


Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:34 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Lynn Ballen
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:33:21 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.
It is urgent that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution.

From: [Judy Balian](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 3:04:47 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

I am writing you today to urge you not to adopt any biased "ceasefire" resolution that would fuel divisions and hate in our community, while harming efforts to end the horrific October 7th War.

I want an end to the fighting and suffering in Gaza and Israel, as I'm sure you do. However, biased "ceasefire" city council resolutions have been shown to have no impact on this complex conflict. In fact, what the Jewish community has witnessed is that resolutions like this actually fuel more hate towards Jews and anyone else who does not believe cities should weigh in on international issues. There are many examples of such hate, including in the Oakland and Long Beach city councils.

I feel it is important to remind you of the following:

1. A ceasefire existed on October 6 but was broken by Hamas on October 7 when they brutally attacked Israel, killing 1,200 innocent civilians and kidnapping 253 people – ranging in age from 9 months to 85 years old.
2. Israel has accepted terms laid out by international negotiators for an extended ceasefire and drastic increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza. It is Hamas that has thus far rejected such a ceasefire.
3. There would be a permanent ceasefire tomorrow if Hamas would release all hostages, lay down its arms, and allow Israelis and Palestinians to rebuild in peace and security.

The type of "ceasefire" you are being pressured to support would not bring a just or lasting peace. What it would do is help Hamas, a genocidal terrorist group, maintain its grip on power in Gaza and continue its endless war against Israel. While I do not believe municipal governments should address international affairs at all, if you choose to adopt a resolution on this issue it must include a clear call for Hamas to release all hostages and surrender now.

I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

Sincerely,
Judy Balian

From: [Francisco Barcena](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 12:55:24 PM

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Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,

From: [kathryn barash](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:11:53 PM

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Sincerely,
kathryn barash

From: [Isabel Barbera](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:25:00 PM

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Thank you,
Isabel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gil Barel](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:25:34 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

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I want an end to the fighting and suffering in Gaza and Israel, as I'm sure you do. However, biased "ceasefire" city council resolutions have been shown to have no impact on this complex conflict. In fact, what the Jewish community has witnessed is that resolutions like this actually fuel more hate towards Jews and anyone else who does not believe cities should weigh in on international issues. There are many examples of such hate, including in the Oakland and Long Beach city councils.

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Sincerely,
Gil Barel

From: [Eden Batki](#)
To: [Williams, Felicia](#)
Cc: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Please call for an immediate ceasefire
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 11:40:58 AM

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{contact_data~salutation,}

I write to you as a constituent and as a member of Amnesty International USA with deep concern over the escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel. The U.S. government – including at the local level – is uniquely positioned to have tremendous impact in this conflict to ensure the protection of civilians and prevent further suffering.

Since October 7, we have witnessed horror unfolding on an unimaginable scale in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. More than 2 million Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip are struggling to survive amid the Israeli military's ongoing offensive, and the level of civilian casualties has been unprecedented.

I am encouraging you to publicly call for an immediate ceasefire and appeal to the Israeli government to allow life-saving fuel, water, and food into Gaza.

The majority of Americans support a ceasefire, but President Biden has yet to call for one. In response, towns and cities across the country are rising up to pass their own resolutions. I ask that you, in your capacity, do what you can to help to pass one here.

The need for an immediate ceasefire by all parties is more urgent than ever to protect civilians, prevent a mounting civilian death toll in Gaza, prevent further displacement of Palestinians, and provide an opportunity to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eden Batki


cc: Victor Gordo

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Ruba Batniji
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:01:53 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting "Yes" on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gregory Baugher](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 3:22:31 PM

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Thank you,

Katie Baugher

From: Shar B
To: [Gordo, Victor](#); [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); jrivas@cityofpasadena.net; [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#)
Cc: mmarquez@cityofpasadena.net
Subject: Vote No on Ceasefire Resolution and Addressing Anti-Semitism
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 1:41:35 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the ceasefire resolution, as well as any future resolutions to demonize, delegitimize, or discriminate against Israel or the Jewish people's right to exist. I urge you to consider the alarming rise in anti-Semitism when making your decision.

