



Sunnyvale

Board and Commission Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff Liaison:

Board/ Commission: Human Relations Commission

Submitted by: Esther Rosenfeld

Study Issue Working Title:

Addressing the Surge of Jew-Hatred in Sunnyvale: A Call for a Community-Centered Study on Safety and Inclusion

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

Since 10/7/23, anti-Jew harassment has spiked here in Sunnyvale. Hate-filled graffiti, threats, and subtle acts of dehumanization and exclusion have shaken our Jewish residents' sense of security. Children, teens and adults alike have been bullied, harassed, verbally abused and slandered. As the HRC, we should recognize and respond to these troubling developments. I propose a study issue to understand the extent of this anti-Jewish harassment, its impact on individuals and the community, and steps we can take to prevent it. This aligns with our city's commitment to human rights, safety, and inclusion, ensuring that Sunnyvale remains a place where all residents feel secure and valued.

This study will: 1) Document Jewish residents' lived experiences, gaining a clearer picture of the nature and extent of anti-Jewish actions and sentiment. 2) Explore the toll this hatred is taking on Jewish community members' mental health and sense of safety and well-being.

By studying the issue, we can create a comprehensive, data-driven foundation for policies and programs that counter hate, foster understanding, and build bridges. Community workshops, educational initiatives, and targeted support for those affected are just a few measures that could arise from this study, all aimed at creating a stronger, more inclusive Sunnyvale.

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

Given that the City is preparing to launch the Community Equity Assessment in the coming months, the Staff Liaison suggests that this Study Issue be incorporated into this broader assessment, rather than pursued as a standalone initiative.

The Community Equity Assessment will be designed to gather data through various methods including, focus groups and will offer an ideal platform to understand the experiences of our Jewish residents without the need for a separate, stand alone study issue. Through these focus groups, we will be able to engage directly with Jewish community members to explore the nature and extent of the anti-Jewish harassment, including hate-filled graffiti, verbal abuse, bullying, and subtle acts of exclusion. This will allow us to document their lived experiences and gain a comprehensive understanding of how these actions have impacted their sense of safety, mental health, and well-being.

Integrating this issue into the broader Community Equity Assessment ensures it is addressed in a data-driven and holistic manner, alongside other key community concerns. The experiences shared by Jewish residents will be analyzed as part of the overall findings, providing a clearer picture of the challenges they face and ensuring their voices are included in the City's broader equity efforts.

This approach aligns with Sunnyvale's commitment to inclusion, safety, and community well-being. The findings from the Community Equity Assessment will inform the development of policies, programs, and initiatives to address hate and discrimination--such as community workshops, educational campaigns, and support services for those affected by anti-Semitism may emerge from this process. These efforts can promote understanding, strengthen connections among diverse groups, and build community resilience.

Given that the Community Equity Assessment already compasses this issue, pursuing a separate study issue may duplicate efforts and create unnecessary administrative work. Embedding it within the scope of the assessment allows for a more efficient and inclusive response that addresses the specific concerns of Jewish residents while also reflecting the broader community.

For these reasons, advancing with the Community Equity Assessment will be the most effective path forward, making the proposed Study Issue redundant.