

VOTE NO on ceasefire resolution to protect Palestinians and Israelis

Tirza Kahan <trzk@aol.com>

Wed 6/12/2024 6:54 PM

To: Craig Spadafora <cspadafora@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Karen Colón Hayes <kcolonhayes@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Carey McDonald <cmcdonald@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Jadeane Sica <jsica@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Chris Simonelli <csimonelli@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Stephen Winslow <swinslow@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Amanda Linehan <alinehan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Ari Taylor <ataylor@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Ryan O'Malley <romalley@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Paul Condon <pcondon@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Carol Ann Desiderio <CDesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Mayor Information <info@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>; Peg Crowe <pcrowe@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>

Dear Malden City Council Members,

We are writing to you as citizens of Malden, Massachusetts, and more generally, citizens of this country concerned about the rise in hate and antisemitism.

Several days ago, many of us wrote to you urging you to refuse to consider a ceasefire resolution regarding the war in the Middle East. We shared our concern regarding the hidden agenda within these documents to hide Hamas atrocities against Palestinians and Israelis beneath peaceful sounding slogans. We appreciate that at the June 4 City Council meeting, a vote on that resolution was postponed.

We are reaching out again to urge you to continue to refuse consideration of such a motion.

While this appears to be a resolution in favor of peace, a ceasefire resolution by a city council carries no weight and serves to inflame anti-Democracy, anti-Israel, and anti-Jewish sentiments. 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 (of the resolutions); they want to be able to claim that the city/county has denounced Israel.

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 [2]. 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. Rather than bringing opposing groups together in a genuine effort to bring a peaceful conclusion to this conflict, such resolutions are divisive to the community and have had the effect of pitting sides against each other.

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," whose sole and sinister purpose is to eradicate Israel and the Jewish people [3]. For your reference, we have provided excerpts from the Hamas charter below [4].

Hamas has rejected proposals for months-long pauses in fighting 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.

Beyond the dangers of increased antagonism and antisemitism posed by consideration of any ceasefire resolution, we urge you specifically 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. 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 and they want to and should feel heard by you. The local Malden Palestinian community deserves this as much as the local Jewish community and all other residents. The conflict in the Middle East is heartbreaking to all of us; the loss of civilian lives no matter who they are is cause for sorrow.

However, a resolution devoid of weight, which will only serve to increase tensions, should be avoided. Instead, there are many opportunities for the city to support and encourage increased understanding and mutual care by all its residents. In addition, Malden, like so many municipalities, has local issues to be addressed and resolved to benefit its own residents. Voting on a ceasefire will only serve to distract council members from their important and timely work on actual Malden issues.

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 that: a) a democracy has no right to defend itself against barbaric terrorism, and b) 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 will agree.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing that a vote on the ceasefire resolution has been rejected.

Sincerely,

References:

[1] CAIR toolkit: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.cair.com_press-5Freleases_cair-2Dreleases-2Dcommunity-2Dtoolkit-2Don-2Dpromoting-2Dgaza-2Dceasefire-2Dresolutions-2Dby-2Dstate-2Dlocal-2Dgovernments_&d=DwlFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=sFEJT8muOg6JSE-IKHMSnG5d-hW6H1rVhnzo9Hbd2wk&m=dQMWd1Oy0rioz03qjrCdYopTLI8V2bK0mN7WFdggWuG6ZHP0X5WhxqTl375s78wl&s=zzfvZJWm_l0lNki81A4iXUGI9zC9ITA0h-e5FwfSkVE&e=

[2] https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.reuters.com_world_us_us-2Dantisemitic-2Dincidents-2Dup-2Dabout-2D400-2Dsince-2Disrael-2Dhamas-2Dwar-2Dbegan-2Dreport-2Dsays-2D2023-2D10-2D25_&d=DwlFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=sFEJT8muOg6JSE-IKHMSnG5d-hW6H1rVhnzo9Hbd2wk&m=dQMWd1Oy0rioz03qjrCdYopTLI8V2bK0mN7WFdggWuG6ZHP0X5WhxqT1375s78wl&s=-5HaZOePSJTO6HhoAX8e592UWe2howijLCKaaaleio&e=

[3] https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_thehill.com_homenews_senate_4336113-2Drubio-2Dactivists-2Disrael-2Dhamas-2Dcease-2Dfire&d=DwlFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=sFEJT8muOg6JSE-IKHMSnG5d-hW6H1rVhnzo9Hbd2wk&m=dQMWd1Oy0rioz03qjrCdYopTLI8V2bK0mN7WFdggWuG6ZHP0X5WhxqT1375s78wl&s=SxPErXQ0a6_euuZPvOQj06ZxX-tivdHnHBE5y_JvGyM&e=

[4] https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_avalon.law.yale.edu_20th-5Fcentury_hamas.asp&d=DwlFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=sFEJT8muOg6JSE-IKHMSnG5d-hW6H1rVhnzo9Hbd2wk&m=dQMWd1Oy0rioz03qjrCdYopTLI8V2bK0mN7WFdggWuG6ZHP0X5WhxqT1375s78wl&s=9oc08DmlOTjYbua7M0uNBfMhjit2QbVysI5DmZ7EuMU&e=

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)

T Kahan