



NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTHEAST

Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

COUNCIL FILE [24-0910](#)

POSITION: AGAINST, UNLESS AMENDED

Entrance Obstruction / Buffer Zone / Religious Institution Entrance / Persons Right to Protest

September 18, 2024

Dear Members of the City Council,

The North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council **opposes** [Council File 24-0910](#) **unless amended**. This motion proposes imposing a 100-foot buffer zone around various locations, including religious institutions, limiting protests near these areas. While this measure is intended to protect individuals from harassment, it represents a serious encroachment on our fundamental rights to free speech and assembly.

Key Concerns:

1. **Impact on Free Speech:** The proposed buffer zones will significantly restrict the ability of individuals to express their views and advocate for their causes. These restrictions, particularly around religious institutions, seem to be a strategic attempt to suppress dissent under the guise of protecting those seeking abortion care from anti-choice groups.
2. **Strategic Timing and Intent:** It is impossible to ignore the fact that this motion was introduced immediately following a protest against a real estate event held at the Adas Torah synagogue on June 23, 2024. This event, organized by "My Home in Israel" Real Estate, was a commercial affair related to property sales in Israel and the West Bank, not a religious service. The timing of this motion suggests a cynical attempt to suppress dissenting voices and to evade accountability by using buffer zones as a tool for political maneuvering.
3. **Exploitation of Buffer Zones:** The inclusion of religious institutions in these buffer zones is a transparent attempt to exploit their status to shield politically-charged events from protest. The ability of institutions to host non-religious, controversial events while avoiding protest interference by invoking their religious status is a misuse of the proposed restrictions. This undermines the fairness and effectiveness of these buffer zones, and reveals an underlying agenda to silence specific viewpoints under the guise of protection. The potential misuse of these buffer zones could allow institutions to hold non-religious events while avoiding protest



scrutiny, creating an uneven application of the law, and could lead to selective protection of certain groups or causes, which undermines public discourse.

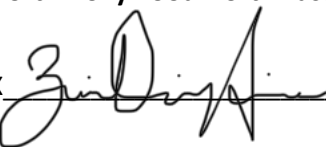
4. **Dangerous Precedent:** Unlike cities cited in the motion such as Sacramento, Chicago, and Pittsburgh, Los Angeles uniquely proposes extending buffer zone protections to religious institutions. This selective application of the law is not only unfair but also dangerous. It risks conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism and could be used to delegitimize and demonize pro-Palestinian protests. This motion follows a troubling pattern by Council Member Yaroslavsky, including the [failed attempt to fund Magen Am, a private militia of former Israeli soldiers, to patrol our city](#).
5. **Chilling Effect on Free Speech:** The vague and overreaching language of this motion could result in broad restrictions on free speech and assembly across large areas of Los Angeles. This creates a chilling effect on public discourse and undermines the democratic principles of open and robust debate.

Given these issues, the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to reconsider and **AMEND** Council File 24-0910. Specifically, **exclude religious institutions** from the buffer zones to ensure that our city remains a place where free speech and assembly are robustly protected while still safeguarding individuals from harassment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council

X  _____

Zaid Diaz-Arias

Board President

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Date of Board Vote: 9/18/2024

Board Vote Count: Aye 10 Nay 0 Abstain 1 Recused

Motion Status: Passed X Failed Other