

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ophira Bergman <[redacted]@gs.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquez,

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: [Martin Berkowitz](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Pasadena Foreign Policy
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 8:05:51 AM

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This mproposal is outrageous and strictly the work of Jew Haters
Martin B Berkowitz and Coris F Berkpwitz
Pasadenaa Citizens since 20054

From: _____
To: [Gordo, Victor](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); jlyon@cityofpasadena.net; [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#)
Cc: [Jomsky, Mark](#); miguelmarquez@cityofpasadena.net
Subject: Resolution re Ceasefire Israel/Gaza War, Council Agenda 3-18-24
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:19:09 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

The ongoing loss of life and destruction of communities in Israel and Gaza is horrifying. This situation has a long and complicated history which precedes the creation of the state of Israel and the events of October 7, 2023.

The particulars of what has caused these conflicts are innumerable and complicated. World leaders, academics, and religious leaders have tried to, and this far, failed to arrive at a solution that provides for a lasting and equitable peace in what was once Palestine and then the state of Israel and territories taken in the 1967 war.

The Israel/Palestinian conflict is a highly divisive issue that has been an ongoing issue for a long time. Action by the Pasadena City Council will not affect a change to the conflict. In fact, we believe such action could further tear this and other communities apart. At this difficult time the Council should try to help bring the community together.

As residents and voters in Pasadena, we urge the Council to take NO ACTION on a resolution regarding a ceasefire to the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza.

Paul and Carol Berlant

Pasadena, CA

From: [Abigail Berman](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:07:15 AM

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

Sincerely,
Abigail Berman

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Robin Berman <Robin.Berman@grassrootsnyc.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 12:00 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear Pasadena City of Council Members,

Hello....

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

From: [Sybil Berman](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:54:55 PM

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Sincerely,
Sybil Berman

From: [Zev Berenson](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:19:09 PM

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Sincerely,
Zev Berenson

From: [Arkady Bernshteyn](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:46:11 PM

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Sincerely,
Arkady Bernshteyn

From: [Alissa Bernstein](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Monday's Ceasefire Resolution Vote
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:21:03 PM

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It's **Very Important**

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

We hope this email finds you well. My name is Alissa Bernstein, I am the Assistant Director of [American Jewish Committee \(AJC\)](#) Los Angeles. I spoke with your team this past summer about the possibility of you joining us for a Project Interchange mission trip to Israel. I believe you were unavailable at the time of this trip, but we hope down the road another opportunity presents itself for you to join us for another important mission, particularly following the atrocities of October 7 and the ongoing war in the region.

I write to you because it has come to our attention that Pasadena City Council will be introducing a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. It is imperative to note that unless such a resolution includes language demanding the immediate release of all hostages still held captive in Gaza, and the dismantling of Hamas in the Gaza strip, calling for ceasefire holds dangerous repercussions for Israel and the region. A ceasefire without cessation of Hamas' rule in Gaza would only allow for Hamas to threaten a vulnerable state still defending itself against a genocidal terrorist group.

AJC is the leading Jewish advocacy organization. Established in 1906, we have nearly 120 years of experience advocating on behalf of the global Jewish community. Our work centers on three main pillars – combating antisemitism, promoting Israel's place in the world, and defending human rights and democracy across the globe. We do this by building relationships with elected officials, diplomats, and interfaith and intergroup partners around the world. The action our local governments take have real and lasting impacts on our communities, and the language of the resolutions a City Council chooses to pass hold immense weight. We hope you will take our recommendation into consideration leading up to this important vote.

We hope to be a resource to you. Should you have any questions or concerns about the above recommendation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We thank you for your consideration and hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Hirschhaut
Director, AJC Los Angeles

Alissa Bernstein
Assistant Director
Los Angeles
American Jewish Committee (AJC)

[AJC.org](#)
[Facebook.com/AJCWashington](#)
[Twitter.com/AJCGlobal](#)

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 8:44 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: From Pasadena District 3 Resident- Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution

From: Molly Bernitz <
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 8:43:39 PM (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: From Pasadena District 3 Resident- Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

As a Jewish constituent of District 3, 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.

