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**From:** Steve Schewel <steveschewel@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: FYI: Training from Israeli security forces  
**Date:** April 2, 2018 at 7:13:54 AM EDT  
**To:** Bonfield, Thomas <Thomas.Bonfield@durhamnc.gov>  
**Cc:** Wallace, Karmisha <Karmisha.Wallace@durhamnc.gov>

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Tom,  
Thanks for this. Great response from the chief.

I have been taking the temperature of individual council members on this issue during the past week. The only person I have not talked to yet is Vernetta, and I hope to talk to her today. The council members are giving it careful thought.

I think the best way to handle the Demilitarize Durham group is to have them come to the work session and speak in an orderly way at our citizen comment period. I have reached out to them, told them they are late in signing up, told them to call the clerk now and sign up. They want to present a petition, and I think that is the best way to do it.

Let's touch base on this today, in person or over the phone. I'll be around city hall today in the late morning. I have some thoughts about this I'd like to share with you.

Best,  
Steve

On Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 8:55 AM, Bonfield, Thomas  
<[Thomas.Bonfield@durhamnc.gov](mailto:Thomas.Bonfield@durhamnc.gov)> wrote:

Steve:

Please see the email string below and in particular the notation that the Demilitarize Durham group says they are appearing before the City Council at the April 5 work session. We have not been contacted by this group to appear before the council or have been made aware that any member of council intends to add this item to the agenda. Please advise if you know differently. Thank you.

Tom Bonfield

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From: Davis, CJ <[cj.davis@durhamnc.gov](mailto:cj.davis@durhamnc.gov)>  
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 6:57 AM  
Subject: Fwd: FYI: Training from Israeli security forces  
To: Bonfield, Thomas <[thomas.bonfield@durhamnc.gov](mailto:thomas.bonfield@durhamnc.gov)>

Good morning Tom;

I understand the concerns of certain interest groups in Durham related to police/military training in Israel; however, my training experience in Israel had nothing to do with terrorism, military tactics, or the use of, or exposure to military equipment. My specific exchange was based on developing leadership academies, leadership principles, and building community and police relations with the growing Homeless population in the US, compared to Sudanese in Israel. The Atlanta Police Leadership Institute (APLI), which is hosted at Georgia State University was birthed under my leadership and is highly regarded as a curriculum designed to groom bright and highly prepared APD leaders of tomorrow. This highly academic training has no police operations component, and challenges selected participants to become 21st Century police leaders. I will be happy to share that curriculum and course outline if it helps to quell this evolving matter.

In addition, there has been no effort to begin any discussions related to the involvement of DPD officers in an exchange to Israel, nor do I plan to establish such an exchange program in the future. During my short tenure, I have been quite focused on building strained police and community relations here in Durham, and find this issue to be an unnecessary distraction and potential roadblock to that progress. I think you know that I want the very best for the City of Durham, and the Durham Police Department.

Thank you, Tom. I truly appreciate your leadership and support, and look forward to further discussion.

See Email Thread Below for more context:

Enjoy your weekend,

CJ

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Glenn, Wil" <[wil.glenn@durhamnc.gov](mailto:wil.glenn@durhamnc.gov)>

**Date:** March 29, 2018 at 6:04:30 PM EDT

**To:** "Davis, CJ" <[cj.davis@durhamnc.gov](mailto:cj.davis@durhamnc.gov)>

**Cc:** "Marsh, Anthony" <[Anthony.Marsh@durhamnc.gov](mailto:Anthony.Marsh@durhamnc.gov)>, "Rose, Todd" <[Todd.Rose@durhamnc.gov](mailto:Todd.Rose@durhamnc.gov)>

**Subject: FYI: Training from Israeli security forces**

FYI – keeping you in the loop on citizen letters to the city council and media questions in reference to exchange programs and training with Israeli forces.

**Wil Glenn**

*Public Affairs Manager*

Durham Police Department

[505 West Chapel Hill Street](#)

[Durham, NC 27701](#)

**Phone:** [919.560.4322, ext. 29197](#)

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**From:** Ligo, Aaron  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Glenn, Wil  
**Cc:** Kelly, Joseph; Michael, Kammie; Minor, Genavous L.  
**Subject:** RE: Training from Israeli security forces

I see.

I thought it might be something like that.

To my knowledge, there is no “police exchange partnership” between DPD and Israel. There is no on-going training of DPD officers by Israeli security forces.

It appears that the issue is not related specifically to SWAT, Uniform Patrol, or any specific unit in the Police Department. Rather it appears that the issue is related to Chief Executive Officers visiting Israel or arranging visits to Israel to learn about Israeli security practices.

