

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:53 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 Resolution

From: Margaret Starbuck
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:52:42 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Vote Yes on Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear Councilmember Rivas.

I am a resident of District 5 and I am asking you to please vote "Yes" on the ceasefire resolution before the council on Monday, March 18.

It is critical that the City of Pasadena stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza by passing 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,

Margaret Starbuck

From: Gillian Starkweather
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: cityclerk; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City council meeting 3/18 URGENT
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:51:23 AM

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Dear Mayor Victor Gorgo

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.

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, Cudhy, Oakland, and Pomona in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by voting "Yes" on Monday.

Thank you,

Gillian Starkweather

Iraheta, Alba

From: Laura Stein
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:13 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.

Sincerely,
Laura Stein

From: Sharon Stein
To: Gordo, Victor
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:58:48 PM

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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. Personally, I have seen attacks in public already to Jewish members of the community, on college and university campuses, and in secondary schools. Again, personally I haven't seen anything like this, or heard anything like this in my lifetime since the Holocaust in World War II.

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

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Tamar Stein
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:41 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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

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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,
Tamar Stein

From: [Teri Stein](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Please Pass the Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:51:19 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo:

It was an honor to speak before the council on Monday (I am the Jewish speaker who is the descendant of Holocaust refugees, and also many who did not survive). I am writing to urge you to pass the ceasefire resolution when council convenes on Monday. As a Jew, as a mother, and as a human being, I cannot stand by while tens of thousands of civilians are murdered, and millions are starved and displaced from their homes. We need a ceasefire, and our community should speak with the moral clarity and the empathy you displayed when standing up for the besieged residents of Artsakh. Gaza is entitled to no less.

I want to address what I am sure you are hearing from many of my fellow Jews, as I have seen the chatter online calling this resolution "antisemitic." There is nothing antisemitic about criticizing the state of Israel, which is a political actor, and does not speak for Jews worldwide (or even for all Jews in Israel). Israel conflates the terrible and real scourge of antisemitism with anti-Israel sentiment in order to avoid criticism or accountability for its actions. This is not only reprehensible behavior, but it makes Jews worldwide - including here in Pasadena - less safe by robbing antisemitism of its meaning. It is "crying wolf" on the world stage, thus making claims of actual antisemitism that much harder for people to believe.

Genocide is not a Jewish value. And if all of us are honest, history shows us that making the world safer for genocide is never going to help Jewish people. This genocide imperils our Palestinian family right now, and it also imperils humanity all over the world, now and in the future.

I believe deeply in our collective liberation. I believe that we all need each other to free each other. I believe that the lessons of my ancestors' murders is not that genocide is acceptable under certain circumstances. I believe that "never again" means "never again for anyone." I feel grief that some of my Jewish family seems to think otherwise, but I am grounded in my tradition and the lessons of my ancestors. So I say to you, with every bit of my Jewish heart, that it is time to call for ceasefire, and the time to do it is now.

Very truly yours,
Teri Stein

From: Yechiel Jonathan Jonny Stein
To: action@endiewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 6:37:26 AM

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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,
Jonathan Stein

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].

Sabha, Tamer

From: Keetgi Steinberg
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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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: Kaye Stenbeck
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:26 AM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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Jomsky, Mark

From: Karin Stewart
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Lyon, Jason; Márquez, Miguel; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Resolution Adoption March 18 meeting

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Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Pasadena City Council Members:

I am concerned about the potential adoption of the resolution for an immediate cease-fire in Israel to be considered and possibly passed tonight. I have lived in Pasadena since 1980, and feel that your role as local elected officials is to remain concerned about LOCAL issues, not international ones. I vote for you to govern Pasadena concerns, not foreign ones. While we are all entitled to our opinions regarding national and international politics, it is not your job to "officially" give those opinions as a City Council.

Please do not adopt any type of resolution regarding this matter tonight or any other time. Use your valuable time to work on problems here in Pasadena, as that is what you were elected to do.

Thank you for your consideration,
Karin Stewart

From: [Sheva Stolik](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:11:37 PM

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Sincerely,
Sheva Stolik

From: Claire Stringer
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 7:55:36 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,
Claire Stringer

Sent from my iPhone

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Mary Streit <Mary.Streit.452119756@sendgrassroots.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Márquez, Miguel
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"

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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,
Mary Streit

From: [Ray Stubblefield-Tave](#)
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: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:41:49 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,

Ray

Ray Stubblefield-Tave
They/She

Sent from my phone, please excuse brevity and typos.