There are no Jewish values in genocide.

Thank you,

Molly Bernitz (she/her)

From: [Deborah Bernstein](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:53:08 PM

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Sincerely,
Deborah Bernstein

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Jules Bernstein <[redacted]@advocacymessages.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Sincerely,
Jules Bernstein
Claremont, CA 91711

From: [Emily Bergmann](#)
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: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:20:28 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.

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,
Emily Izquierdo Ortiz

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Eti Bernard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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From: [Kimberly Berry](#)
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 11:12:31 AM

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am a long time Pasadena & Altadena resident. Pasadena is where I work and PUSD is where my kids have gone to school, and where we attend religious services.

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.

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

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Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:57 AM
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: [Diego Berumen](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote "YES" to Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 8:22:06 PM

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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.

From: [Rizwan Bhatti](#)
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 10:57:57 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.

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,
Rizwan Bhatti

Sent from my iPhone

From: Hajdi Biala
To: action@endjewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:09:12 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,
Hadara Biala

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: [Lynn Bider](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:42:17 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:

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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,
Lynn Bider

From: [Martha Biemann](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:32:50 AM

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Sincerely,
Martha Biemann

From: [Aviva Biederman](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:53:59 PM

You don't often get email from [Aviva Biederman](#), but [because this is important](#)

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Sincerely,
Aviva Biederman

Sabha, Tamer

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:59 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Rivas, Jessica; Lyon, Jason; Madison, Steve; Jones, Justin; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Williams, Felicia
Subject: Special City Council Meeting 3/18/24 - Public Comment
Attachments: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL 3.18.24.pdf

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Dear Mayor, City Council Members and City Staff,

Please read the attached statement regarding Item 2 on tonight's Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Pasadena City Council and place it into the public record.

Thank you for your assistance with this request!

Respectfully,

Brian Biery

Dear Pasadena Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to you today with respect to your upcoming Special Meeting Agenda Item #2: DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CONSIDERATION OF A POSSIBLE CITY POSITION RELATED THERETO.

To begin with, I am fully supportive of the City Council adopting a Ceasefire Resolution to end the ongoing war in Gaza.

In addition, I would like to specifically address option #2 under this agenda item: (2) Adopt a policy that the City will not take official positions on any non-local, political, or social issues.

The City of Pasadena's City Council should take official positions on these issues for the following reasons:

- a. Your constituents are affected by these issues and thus would stand to benefit greatly from positions taken by local elected officials. There has been a dramatic rise in hate crimes and violence against Muslims and Jews across the country since last October. A reduction in violence abroad would lead to diminished conflict and antagonism in our community and around the country.
- b. As a small city it may seem to be insignificant to take a stand on an international issue such as this one, however the point is that if cities all over the country join in support of a ceasefire their cumulative voices will have immense strength and momentum to affect federal government decision-makers.
- c. In addition, as City Council Members you have influence with our Congressional Representatives Judy Chu and Adam Schiff. You all know them personally and several of you have long-standing professional relationships with them. They respect your views and understand that you represent thousands of residents in their districts and thus will listen to your opinions, especially unified ones. For example, imagine if every City Council in Chu's or Schiff's district passed a ceasefire resolution, how difficult it would be for them to not support that position?
- d. From a human rights perspective, when there are acts of genocide or apartheid, what happens when no one says anything? Acts of injustice and oppression continue unabated. A former Pasadena Police Chief's constant refrain at public meetings was "See something, say something" in reference to crime in our city's neighborhoods. Should it not also be the responsibility for the Pasadena City Council to 'say something' by taking official positions on the types of issues listed above?
- e. By making such official statements City Councils also demonstrate what their priorities are, what their values are, and how they see these issues in relation to the people who they serve. We live in a global community where people in one corner of the planet are affected by the actions taken by other people on the other side of the world. In this reality the term 'local' takes on new meaning in that our interconnectedness contributes to a global community rather than just a regional one.