It is important to recognize the complexities of the situation at hand. The Israeli/Palestinian conflict is a highly divisive issue that has been ongoing for many many years. A ceasefire existed on Oct 6. Hamas and the civilian participants of the October 7th massacre broke it. All ceasefire negotiations since November have been rejected by Hamas because a ceasefire would end the war and they don't want the end. They want the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people globally and perpetuating this war gets them to that goal. By voting for a ceasefire resolution, the community will be divided at a time when the council should be doing all it can to unite the community.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has not ruled that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and advised Israel to continue with it's actions to do all it can to spare innocent lives. ICJ is the recognized global judge of human rights violations.

Furthermore, I urge you to take into account the disturbing surge in anti-Semetic incidents occurring locally and globally. There has been a +400% increase in anti-Semitism in the US since October 7! Many Jews are afraid to speak out, wear identifying jewelry or clothing. I've heard some Jewish leaders suggest to Jews to "be smart" about where we go, what we say, and perhaps tuck away our identifying clothing or jewelry. Can you imagine how this feels in 2024, in the United States of America, to have to even consider this? Sit with that thought for a minute. No-one should have to hide who they are for fear of assault or threats.

Over the last six months I have been in multiple situations where I've had to walk the other way for fear of being accosted by a group of Pro-Palestinian protesters shouting anti-Semetic slurs and death to Jews as if we have responsibility for the war. My friend works on a university campus and cannot walk across campus anymore due to the threats being shouted in the name of freedom of speech. She hears "death to the Jews", anti-Semetic slurs, and blocking of walkways by these aggressive protesters daily.

My 84 year old aunt who walks with a cane spoke against a ceasefire resolution at a city council meeting recently. Her comments were timed at 38 seconds. On her way back to her seat a Pro-Palestinian speaker said to her "You are a Nazi Jew and genocidal killer of Palestinian babies" then uttered a threat that she better watch out.

After returning to her seat a policeman escorted her out of the auditorium to take down her information because it was reported that she assaulted them by hitting them over the head with her cane. This took place within a 5 minute window. Someone didn't like what she said, fabricated a story, and threatened her. Her name was taken down along with her address, birthdate, driver's license . She isn't sure if a police report was generated or if someone who reported this supposed assault has her contact information. She is fearful and had to have a policeman escort her group to the car. Several other speakers against a ceasefire were also verbally assaulted and threatened at this meeting. As the meeting was recorded there is video evidence that no assault took place and shows she was spoken to by members of the Pro-Palestinian contingent as she hobbled back to her seat.

These acts of hate and discrimination cannot be overlooked. By voting for a ceasefire without addressing the underlying issues of anti-Semitism, you risk sending a message that such bigotry is acceptable and tolerated in your community. It is imperative that we stand against all forms of hatred and discrimination, including anti-semitism, and work towards fostering a culture of understanding, acceptance, and mutual respect. One may not agree with the war and the loss of life on both sides. I find it excruciating that there are babies, women, and young adults being kept as hostages in Gaza tunnels, beaten and raped. I also hold empathy and sadness for the loss of innocent Palestinian lives in Gaza due to the war.

I urge you to consider these points carefully and to vote against the proposed ceasefire resolution. Instead, let us work together to find sustainable solutions that promote peace, justice and equality for all.

Sincerely,

Sharna

From: writeme1234
To: action@endjewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:50:51 PM

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Dear Council Members,

We are reaching out in opposition to a ceasefire resolution that will be proposed at your meeting.

While this appears to be a resolution in favor of peace, in fact it is a propaganda move to incite anti-Democracy, anti-Israel, and anti-Jewish sentiments. We urge you to refuse to even consider the resolution.

These politically motivated resolutions are circulating in “toolkits” sent out by the Committee on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and other terrorist network support groups in the U.S. [1]. The toolkits overtly state that they do not care about the wording; they just want to be able to claim that the city/county has denounced Israel. They have unfailingly proved divisive to the community and have had the effect of pitting sides against each other in antipathy rather than bonding them together in a mutual desire for peace.

There is no possibility of a ceasefire while Hamas is still in power. As Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) said, “Israel must destroy every element of Hamas,” who’s sole and sinister purpose is to eradicate Israel and the Jewish people [2]. For your reference, we have provided excerpts from the Hamas charter below [3].

Hamas has rejected proposals for months-long pauses in fighting simply in exchange for releasing the hostages. They have vowed to draw Israel into an eternal war, manipulating public opinion and thwarting the process of normalization underway between Israel and several Arab countries. Please note that there was in fact a ceasefire in place on October 7, when Hamas slaughtered Israelis, Americans, and Foreign Nationals in the most barbaric ways seen in centuries. Hamas vows to repeat this over and over even after a new ceasefire agreement is reached.

