



The Office of Councilmember
Marni von Wilpert
Proudly Representing District 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego City Public Safety Committee Chair Marni von Wilpert Statement on Latest Updates In the Islamic Center of San Diego Shooting

SAN DIEGO, CA — San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert today issued the following statement after joining San Diego Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Islamic Center of San Diego leaders at Tuesday's joint press conference, where authorities released new details on Monday's attack at the Islamic Center of San Diego — including the heroism of security guard Amin Abdullah and the recovery of a so-called "manifesto" left by the shooters:

"The hate that attacked the Islamic Center of San Diego was met with profound courage. Heroism has a name in our city — Amin Abdullah, the security guard who gave his life protecting the children inside. San Diego grieves with his family, with the victims' families, and with our entire Muslim community. Hate is not who we are. Amin, and the courage he showed, is who we are. My heart is grieving with our Muslim community."

"We also learned today that the shooters left behind a so-called 'manifesto.' Law enforcement is working swiftly to investigate and share more about this heinous crime. Whatever hate drove this attack, San Diego will name it, confront it, and refuse to let it take root in our community.

"As Chair of San Diego's Public Safety Committee, my office has been in close contact with SDPD since the first moments of this attack. I am grateful for their swift, brave, and overwhelming response.

"No house of worship in America should need an armed guard at the door. No child should have to walk past security and reinforced glass to learn and play. But that is the America we live in where hate is rising, where houses of worship are targeted, and where yesterday a security guard's bravery is the only reason children walked out alive.

“We must protect our people who are being targeted by this hate. Together with my colleague, I’ve asked the Governor to increase funding for the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program which places of worship can access – and funds have been proposed. I stand with the bipartisan coalition of 79 members of Congress demanding the Trump Administration release frozen federal Security Grant Program funds as well.

“Mosques, synagogues, churches, and temples should not have to choose between welcoming worshippers and protecting them. We must stand together against hate — and act together now to give every community the tools to defend against it.”

Councilmember von Wilpert and Councilmember Raul Campillo, Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee, will hold a press briefing tomorrow, Wednesday, May 20 at 1:15 p.m. at the City of San Diego Administration Building to provide an update on Governor Newsom's inclusion of \$40 million for the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program in his revised state budget — and to urge the State Legislature to pass this funding without delay

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