



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 13, 2025

Hon. Michelle Wu
City of Boston
1 City Hall Square
Suite 550
Boston, MA 02201-2043

Re: Civil Rights Division Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism

Dear Mayor Wu:

On January 29, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14188, [Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism](#), to reaffirm and expand on his Executive Order 13899 and to marshal all available federal resources to root out anti-Semitism from our Nation's campuses and classrooms. The Order directed federal agencies use of "all available and appropriate legal tools" to confront an "unprecedented wave of vile anti-Semitic discrimination, vandalism, and violence against our citizens, especially in our schools and on our campuses."

The Department of Justice will vigorously enforce this directive. On February 3, the Department announced the launch of a multi-agency Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, to be led by the Civil Rights Division. The Department is responsible for administering and enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C §§ 2000d - 2000d-7 and the nondiscrimination provision of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (Safe Streets Act), 34 U.S.C. § 10228(c)(1). Title VI prohibits law enforcement agencies and other entities that receive federal financial assistance from conducting their programs or activities in a manner that discriminates on the basis of race, color, or national origin.¹ The Safe Streets Act prohibits

¹ Under Executive Order 12250, the Department is charged with ensuring the consistent and effective implementation of federal civil rights laws "prohibiting discriminatory practices in Federal programs and programs receiving federal financial assistance." Exec. Order No. 12,250, Leadership and Coordination of Nondiscrimination Laws, *reprinted at* 45 Fed. Reg. 72995 (Nov. 4, 1980). The Division also directly enforces Title VI with respect to recipients of federal funds from the Department of Justice. *See* Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000(d), *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 42. Additionally, while Title VI does not cover discrimination based on religion, individuals who face discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin do not lose protection under Title VI for also being a member of a group that shares common religious practices. Discrimination against Jewish individuals may give rise to a Title VI violation when the discrimination is based on an individual's race, color, or national origin (including shared ancestry).

discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion by law enforcement agencies and other entities that receive specified law enforcement assistance funds from the Department.

We are aware of information alleging that schools in Boston have faced unacceptable incidents of anti-Semitic harassment and violence. **Within the next 30 days**, we would like to meet with you to discuss actions, if any, that the city is taking to address alleged discrimination or hate crimes against Jewish individuals in any Boston schools, to include K-12 institutions and post-secondary institutions. We request that you attend this meeting along with your law enforcement leadership, and corporation counsel, Adam Cederbaum. A member of the Civil Rights Division will be in touch shortly to arrange the meeting.

We also intend to meet with Jewish community groups to discuss how your city can combat anti-Semitism consistent with the goals of Executive Order 14188, Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism.² Finally, I encourage you to report any potential hate crimes occurring at your city's schools or campuses, including anti-Semitic hate crimes, to the FBI at tips.fbi.gov or 1-800-CALLFBI.

Thank you for your prompt response and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Leo Terrell

Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

² See Exec. Order 14,188, Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism, *reprinted at* 90 Fed. Reg. 8847 (Feb. 3, 2025).