Furthermore, we urge you not to approve any resolution whose language parrots a false narrative claiming that Jewish people in Israel are colonizers engaged in a 75-year occupation. In fact there has been a Jewish presence in Israel for the past 3,000 years. They are neither colonizers, nor “occupiers” in Gaza - Gaza has been independent since 2005 when Israel removed all its residents and military from Gaza. In 2006, Gazans voted Hamas into power and they have been under Hamas rule since. Nonetheless, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish voices claim that Israel is occupying Gaza and that “resistance is justified”, spreading dangerous misinformation about a democratic country that is used as a justification for terrorism.

As a city council, you represent your local residents in municipal decisions. If the city council were to engage in international affairs, you would likely need to vote on various matters, such as the ongoing Syrian war, the Yemen Civil War, the Rohingya Crisis, the South Sudanese

Civil War, and numerous other global issues.

Sadly, ceasefire resolutions have been considered in many city councils in the past few months, and each time rather than enhance peace, they have brought with them vitriol, which has contributed to the 400% increase in anti-Semitism in this country [4]. We have most recently witnessed alarming Neo-Nazi marches in Nashville, the apprehension of an individual plotting to harm the Jewish community in Indiana, physical harm inflicted on Jews on college campuses, the murder of a Jewish man in San Diego and the unsettling cancellation of all college classes in Queens due to a credible terrorist threat.

Normalizing hate against Jews fuels white supremacy, which is seeing an unprecedented growth. The normalization of hate against Jews inadvertently is going to impact ALL minorities. We don't need any more hate in this country. We cannot regress as a country.

Jewish people do not advocate for unnecessary conflicts; it's not in our nature. Our priority is the safe return of our innocent civilians who are being held hostage, possibly under very violent conditions. Additionally, we must protect ourselves from a hostile terrorist organization that harbors destructive intentions towards Jews. Let's be clear, Hamas is waging a war against the Jewish people and democracy itself. Senior Hamas official Mahmoud Al-Zahar stated on December 12, 2022, "The entire 510 million square kilometers of Planet Earth will come under [a system] where there is no injustice, no oppression, no treachery, no Zionism, no treacherous Christianity." (source: <http://tinyurl.com/5n8298r4>)

Furthermore, with all the international conflicts that have not merited your attention, deciding to suddenly weigh in on Israel's foreign policy would send a dual message: a) that a democracy has no right to defend itself against barbaric terrorism, and b) that you hold Israel to a different standard than other countries.

The European Parliament has passed a stipulation that any call for a ceasefire should be conditional on the complete dismantling of Hamas and the immediate and unconditional release of hostages. We hope you would agree.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Luba B

82% of Americans support Israel's fight against Hamas" (Harvard Harris Poll). [5]

References:

[1] CAIR toolkit: https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-releases-community-toolkit-on-promoting-gaza-ceasefire-resolutions-by-state-local-governments/

[2] <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/4336113-rubio-activists-Israel-hamas-cease-fire>

[3] https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

[4] <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-antisemitic-incidents-up-about-400-since-israel-hamas-war-began-report-says-2023-10-25/>

[5] <https://harvardharrispoll.com>

Excerpts from Hamas Charter:

1. 'Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.' (Preamble)
2. 'The day the enemies usurp part of Muslim land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised.' (Article 15)
3. 'Ranks will close, fighters joining other fighters, and masses everywhere in the Islamic world will come forward in response to the call of duty, loudly proclaiming: 'Hail to Jihad!'. This cry will reach the heavens and will go on being resounded until liberation is achieved, the invaders vanquished and Allah's victory comes about.' (Article 33)
4. There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are a waste of time and futile.' (Article 13)
5. 'The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.' (Article 7) [3].

From: Ronen Bay
To: Gordo, Victor
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:49:46 PM

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The type of "ceasefire" you are being pressured to support would not bring a just or lasting peace. What it would do is help Hamas, a genocidal terrorist group, maintain its grip on power in Gaza and continue its endless war against Israel. While I do not believe municipal governments should address international affairs at all, if you choose to adopt a resolution on this issue it must include a clear call for Hamas to release all hostages and surrender now.