Since 9/11 many US Law Enforcement Agencies have sent people to Israel or brought Israeli advisors in to exchange information about anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism tactics, techniques, and procedures. Particularly in the realm of Person and Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices, Israeli security forces have been dealing with these issues and can provide an insight that is informed by direct experience. That being said, any lessons learned in Israel must be translated into the context of US Law Enforcement. Any tactics, techniques, or procedures

that were adopted by US Law Enforcement would have to be Constitutionally legal, would have to be within state law and agency policy.

The Selective Enforcement Team has received training that was delivered by an American company in which the lead instructor – also an American - had served with an Israeli Counter Terrorist unit. This training was conducted in the US. This training educated the officers on the specific concerns related to responding to terrorist incidents where the suspects would likely be better trained, equipped, and coordinated than typical criminal suspects, and where the suspects may have explosives and intend to die in the execution of their attack. This training provided valuable, life-saving information to officers and better prepared the Durham Police Department to respond to a terrorist incident similar to the incidents in Europe and California. The information acquired in the training in no way relieves the officers from the responsibility of acting within the law and policy. This training did NOT involve racial profiling, promotion of state violence, special shoot-to-kill procedures, or discrimination of any kind. Members of SET attended this training in 2008 and in 2011.

I would be happy to meet in person and discuss this issue with anyone within the Department or City Government, if necessary, to provide my perspective.

Aaron C. Ligo

SGT OCD/SET (SWAT)

Durham (NC) Police Department

C: [919.606.3043](tel:919.606.3043)

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**From:** Glenn, Wil  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 1:11 PM

**To:** Ligo, Aaron  
**Cc:** Kelly, Joseph; Michael, Kammie  
**Subject:** FW: Training from Israeli security forces

See below.

**Wil Glenn**

*Public Affairs Manager*

Durham Police Department

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**From:** Krueger, Sarah [<mailto:SKrueger@wral.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 1:10 PM  
**To:** Glenn, Wil  
**Subject:** RE: Training from Israeli security forces

Sure.

There are many (and all are different) but here are just a couple that have come in in the last hour (one from each viewpoint).

You may be aware of this already, but, it's my understanding that one group has started a petition asking Council to "formally abolish police exchange partnerships between DPD and IDF".

Then, there's a large group in opposition to that petition, and in support of the training.

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Dear Council members:

We are grateful that each of you has taken the time to meet with representatives of the *Demilitarize! Durham2Palestine* campaign, led by a coalition of 10 community organizations seeking to formally abolish police exchange partnerships between the Durham Police Department (DPD) and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and/or the Israeli police. We are also grateful that each of you has signed our petition to end these

police exchanges, or, in the case of the Mayor, supported our position publicly and on record. The time has come for Durham to pass a resolution ending this practice.

We look forward to joining you at the work session on April 5th, where we plan to present the Council with the results of our petition drive to date – over 1,200 signatures, most of them from Durham!! We decided to go the petition route, rather than emails, so you would not have to wade through 1,200 new emails in your inboxes.

As we move forward with a resolution, we ask that you keep in mind the following points that are all critical underpinnings of this issue - including the link between militarism in Israel and US cities, such as Durham. All of these points are reflected in the draft resolution we shared with Mayor Schewel in paper and digital forms. That draft resolution is annotated with links to human rights reports and other documents that support all of these statements.

- **Police exchanges between the U.S. and Israel promote the “worst practices” of militarized policing— at home and overseas.** It is necessary to end the deadly exchanges between U.S. law enforcement and Israeli security forces, as part of a larger vision of challenging state violence and discrimination in both countries. During trips to Israel, U.S. law enforcement agents— including police, Border Patrol, and ICE— receive training and instruction from Israeli military, police, intelligence agencies, and private defense companies. Officials visit checkpoints and prisons while learning practices of surveillance and racial profiling. These programs facilitate an exchange of worst practices.
- **The IDF and Israeli police use military tactics to enforce the occupation of Palestinian land and to control the Palestinian population.** They are guilty of countless acts of excessive force against Palestinians, especially children, according to multiple human rights organizations and testimony from former Israeli



soldiers. Israel has begun deporting African migrants and asylum-seekers, paralleling U.S. detention and deportation practices. The IDF and Israeli police have a de facto shoot-to-kill policy when dealing with Palestinians suspected of terrorism. Their “counter-terrorism” strategies employ racial profiling, arbitrary detention, and disproportionately violent responses to public protests. The Durham Police Department should not learn from their example.

