

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

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

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

My entire life has been dedicated towards the empowerment of immigrants of all races, religions, and ethnicities through the teaching of language and culture, including my own - sharing my father's story as a Holocaust survivor to Malden 6th graders since 2012.

Students - and their parents - have come up to me in the community years after my presentation, telling me that it was the most pivotal moment in their Malden education.

Since 2017 I have actively worked with leaders and community members in Malden to address racial injustice and I have taken public and personal risks in doing so. I felt safe and aligned with allies within the Malden community.

But, what I saw on Tuesday night (June 4, 2024), at Malden City Council, showed me that the racial injustice that I have fought against my entire life, was aimed right at me and my people by neighbors and other residents whom I've worked side by side with, in a trusting relationship.

To see the hate screamed by young people, from perhaps 6 up until their 20s gave me pause. This was brought forth to the surface by the decision to propose a ceasefire resolution to Malden, and it mirrors what is happening in every Massachusetts - in fact, U.S. - city where ceasefire resolutions are proposed.

Any ceasefire resolution, any language, will never please all sides, and will cause additional pain and suffering.

Moreover, a ceasefire resolution not only emboldens antisemites, it also shows a lack of support for Jews because, for 95% of Jews, Israel is a place of refuge, our native homeland. A unilateral ceasefire would mean the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people because all five ceasefires with Hamas have been broken by them, ending with October 7, the most deadly and heinous attack against Jews since the Holocaust.

Please do not be confused that there can be appeasement if you just find the right language.

Please vote no on any ceasefire resolution for Malden. Let us be an example of standing upright against hate and division in our beautifully diverse community, and help us work towards coming back together rather than separating us more with hatred.

Thank you,
Fern

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