I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

Sincerely,
Ronen Bay

From: [Juliano Bdair](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyrone](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 1:39:08 PM

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Thank you,


Thanks
Shaq Bdair

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Ana Bdaiwi ·
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:58:21 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Beatrice](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:10:01 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

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Thank you,

From: [Catherine Beauchamp](#)
To: [Lyon, Jason](#)
Cc: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Please call for an immediate ceasefire!
Date: Friday, March 01, 2024 3:16:05 PM

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{contact_data~salutation,}

I write to you as a constituent and as a member of Amnesty International USA with deep concern over the escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel. The U.S. government – including at the local level – is uniquely positioned to have tremendous impact in this conflict to ensure the protection of civilians and prevent further suffering.

Since October 7, we have witnessed horror unfolding on an unimaginable scale in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. More than 2 million Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip are struggling to survive amid the Israeli military's ongoing offensive, and the level of civilian casualties has been unprecedented.

I am encouraging you to publicly call for an immediate ceasefire and appeal to the Israeli government to allow life-saving fuel, water, and food into Gaza.

The majority of Americans support a ceasefire, but President Biden has yet to call for one. In response, towns and cities across the country are rising up to pass their own resolutions. I ask that you, in your capacity, do what you can to help to pass one here.

The need for an immediate ceasefire by all parties is more urgent than ever to protect civilians, prevent a mounting civilian death toll in Gaza, prevent further displacement of Palestinians, and provide an opportunity to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Beauchamp

cc: Victor Gordo

From: karen Beavers
To: [City Council](#); [Gordo, Victor](#); [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [Jones, Justin](#)
Subject: Gaza Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:22:15 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I live in Pasadena.

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.4 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

The WHO, Save the Children, Amnesty, HRW, Pope Francis, Doctors without Borders have all called for a ceasefire.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 55 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudhy, Oakland, and Pomona in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.


Thank you,

Karen Beavers

Sabha, Tamer

From: diane becerra ·
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:09 AM
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: cityclerk; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Vote YES to Pass a Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear Mayor, Councilmembers and Council staff:

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on the ceasefire resolution when it comes up on the 18th. Pasadena should join the dozens of American cities that have passed ceasefire resolutions. Gaza is running out of time, and needs us to act now.

Pasadena city council has a proud history of standing for justice, even though the council does not exert direct control over national policy. They have spoken out on issues of grave importance in the past - massacres in Artsakh, reproductive freedom, protecting immigrants - this issue deserves the same consideration.

Approximately 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, with tens of thousands more under the rubble. Two-thirds of the dead are women and children. Famine and disease are spreading, and deaths will escalate sharply without an immediate ceasefire and an inflow of aid.

The United Nations has repeatedly voted to pass a ceasefire resolution because the world sees that what is happening in Palestine is not self-defense, but ethnic cleansing and genocide. The refusal by the US to allow the world to speak with one voice is one of the reasons we are here.

Ceasefire is the way to ensure the safe return of all hostages. This is why families of Israeli hostages have been pleading with their government to agree to a ceasefire.

To say that Oct 7 was the end of a ceasefire is simply untrue. Prior to October 7th, 2023 was the deadliest year on record for Palestinians killed by Israel, with 507 Palestinians killed in the West Bank alone. Violence by Israeli forces and also by Israeli settlers (which has been encouraged by the Israeli government) had been escalating and unrelenting leading up to October 7th.

Israel's right to defend itself does not allow it to commit war crimes. Self-defense is not a blank check for genocide. Mass starvation is not self-defense. Mass displacement is not self-defense. Destroying 85 percent of Gaza's homes, as well as schools, hospitals, museums and houses of worship is not self-defense.

Israel has again attacked Palestinian civilians waiting in line to get aid. This time, Israeli forces have killed 80 and injured up to 200 people.


Palestinians do not have time; please act with courage and swiftness to pass this resolution.

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: cory becker ·
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 1:46:55 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

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Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,


Sent from my iPhone

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:48 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: susan Becker
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:47:41 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

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Thank you,


Sent from my iPhone

Sabha, Tamer

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:31 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Benjamin ·
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:30:56 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

Sabha, Tamer

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:26 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acqualette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Yalla Beena
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:25:21 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: Hampton, Tyron <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>; Williams, Felicia <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>; Jones, Justin <justinjones@cityofpasadena.net>; Masuda, Gene <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; Lyon, Jason <jlyon@cityofpasadena.net>; cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

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Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Isaac Begin <isaac.begin@pasadenacity.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:43 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquiz,

I am writing you today to urge you not to adopt any biased "ceasefire" resolution that would fuel divisions and hate in our community, while harming efforts to end the horrific October 7th War.