The Western Justice Center in Pasadena teaches peaceful conflict resolution and mediation skills to students and teachers in the PUSD and other nearby school districts. Their team has trained thousands of youth in the past seven years in these extraordinary techniques and those schools have seen a drop in fights and conflict on campus. However, in order for these valuable tools to be effective there needs to be a cessation of violence so that "...communities are healed,

united, and transformed through conflict resolution education and restorative practices rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity." With this esteemed local nonprofit's work in mind, please continue to take official positions on important human rights issues. And please support the passage of a ceasefire resolution in Gaza on March 18.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this urgent issue!

Respectfully,

Brian Biery
Pasadena, CA

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanelle (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote "YES" to Ceasefire Resolution

From: Rosalee Bills <rosaleebills@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:54:53 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote "YES" to Ceasefire Resolution

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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.

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

From: [Samuel Bills](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: I urge you to support the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 2:47:35 PM

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Mayor Gordo,

I am writing to urge you to support the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday at the city council meeting. I recognize that support is not without political cost to you and that you are likely hearing from many sides on this issue. I am asking you to use your leadership position to stand up for the women and children who are dying daily in Gaza in a disproportionate attack that has become a genocide.

I recognize that Pasadena cannot stop this unjust war against civilians waged with weapons funded by our tax dollars on our own. Our voices joined together under your leadership can make a difference and join a collective call for justice. I plead with you to take the opportunity that you have and support the ceasefire resolution.

Sam Bills

From: [Daniel Birnbaum](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:32:35 PM

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Sincerely,
Daniel Birnbaum

From: [Irina Birman](#)
To: action@endjewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 6:28:53 AM

You don't often get email from [Irina Birman](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

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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].

IRINA BIRMAN

Financial Systems Analyst

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

525 W. Monroe Street

Chicago, IL 60661-3693

p / (312) 577-8261 f / (312) 577-8722

irina.birman@kattenlaw.com / www.kattenlaw.com

From: [Rebecca Briefel](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:08:26 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:

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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,
Rebecca Briefel

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote on a ceasefire resolution

From: Black Crane Shop <shop@blackcrane.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:34:54 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote on a ceasefire resolution

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Dear Mayor Victor Gordo

Please vote "Yes" to the resolution condemning the genocide in Gaza and calling for a ceasefire on Monday March 18.

Human Rights Watch agrees with the International Court of Justice that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute a genocide and urges other countries to "use all forms of leverage, including sanctions and embargoes, to press the Israeli government to comply with the court's binding orders in the genocide case."

Human Rights Watch has also previously called the conditions in the West Bank and Gaza "apartheid" conditions.

The Israeli human rights group, B'T Selem, accuses Israel of War Crimes in Gaza and states, "...this policy is not new, but has been implemented towards Gaza for many years. The death, destruction, pain and horror it has wrought have led to nothing but more horror."

Pasadena can do our part by passing a ceasefire resolution now.

Momo Suzuki

91105

From: Amy Blackshaw
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 6:58:13 AM

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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,

From: [Anna Blackshaw](#)
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 1:31:12 AM

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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

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Stephanie Blank-Cheng <
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:51 AM
Subject: Vote YES on Pasadena 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.

Thank you.

Stephanie Blank

Sabha, Tamer

From: Carolyn Blashek <[redacted]@pasadenacity.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 6:29 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquez,

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.

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Marjorie Blatt
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 11:48 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Dear City Manager Miguel Marquiz,

I urge you not to adopt a biased "ceasefire" resolution that would fuel divisions and hate in the Pasadena community.

The horrific price Gaza residents have paid since Hamas brutally attacked private Israeli citizens and took more than 250 hostages is heartbreaking, but please recall that Israel declared war on Hamas—not on Gaza residents. For years, inconceivably, Hamas has intentionally imbedded itself in the heart of Gaza residential neighborhoods, schools and mosques. This too is heart-breaking—and cynical.

Resolutions like this fuel more hate towards Jews. Is that your intention? I think not. Please look at the results when Oakland city council passed such a resolution.

