.



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Thank you for your consideration of these proactive measures to make Los Angeles a safe city for all people to practice their faith in peace.

Sincerely,

Michael Lynn  
President  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council



## Motion to Co-Sponsor three summer events with Council Offices # 5 and #10

**Agenda Item:** GB07182024-13  
**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Proposed By:** Outreach Committee  
**Include motion in Consent Agenda?** YES

### Background

The Outreach Committee met with Field Deputies from both CD#5 and CD#10 to discuss the possibilities of co-sponsoring three or four summer events for our Stakeholders. A decision was made to request the General Board consider cosponsoring several events to be held at Reynier Park and at Robertson Recreation Center.

### Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC Co-Sponsor a “Splish Splash” event at Reynier Park on August 4, 2024. CD #10 would arrange for the venue, pay all fees and handle set up and tear down. Soro NC would provide food and/or beverages and flyers at a cost to Soro NC not to exceed \$1000.
- II. That SORO NC Co-Sponsor a Movies in the Park event at Reynier Park on Aug 9, 2024. CD #10 would arrange for the venue, pay all license fees for the movie and handle set up and tear down. The event would start at 7:00 pm . Soro NC would provide food and/or beverages and will provide the projector, sound system, screen and flyers at a cost to Soro NC not to exceed \$1000. The movie would be selected from: Wreck it Ralph, Wonka, Mario Brothers or Monsters, Inc. (if available).
- III. That SORO NC Co-Sponsor a Movies in the Park event at Robertson Rec Center on Aug 25, 2024. CD # 5 would arrange for the venue, pay all license fees for the movie and handle set up and tear down. The event would start at 7:00 pm . Soro NC would provide food and/or beverages and will provide the projector, sound system, screen and flyers at a cost to Soro NC not to exceed \$1000. The movie would be selected from: Wreck it Ralph, Wonka, Mario Brothers or Monsters, Inc. (if available).
- IV. A separate Movies in the Park event may be scheduled for September 29, 2024 at Reynier Park but that decision will be made at a future Outreach Committee meeting.

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- V. This motion is to confirm details of the three events but is NOT asking for funding. A future meeting of the Finance Committee will determine the source of the funding for these three events. They will submit a motion to the General Board requesting funding for these events.

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## Considerations

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Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 5	Against: 0 Recused: 1
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Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$ N/A
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Arguments for:	Arguments against:
Provides outreach events for our stakeholders.	Money could be used for other purposes.

Motion from Executive Committee

7/11/2024

Motion for the SORO NC to submit the following Community Impact Statement (CIS) to oppose the substitute motion to/for July 31, 2024 (Yaroslavsky - Blumenfield - Lee - Park) in Council File 24-0771 [Title: Jewish Federation / Magen Am / Jewish Community Foundation / Community Security Services / Unappropriated Balance Fund / Contracts]

CIS: "The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council opposes the substitute motion that directs the \$2 million in security funding to be open for all religious institutions in Los Angeles. The violence and hate is occurring in the CD 5 area, and the funds should be directed to security there, rather than dispensed citywide."

**Moved: Terrence Gomes          Second: Jon Liberman**

**Vote Yes: Jon Liberman, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Michael Lynn**

**4 yes 0 no 0 abstain**

**Motion Passes.**