I want an end to the fighting and suffering in Gaza and Israel, as I'm sure you do. However, biased "ceasefire" city council resolutions have been shown to have no impact on this complex conflict. In fact, what the Jewish community has witnessed is that resolutions like this actually fuel more hate towards Jews and anyone else who does not believe cities should weigh in on international issues. There are many examples of such hate, including in the Oakland and Long Beach city councils.

I feel it is important to remind you of the following:

1. A ceasefire existed on October 6 but was broken by Hamas on October 7 when they brutally attacked Israel, killing 1,200 innocent civilians and kidnapping 253 people – ranging in age from 9 months to 85 years old.
2. Israel has accepted terms laid out by international negotiators for an extended ceasefire and drastic increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza. It is Hamas that has thus far rejected such a ceasefire.
3. There would be a permanent ceasefire tomorrow if Hamas would release all hostages, lay down its arms, and allow Israelis and Palestinians to rebuild in peace and security.

The type of "ceasefire" you are being pressured to support would not bring a just or lasting peace. What it would do is help Hamas, a genocidal terrorist group, maintain its grip on power in Gaza and continue its endless war against Israel. While I do not believe municipal governments should address international affairs at all, if you choose to adopt a resolution on this issue it must include a clear call for Hamas to release all hostages and surrender now.

I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

From: [Hannah Belk](#)
To: [Madison, Steve](#); [City Council](#); [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:06:42 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I work and live in Pasadena. As a resident of Pasadena, I have been incredibly disappointed and disheartened by our city's response to the genocide taking place in Gaza. I have been a part of the group that holds vigil outside Judy Chu's office every Monday since October because I refuse to carry on with "business as usual" when our tax dollars are supporting the killing of thousands of innocent civilians. The US federal Court Ruling here in California has stated that **"it is every individual's obligation to confront the current siege in Gaza."** As our elected officials, it is your obligation to represent what we the people want and are advocating for. The people of Pasadena overwhelmingly demand a ceasefire.

38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces and more are being killed every day. Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May. If the City of Pasadena, really is "the center of the universe" (Gordo), then use your voice, your power, your influence for justice and peace and not silence and complicity. Pasadena's vote for a ceasefire could have an immense impact on other cities and additional government bodies.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 55 US cities, including San Francisco, Long Beach, Ojai, Oakland, and Pomona in calling for an **immediate and permanent ceasefire.**

Thank you,
Hannah Belk
01107

From: [Barbara Bell@hotmail](mailto:Barbara_Bell@hotmail.com)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:07:58 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council,

You surely know about the dire situation in Gaza, where more than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, many of them women and children. Even greater numbers have been injured, some undergoing amputations on a hospital floor, with no medication available.

Most in Gaza lack food and water, as babies and young children die of starvation. And even in the small area the Israeli government declared a "safe zone," shelling and bombings continue to kill whole families.

This situation cannot continue! A ceasefire is necessary!

It is critical that we add our voices to call for a ceasefire. Pasadena needs join with more than 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona, and cities worldwide, in voting for a ceasefire. I urge you to vote "Yes" on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Jess Rivas on Monday, March 18, 2024.

Thank you,

Barbara Bell

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 10:59 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote yes on ceasefire

From: Courtney LaBarge Bell
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 10:58:14 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Hampton, Tyron <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote yes on ceasefire

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Dear Mr Hampton,
I am a resident in your district on El Sereno Ave.

Please vote "Yes" to the ceasefire resolution on Monday, March 18.

I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, "the last safe zone" in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

It is devastating to see the images and reality of carnage that has taken place. So many lives taken with women and children suffering the most

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by voting "Yes" on Monday.

Thank you,

Courtney LaBarge Bell
Pasadena, CA 91103
Courtney LaBarge Bell
312.404.4087 | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Maggie Bell
To: [City Council](#); [Gordo, Victor](#); [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [Jones, Justin](#)
Subject: Pasadena Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:10:55 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

I have lived and worked in Pasadena for four years, and thank you for your service to our city. I write in solidarity with numerous voices calling for Pasadena to pass a ceasefire resolution, joining dozens of other cities in the United States in urging our federal government to stop supporting an unfolding genocide by cutting military aid to Israel, and instead increasing efforts to distribute desperately needed aid in Gaza.

