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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:20 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <[council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** ADL: Please Oppose CB 120142

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Pacific Northwest Office, I would like to register our strong opposition to CB 120142 introduced by Councilmember Sawant prohibiting Seattle's Police Department from participating in training programs and partnerships with law enforcement from a variety of countries. We ask that you oppose this ordinance.

This ordinance has serious implications for public safety. According to the provisions in the ordinance that outline specific countries that violate human rights and countries that have not ratified certain treaties, there are dozens of countries that would be restricted from partnering with Seattle's Police Department, including Britain, France, Italy, China, and even the United States. By preventing the Seattle Police Department from partnering with law enforcement from foreign countries and even our own country, our police department's ability to share intelligence, thwart public safety risks, and do its day-to-day business would be seriously undermined.

As you may know, ADL has brought small groups of U.S. law enforcement to Israel. Concerns about these trips are based on falsehoods. To clarify, after 9/11, U.S. law enforcement sought educational opportunities to learn best practices in responding to terror attacks and build community resilience. Since 2004, ADL has brought small groups of senior U.S. law enforcement to Israel for a week-long seminar. The program has included presentations from Israeli and Palestinian law enforcement, visits to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum, and visits to Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites.

The law enforcement exchange program in Israel is not tactical in nature. Full stop. While we appreciate that the ordinance does not specifically refer to Israel, supporters of the ordinance continue to single out Israel as part of an ongoing campaign to falsely link Israel to oppressions in the United States, a tactic aimed at delegitimizing its right to exist.

For centuries, there has been systematic racism in the U.S. within our law enforcement and criminal justice systems. These problems were not imported. At a time of rising antisemitism across the country, words matter. Recently, a Jewish individual was spit on and called a filthy Jew downtown, a Rabbi was verbally assaulted in Volunteer Park, and a Jewish family walking to synagogue in Seward Park was verbally accosted.

We strongly urge the Council to oppose this ordinance and focus instead on making a difference in the lives of Seattleites, not further divide our City through ill-conceived

measures that do nothing to address systemic racism, further public safety, or address local acts of bigotry and hate.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Sincerely,  
Miri Cypers

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