If you choose to adopt a resolution on this issue, it should include a clear requirement that Hamas release all hostages now. There would be a permanent ceasefire tomorrow if Hamas were to do this and lay down its arms.

I urge you not to adopt any resolution at all but if you do, please strongly consider adding language that makes it more even-handed. There is no upside to dividing us further.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Blatt

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Sharlene Blau <[redacted]@pasadenacity.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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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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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,
Sharlene Blau

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ariella Blejer < >
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:55 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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From: [lucy blinder](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:08:58 PM

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Sincerely,
lucy blinder

From: [margarita blinchik](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:55:10 PM

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margarita blinchik

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:51 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: Jonathan Bliss <
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:50:33 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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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,
Jonathan Bliss

From: [Liza Bliss](#)
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: Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:17:27 PM

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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,

From: [Allison Bloom](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:31:35 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,
Allison Bloom

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:43 AM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanelle (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

From: Genna BloomBecker <genna.bloombecker@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:43:13 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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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 3/18.

Thank you,
Genna BloomBecker

From: [Bonnie Blustein](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Gordo, Victor](#); [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [Jones, Justin](#)
Subject: Please Pass Resolution for Immediate Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:50:50 AM

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Dear City Council,

As a resident and homeowner in Pasadena who is appalled by the continuing genocide in Gaza, I urge you to join the many cities across the US, including here in California, who have passed resolutions calling for a cease-fire there. Over thirty thousand Gazans are dead, over 90% have been rendered homeless, and an estimated 25% are at imminent risk of dying of dehydration and starvation. Intentional starvation of a civilian population is a war crime. US officials from President Biden on down have asked the Israeli government to exercise "restraint" but the US government continues to ship war materiel to Israel: over 200 separate shipments since October in addition to what had already been allocated.

We ask today, "Where were the 'good Germans' when the Nazis began their Holocaust and launched World War II?" When that is asked about us in years to come, I hope we will have an answer.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Ellen Blustein, Ph.D.

~

From: [Brett Blumstein](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#); [Madison, Steve](#); [Hampton, Tyron](#); [Williams, Felicia](#); [Jones, Justin](#); [Masuda, Gene](#); [Rivas, Jessica](#); [Lyon, Jason](#); [Márquez, Miquel](#); [Jomsky, Mark](#)
Subject: Resolution on Monday March 18 - Please stay away from middle eastern politics
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:50:22 PM

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Dear City Council members,

My name is Brett Blumstein. My family and I attend Jewish synagogue at Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center and we live nearby. Ever since October 7th, the normally security laden Jewish events we attend have had drastically increased security stemming from local threats. Our kids attend Hebrew School in Pasadena and pass by multiple security guards and often local police on the way to class in order to ensure their safety. It should not have to be this way.

I implore you to stay away from Middle East politics as it inflames and gives excuses to the very people who necessitate the increased level of security. Further, nothing the City of Pasadena votes on has any effect whatsoever on what happens in the Middle East, but it does have an effect on what our families have to deal with here. All the while, these types of votes drive members of the Pasadena community further apart instead of bringing us together.

I could go on as to my beliefs and what is right and what is wrong and why, but that is less important than asking that the City Council do the right thing and focus on city issues that actually affect and benefit people who live, work and visit Pasadena rather than on issues that amp up local hatred and potential violence towards civilians. Please do not vote for or weigh in on any resolution on any part of the Middle East.

Thank you,

Brett Blumstein

From: [Judy bluestone](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:01:14 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 bluestone

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Carole Boag
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:54 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.

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Sincerely,
Carole Boag

From: [Britt Bogan](#)
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 7:46:22 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

CEASEFIRE NOW! Be on the right side of history.

Thank you,

Brittany Bogan

Sent from my iPhone

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:39 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: Rosemary Bobadilla · [View profile](#)
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:38:41 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 <jllyon@cityofpasadena.net>; cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote YES on the Ceasefire Resolution on Monday, March 18

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