Since the horrific October 7 attack, Israel's war on Hamas has created unfathomable hardship and the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom are children. As a new mother, it is unbearable to imagine the devastation of pulling one's child from rubble, or watching them starve or suffer from lack of necessary medical care. The aid solutions presented by the United States so far are not enough, with airdrops offering a fraction of what is needed to prevent mass starvation, and an offshore pier that will take weeks to construct. It is easy to feel powerless watching these atrocities unfold, but I believe strongly in the role of local government, of Pasadena's government, to assert the will of its constituents by applying pressure outward. There is precedent for this, and I thank Mayor Gordo for condemning the violence in Artsakh on behalf of our city in 2022. We can no longer ignore international calls for this country to do better, and we must all do our part to be on the right side of history. We cannot turn away from genocide.

This issue will be at the forefront of my mind in future elections, and I hope to see courage of conviction from candidates at all levels of government.


With thanks,
Maggie Bell

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Jennifer Bellenger
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:39:10 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I am deeply alarmed by the genocide and humanitarian crisis occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people, primarily women and children, have been killed by Israeli forces. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment and ground invasion of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

To make matters even worse, the majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked, with the UN warning of impending famine.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Council member Rivas, this Monday.

Sincerely,
Jen Bellenger

From: [L Ben](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:46:00 AM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

I am writing you today to urge you not to adopt any biased "ceasefire" resolution that would fuel divisions and hate in our community, while harming efforts to end the horrific October 7th War.

I want an end to the fighting and suffering in Gaza and Israel, as I'm sure you do. However, biased "ceasefire" city council resolutions have been shown to have no impact on this complex conflict. In fact, what the Jewish community has witnessed is that resolutions like this actually fuel more hate towards Jews and anyone else who does not believe cities should weigh in on international issues. There are many examples of such hate, including in the Oakland and Long Beach city councils.

I feel it is important to remind you of the following:

1. A ceasefire existed on October 6 but was broken by Hamas on October 7 when they brutally attacked Israel, killing 1,200 innocent civilians and kidnapping 253 people – ranging in age from 9 months to 85 years old.
2. Israel has accepted terms laid out by international negotiators for an extended ceasefire and drastic increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza. It is Hamas that has thus far rejected such a ceasefire.
3. There would be a permanent ceasefire tomorrow if Hamas would release all hostages, lay down its arms, and allow Israelis and Palestinians to rebuild in peace and security.

The type of "ceasefire" you are being pressured to support would not bring a just or lasting peace. What it would do is help Hamas, a genocidal terrorist group, maintain its grip on power in Gaza and continue its endless war against Israel. While I do not believe municipal governments should address international affairs at all, if you choose to adopt a resolution on this issue it must include a clear call for Hamas to release all hostages and surrender now.

I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

Sincerely,
L Ben

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Natalya Ben
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:14 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquiz,

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I want an end to the fighting and suffering in Gaza and Israel, as I'm sure you do. However, biased "ceasefire" city council resolutions have been shown to have no impact on this complex conflict. In fact, what the Jewish community has witnessed is that resolutions like this actually fuel more hate towards Jews and anyone else who does not believe cities should weigh in on international issues. There are many examples of such hate, including in the Oakland and Long Beach city councils.

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I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

From: [Beeta Benjy](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:20:42 PM

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Sincerely,
Beeta Benjy

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Rakefet Benderly
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 11:57 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear Pasadena City of Council Members,

I am writing you today to urge you not to adopt any biased "ceasefire" resolution that would fuel divisions and hate in our community, while harming efforts to end the horrific October 7th War.

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Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:23 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: CYNDI BENDEZU ◊
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:22:19 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Jones, Justin; cityclerk
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

As a Pasadena resident of District 3, I strongly urge you to vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution. I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 people have been killed by Israeli forces. Of those people over 13,000 have been children. Most recently, Israel has escalated bombardment of Rafah, “the last safe zone” in Gaza where more than 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are seeking refuge.

Additionally, a majority of people in Gaza are facing starvation due to humanitarian aid being blocked with the UN warning of famine as soon as May.

It is critical that we respond firmly and strongly with a ceasefire resolution. Please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Bell Gardens, Oakland, and Pomona in voting for a ceasefire by voting “Yes” on the resolution introduced by Councilmember Rivas, this Monday.

Thank you,
Cyndi Bendezú Palomino

From: Marilyn Bender
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: cityclerk
Subject: Vote "YES" to Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:22:14 AM

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Dear Mayor, Councilmembers and Council staff:

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on the ceasefire resolution when it comes up on the 18th. Pasadena should join the dozens of American cities that have passed ceasefire resolutions. Gaza is running out of time, and needs us to act now.

