

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Submitted 3-14-2019

The saga surrounding a Durham City Council statement continues with the March 12 front-page story "Durham policing statement: third group files complaint." The complaint claims the plaintiffs and city's Jewish community "have been discriminated against based upon religion and nationality" because of the statement. The council statement says: "The council opposes international exchanges with any country in which Durham officers receive military-style training since such exchanges do not support the kind of policing we want here in the City of Durham." Opposing doing business with a country that does not offer the kind of services you want is not discriminating against the service provider. The plaintiffs may not like that Israel falls into the category of a provider of military-style training, but their claim that the council's opposition is based on "religion and nationality" is unfounded. The mayor and the council are conducting city governance, as they were elected to do, seeking what is, in their understanding, in the best interest of Durham. And I believe they are conducting it very well, despite, in this case, of being subjected month after month to multi-pronged false accusations.

Sam Bryan, Chapel Hill