

Public comment on Community Engagement & Inclusion Committee to discuss amendments to Paper 271, the ceasefire resolution

Jessica Slavin Connelly <jessicaslavinconnelly@gmail.com>

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

Dear Mayor Christenson, City Councilors and Carol Ann, and members of the Community Engagement & Inclusion Committee,

What is there left to say? I laid out my heart to all who took time to read my letter as part of public comment to Paper 271. In that letter I shared one story of my dear friend's family who were murdered, and left out the the barbaric rapes and murders and kidnapping of the rest of my friends' families and my family friends out of respect for them, and you.

I stood at public comment, and asked for you to work on an anti-hate resolution for all. I was able to only read out a short part of it at the meeting, and I did so in front of a public that was jeering and mocking me, and Jews whose family and friends were murdered on October 7; there were several in room including myself. There were children in chambers dressed in Hamas attire making gestures to elderly Jews in the room and a recent Malden High Graduate smiling from ear to ear holding a sign that is threatening to my people's existence, and adults who stated that any means of resistance is justified, which includes the murder and rape and dismemberment of our people. Behind me, people, including a candidate for my ward's state representative, and a person who filmed me on my property and then posted it online as harassment, were jeering, snickering, and making antisemitic gestures. If you were too far away to see it, there are photos and videos documenting this, and I am attaching one below.

Now, this has been sent to a committee scheduled and led by a City Councilor with a history of making antisemitic micro-aggressions, comments, and decisions in Malden, even after multiple attempts to communicate and hope for shared understanding. This meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow, to meet on the first full day of Shavuot. This is one of the 3 most holy pilgrimage festivals for Jews (as important as Passover), a holiday that celebrates Moses receiving the 10 Commandments on Mt Sinai, a holiday that will be distinctly devastating this year as the October 7th Massacre deliberately took place on Simchat Torah, the celebration of the Torah, considered a holy book in all 3 Abrahamic Faith Traditions, when observant Jews would offline and be most vulnerable. And now again, observant members of the Jewish Community in Malden will not be able to have any more conversations before the meeting or zoom in to watch and learn.

The antisemitic fever that has taken over the world since the Massacre on October 7th was clearly evident at last week's meeting.

I also don't understand why this committee wasn't utilized with participation from all city councilors and scheduled opportunities for structured community conversations before bringing this divisive

resolution to the council agenda.

I will reiterate, please vote no on any ceasefire resolution. Please propose a 'No place for hate' resolution for Malden, in consultation with advocates and organizations who represent all of our diversity.

There already is a ceasefire resolution presented by President Biden on the federal level. Any other ceasefire resolution, as seen in other communities across the country, only serves to further isolate, divide, and threaten local communities, and demonize Jews. If you vote yes to a local ceasefire resolution, no matter what the wording is, you are making a clear statement that the Jewish Community is no longer welcome or safe in Malden.

Please end this hatred and help us come together with an anti-hate resolution. I will sit face to face with those that hate me and want my people dead if it will help them to be heard and lead to repair and restoration of safety for all in Malden.

Thank you,

Jessica

Jessica Slavin Connelly, LICSW

Psychotherapist in Private Practice

Licensed in MA, ME, RI

[\(617\) 512-8085](tel:6175128085)

jessicaslavinconnelly@gmail.com

www.jessicaslavinconnelly.com

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