- **Under the Trump administration, the language of security and counterterrorism is being used to enable racist scapegoating and justify violent and discriminatory practices against targeted communities.** This isn't new in the U.S. or in Israel, but now more than ever we need to challenge the idea that our security comes from militaries, police, prisons, and border walls, and work towards a safer world for all people based on community, equality, and justice.
- **Policing in the U.S. has a long history of violence against Black and Brown communities. The DPD is no exception.** From traffic stops that target Black drivers, to SWAT teams entering Black people's homes illegally, to checkpoints that target immigrant communities, to police murders of Black, Brown, and disabled people, the everyday militarization of police in Durham and across the country already endangers our communities. Training police in Israel exacerbates this ongoing harm.
- **Two Durham police chiefs have already participated in exchange programs. We must act NOW to keep this from happening again.** Before he left his position as Durham Police Chief, Jose Lopez joined an Anti-Defamation League Leadership Training Program with the IDF in 2008. Durham's current police chief Cerelyn Davis ran the Atlanta Police Leadership Institute International Exchange Program, which coordinated exchanges with Israel, in her previous role as an Atlanta Police Division Commander. City Council should pass a resolution NOW to ensure that our police officials do not engage in these exchanges.

- **Durham should *divest* from police militarization and *invest* in Black and Brown futures.** Rather than support further police militarization, Durham can promote public safety by investing resources in affordable housing, health care, education, and a livable wage for all workers.
  
- **Durham has a legacy of standing up for international justice.** In 1986, Durham issued a boycott resolution opposing apartheid in South Africa. In 2010, Durham passed a travel ban against Arizona to protest its racist “show me your papers” law. Over the years, Durham has enacted resolutions on many civil and human rights issues, such as support for the Equal Rights Amendment and same-sex marriage, and opposition to the death penalty. Durham will build on this legacy and advance the City Council’s vision for the city as a progressive beacon for the South and the rest of the country.

Please let us know if you would like any additional information or have any questions.

Thanks!

Tom Stern and Noah Rubin-Blose, on behalf of the Demilitarize!  
Durham2Palestine campaign

**Thomas M. Stern**

Life Coach. Trainer. Certified Mediator.

[tomsternlifecoach.com](http://tomsternlifecoach.com) and [tomsternmediator.com](http://tomsternmediator.com)

[919 949-8212](tel:9199498212)

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Dear Durham Council members and Mayor Schewel,

I am truly shaken up by the notion that a racist petition is about to be heard by the city under the disguise of a peaceful group of “Jews”.

My name is Jonathan Dayan, I am a American-Israeli that fell in love with our great city and with my family had decided to make Durham our permanent home.

I manage a Fund that has invested and plans to invest over \$25M in Durham Real Estate including affordable housing projects. Out of my love to this city and its amazing history I also serve on its historic preservation commission. To be clear \$15M of our investments rely on money from investors from the state of Israel.

The council has been aware of such petition that is asking to boycott the state of Israel and specifically its police from sharing its expertise with ours. This is absurd!

As I am a descended of European and African ancestry the population of Israel is the same, to accept that they are targeting to terrorize “black and brown” populations is ridiculous!

It is even more ridiculous to insinuate that our Durham Police Department would adopt such racist advise, which is exactly what this Duham2Palestine group is saying.

I urge you, our council members and Mayor to be proud of our great and diverse city and NOT have it involved in hatred to certain states people or populations! And certainly trust the loyalty of our Police department to our city’s values.

I am confident you would make the right decision of unification and

acceptance.

With great gratitude,

Enjoy the Holiday weekend

Jonathan Dayan

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**Jonathan Dayan, PhD**

**Managing Partner**

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**From:** Glenn, Wil <[wil.glenn@durhamnc.gov](mailto:wil.glenn@durhamnc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 12:54 PM  
**To:** Krueger, Sarah <[SKrueger@wral.com](mailto:SKrueger@wral.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Training from Israeli security forces

Sarah, could you forward me the emails you are referring to?

**Wil Glenn**

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**From:** Krueger, Sarah [<mailto:SKrueger@wral.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 9:23 AM

**To:** Michael, Kammie; Glenn, Wil

**Subject:** Training from Israeli security forces

Good morning Kammie and Wil,

I've been noticing a lot of emails to City Council recently regarding Durham police getting trained by Israeli security forces.

I am not too familiar with this topic, and was wondering if you could explain the type of training that DPD receives from them?

How long DPD officers have been receiving it?

Is this something ALL DPD officers get?

And how is that achieved? By Israeli officers coming to Durham?

Thanks so much!

Sarah Krueger

WRAL-TV Reporter

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