Pasadena city council has a proud history of standing for justice, even though the council does not exert direct control over national policy. They have spoken out on issues of grave importance in the past - massacres in Artsakh, reproductive freedom, protecting immigrants - this issue deserves the same consideration.

Approximately 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, with tens of thousands more under the rubble. Two-thirds of the dead are women and children. Famine and disease are spreading, and deaths will escalate sharply without an immediate ceasefire and an inflow of aid.

The United Nations has repeatedly voted to pass a ceasefire resolution because the world sees that what is happening in Palestine is not self-defense, but ethnic cleansing and genocide. The refusal by the US to allow the world to speak with one voice is one of the reasons we are here.

Ceasefire is the way to ensure the safe return of all hostages. This is why families of Israeli hostages have been pleading with their government to agree to a ceasefire.

To say that Oct 7 was the end of a ceasefire is simply untrue. Prior to October 7th, 2023 was the deadliest year on record for Palestinians killed by Israel, with 507 Palestinians killed in the West Bank alone. Violence by Israeli forces and also by Israeli settlers (which has been encouraged by the Israeli government) had been escalating and unrelenting leading up to October 7th.

Israel's right to defend itself does not allow it to commit war crimes. Self-defense is not a blank check for genocide. Mass starvation is not self-defense. Mass displacement is not self-defense. Destroying 85 percent of Gaza's homes, as well as schools, hospitals, museums and houses of worship is not self-defense.

Israel has again attacked Palestinian civilians waiting in line to get aid. This time, Israeli forces have killed 80 and injured up to 200 people.

Palestinians do not have time; please act with courage and swiftness to pass this resolution.

Thank you.

Marilyn Bender
Sent from my iPhone

Sabha, Tamer

From: Jackie Benefraim <jackie.benefraim@yourconstituent.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 6:47 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquez,

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I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

I urge you not to adopt a resolution and use your energy to bring people together, rather than further dividing us.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Edna ben zvy <edna@edna.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 12:28 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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From: [Michal Ben-Nun](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:42:48 PM

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Sincerely,
Michal Ben-Nun

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Nadin Benrey <Nadin.Benrey@pasadenacity.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 6:42 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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From: Sharon Benzvi
To: Gordo, Victor
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:06:48 PM

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Sincerely,
Sharon Benzvi

From: Andre Berger
To: action@endjewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:59:37 PM

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Dear Council Members,

We are reaching out in opposition to a ceasefire resolution that will be proposed at your meeting.

While this appears to be a resolution in favor of peace, in fact it is a propaganda move to incite anti-Democracy, anti-Israel, and anti-Jewish sentiments. We urge you to refuse to even consider the resolution.

These politically motivated resolutions are circulating in “toolkits” sent out by the Committee on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and other terrorist network support groups in the U.S. [1]. The toolkits overtly state that they do not care about the wording; they just want to be able to claim that the city/county has denounced Israel. They have unfailingly proved divisive to the community and have had the effect of pitting sides against each other in antipathy rather than bonding them together in a mutual desire for peace.

There is no possibility of a ceasefire while Hamas is still in power. As Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) said, “Israel must destroy every element of Hamas,” who’s sole and sinister purpose is to eradicate Israel and the Jewish people [2]. For your reference, we have provided excerpts from the Hamas charter below [3].

Hamas has rejected proposals for months-long pauses in fighting simply in exchange for releasing the hostages. They have vowed to draw Israel into an eternal war, manipulating public opinion and thwarting the process of normalization underway between Israel and several Arab countries. Please note that there was in fact a ceasefire in place on October 7, when Hamas slaughtered Israelis, Americans, and Foreign Nationals in the most barbaric ways seen in centuries. Hamas vows to repeat this over and over even after a new ceasefire agreement is reached.

Furthermore, we urge you not to approve any resolution whose language parrots a false narrative claiming that Jewish people in Israel are colonizers engaged in a 75-year occupation. In fact there has been a Jewish presence in Israel for the past 3,000 years. They are neither colonizers, nor “occupiers” in Gaza - Gaza has been independent since 2005 when Israel removed all its residents and military from Gaza. In 2006, Gazans voted Hamas into power and they have been under Hamas rule since. Nonetheless, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish voices claim that Israel is occupying Gaza and that “resistance is justified”, spreading dangerous misinformation about a democratic country that is used as a justification for terrorism.

