

From: [Matthew Garland](#)
To: [Peg Crowe](#); [Paul Condon](#); [Amanda Linehan](#); [Ryan O'Malley](#); [Ari Taylor](#); [Stephen Winslow](#); [Chris Simonelli](#); [Jadeane Sica](#); [Craig Spadafora](#); [Carey McDonald](#); [Karen Colón Hayes](#)
Cc: [Mayor Christenson](#); [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Thoughts on the Draft Resolution
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 1:06:35 PM

Dear Councillors,

I appreciate your wordsmithing to come up with something that works for both communities. You probably know of Ibn Said's fable of the miller, his son, and their donkey, commonly misattributed to Aesop. The moral of the story is - when you try to please everyone, you end up pleasing no one. And somehow your donkey dies.

I bring up this fable because I can't help but feel that this is a similar situation. I am fine with the ceasefire language in the draft resolution, supporting President Biden and the UNSC in their efforts to broker a bilaterally negotiated permanent ceasefire in Gaza. However, I must strongly emphasize that additional measures must be taken to ensure that this is not labeled, even colloquially, a "Ceasefire Resolution". I have done a poor job of explaining why it makes such a difference, and I will try to rectify that now.

"Ceasefire Resolutions" have a direct cognitive association with the "Ceasefire Now" movement, which is a hypocritical and covertly antisemitic movement.

1. The Ceasefire Now movement began calling against Israel military action in the days after October 7 - Reps. Bush, Tlaib, Carson, Lee, Ramirez introduced ceasefire legislation on October 16, *11 days before Israel began its counter-offensive on October 27*. Yes, you read that correctly. 11 days **before** Israel responded to Hamas' massacre, people were already blaming Israel and calling for them to stop. They were not calling on Hamas to release hostages or surrender; they were calling for a ceasefire in a war that had not practically begun.
2. The Ceasefire Now movement never assigns any blame to Hamas. There is never any mention of urging Egypt or Qatar to pressure Hamas to release hostages and surrender. Some people, in the past few months, have started to include the hostage release, but they are largely ignored or tacked on as an afterthought.
3. The movement ignores Israel's ceasefire offers and Hamas' ceasefire rejections. It is particularly tone-deaf when Israel has placed an offer on the table and they are calling for Israel to stop their military operations, while Hamas delays in responding before ultimately rejecting it.
4. The Ceasefire Now movement has made it abundantly clear that they don't care that Hamas continues to fire rockets at Israeli civilians - from within Gazan civilian areas - and vows to continue to attack Israeli civilians. They just call for Israel to stop attacking Gaza.

The conflation between a ceasefire resolution - which seems utterly ludicrous in the face of Hamas' recent rejection of an offer that was almost identical to the details *they* counter-proposed in May - and the Ceasefire Now movement is the key detail that would demonstrate a lack of support for Israel as a sovereign nation defending its people against a terrorist organization, and the local Jewish community.

It is one thing to criticize Israel's handling of the war. We can think they should be doing

different things, taking different steps. But ultimately, without being a military strategist and having access to their military intelligence, we can't really judge.

It is important to state that getting accurate data from mainstream media and international organizations can be difficult, and you need to take everything you read with a grain of salt. Here is an example why.

Among the many false claims is that Israel is starving Gazan children. While I am sure that some children are starving, when independent data is published that backs Israel's claims, mainstream media tends to be silent because it does not fit the narrative. [Here is the recent IPC Famine Review Commission](#) that indicates that a significant amount of food is getting into Gaza daily for the past few months. Apart from the general conclusion that the evidence was not consistent with the "Famine" classification, the new report points out several flaws in the previous reports' methodologies, notably the omission of commercial and privately contracted food deliveries from the analysis, as well as the World Food Pantry deliveries to the bakeries. COGAT - Coordination Of Government Activity in the Territories - has been publishing the daily aid deliveries, along with satellite imagery of the trucks awaiting UN distribution, which is ultimately confirmed by the estimates in this report. But you will not hear about this data from any of your standard sources of information.

Whether this resolution is named an "Anti-Hate Resolution", to give it a clear label that distinguishes it from a ceasefire resolution, or whether the City Council chooses to issue statements of support for these items, rather than a formal resolution, to me, the important thing is that no one can say "Malden City Council passed a ceasefire resolution".

Thank you for all your time, hard work, and emotional resilience.

Matthew Garland
108 Hawthorne Street

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[Matthew Garland](#), Executive Director
[Congregation Beth Israel](#)
[Malden Mikvah](#) | [Move to Malden](#)
781-322-5686 ext. 6

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