From: Fortunas Studios
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 10:33:55 AM

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Thank you,

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta); Kenebrew, Jerice; Soo, Christine; Haskett, John
Subject: FW: In Support of a Ceasefire Now Resolution

From: Victor Suarez ·
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:40:17 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Lyon, Jason <jlyon@cityofpasadena.net>; cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: In Support of a Ceasefire Now Resolution

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Councilmember Lyon,

As a resident of District 7 and as a member of the Pasadena community with Palestinian family, I'm writing today to first thank you for helping agendize consideration of a Ceasefire Now Resolution and to also urge you to please vote "Yes" on a Ceasefire Now Resolution on Monday, March 18.

Like many in our community I have been deeply alarmed by the genocide occurring in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, over 38,000 Palestinians 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.

I will be present at Monday's meeting along with community organizations to ask that you please join the over 70 US cities, including San Francisco, Cudahy, Oakland, and Pomona that have called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by voting "Yes" on a Ceasefire Now Resolution on Monday.


Thank you,


Victor Suarez

Sabha, Tamer

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:08 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: sayaka sugimura · [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:07:12 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

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [fadi.suleiman](#)
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: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:27:36 AM

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Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Husam Suleiman](#)
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 12:49:29 PM

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Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nmarthalia Sumendap
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 11:56:19 AM

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Thank you,

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: cityclerk
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 7:18 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: -
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 7:17:39 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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Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alana Sussan](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 12:53:34 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.

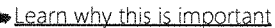
I know that the Pasadena City Council wants to do the right thing and bring about an end to the humanitarian crisis, but this symbolic gesture will do nothing more than bring more hate and animosity towards the Jewish community.

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

Sincerely,
Alana Sussan

From: [Victor Sutton](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:25:24 PM

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Sincerely,
Victor Sutton

From: [Scott Svonkin](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:44:19 PM

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Sincerely,
Scott Svonkin

From: [Nicole Swan](#)
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 6:36:52 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,

Nicole Swan
Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Randa Sweiss
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 11:40 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.

From: Mitch Swergold
To: action@endjewhated.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:45:49 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,

Mitch Swergold

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: [Cecilia Sweet-Coll](#)
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: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:24:24 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am a resident of Pasadena and constituent in Felicia Williams's district and 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: [Zaynab Syed](#)
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 4:10:35 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

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Thank you,

Sabha, Tamer

From: cityclerk
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:18 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: Imran Syed
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:17:54 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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Thank you,

Kenebrew, Jerice

From: Katalin Szeke
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 5:54 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:

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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,
Katalin Szeke

From: [Nadina Szew](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:14:11 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

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Sincerely,
Nadina Szew

From: [Glenda Sacks](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:51:40 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

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Sincerely,
Glenda Sacks

From: [Azzam Saad](#)
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: Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:35:43 AM

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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

From: [Casey Salamone](#)
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 6:01:47 PM

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Thank you,

Casey Salamone

Hospitality Student at San Diego State University
L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality - Lower Division Peer Advisor
National Society of Minorities in Hospitality - Vice President

From: [Tammy Salamone](#)
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 4:50:40 PM

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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,

Tammy Salamone

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[Look me up on Facebook](#)

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[Acting/Modeling Agent](#)

From: [Rachel Salamone](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Cc: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Ceasefire
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 10:44:25 AM

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Dear Mayor Victor Gordo,

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.

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, Cudhy, Oakland, and Pomona in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by voting "Yes" on Monday.

Thank you,
Rachel Salamone

From: [Uzi Salamon](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:25:14 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:

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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,
Uzi Salamon

From: [Taylor Salamone](#)
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 6:23:00 PM

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Thank you,

Taylor Salamone

From: [Tahl Salamon](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:28:07 AM

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Dear Mayor Gordo,

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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,
Tahl Salamon

From: Farah Safae
To: Gordo, Victor
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:09:36 AM

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Sincerely,
Farah Safae

From: [FCG Safieh](#)
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 12:05:05 PM

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Thank you,

From: [Joshua Saidoff](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:48:20 PM

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Sincerely,
Joshua Saidoff

From: [Ghiwa Sabih](#)
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 7:38:20 AM

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Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eyelle Sacher](#)
To: [Gordo, Victor](#)
Subject: Vote NO on biased calls for "ceasefire"
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 12:21:32 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,
Eyelle Sacher

From: Gail Saidlower
To: action@endjewhatred.com
Subject: Vote NO to a ceasefire
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:35:10 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,
Gail Saidlower

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].