As a city council, you represent your local residents in municipal decisions. If the city council were to engage in international affairs, you would likely need to vote on various matters, such as the ongoing Syrian war, the Yemen Civil War, the Rohingya Crisis, the South Sudanese

Civil War, and numerous other global issues.

Sadly, ceasefire resolutions have been considered in many city councils in the past few months, and each time rather than enhance peace, they have brought with them vitriol, which has contributed to the 400% increase in anti-Semitism in this country [4]. We have most recently witnessed alarming Neo-Nazi marches in Nashville, the apprehension of an individual plotting to harm the Jewish community in Indiana, physical harm inflicted on Jews on college campuses, the murder of a Jewish man in San Diego and the unsettling cancellation of all college classes in Queens due to a credible terrorist threat.

Normalizing hate against Jews fuels white supremacy, which is seeing an unprecedented growth. The normalization of hate against Jews inadvertently is going to impact ALL minorities. We don't need any more hate in this country. We cannot regress as a country.

Jewish people do not advocate for unnecessary conflicts; it's not in our nature. Our priority is the safe return of our innocent civilians who are being held hostage, possibly under very violent conditions. Additionally, we must protect ourselves from a hostile terrorist organization that harbors destructive intentions towards Jews. Let's be clear, Hamas is waging a war against the Jewish people and democracy itself. Senior Hamas official Mahmoud Al-Zahar stated on December 12, 2022, "The entire 510 million square kilometers of Planet Earth will come under [a system] where there is no injustice, no oppression, no treachery, no Zionism, no treacherous Christianity." (source: <http://tinyurl.com/5n8298r4>)

Furthermore, with all the international conflicts that have not merited your attention, deciding to suddenly weigh in on Israel's foreign policy would send a dual message: a) that a democracy has no right to defend itself against barbaric terrorism, and b) that you hold Israel to a different standard than other countries.

The European Parliament has passed a stipulation that any call for a ceasefire should be conditional on the complete dismantling of Hamas and the immediate and unconditional release of hostages. We hope you would agree.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

82% of Americans support Israel's fight against Hamas" (Harvard Harris Poll). [5]

References:

[1] CAIR toolkit: https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-releases-community-toolkit-on-promoting-gaza-ceasefire-resolutions-by-state-local-governments/

[2] <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/4336113-rubio-activists-Israel-hamas-cease-fire>

[3] https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

[4] <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-antisemitic-incidents-up-about-400-since-israel-hamas-war-began-report-says-2023-10-25/>

[5] <https://harvardharrispoll.com>


Excerpts from Hamas Charter:

1. 'Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.' (Preamble)
2. 'The day the enemies usurp part of Muslim land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised.' (Article 15)
3. 'Ranks will close, fighters joining other fighters, and masses everywhere in the Islamic world will come forward in response to the call of duty, loudly proclaiming: 'Hail to Jihad!'. This cry will reach the heavens and will go on being resounded until liberation is achieved, the invaders vanquished and Allah's victory comes about.' (Article 33)
4. 'There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are a waste of time and futile.' (Article 13)
5. 'The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.' (Article 7) [3].

Andre Berger, MD

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karen Berger](#)
To: [Jones, Justin](#)
Cc: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Please call for an immediate ceasefire
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:18:08 PM

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{contact_data~salutation,}

I write to you as a constituent and as a member of Amnesty International USA with deep concern over the escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel. The U.S. government – including at the local level – is uniquely positioned to have tremendous impact in this conflict to ensure the protection of civilians and prevent further suffering.

Since October 7, we have witnessed horror unfolding on an unimaginable scale in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. More than 2 million Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip are struggling to survive amid the Israeli military's ongoing offensive, and the level of civilian casualties has been unprecedented.

I am encouraging you to publicly call for an immediate ceasefire and appeal to the Israeli government to allow life-saving fuel, water, and food into Gaza.

The majority of Americans support a ceasefire, but President Biden has yet to call for one. In response, towns and cities across the country are rising up to pass their own resolutions. I ask that you, in your capacity, do what you can to help to pass one here.

The need for an immediate ceasefire by all parties is more urgent than ever to protect civilians, prevent a mounting civilian death toll in Gaza, prevent further displacement of Palestinians, and provide an opportunity to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Berger

cc: Victor Gordo
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, Los Angeles
91109