

From: [Caitlin Peale Sloan](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Paper 271-24 Malden Resident comment
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:10:33 AM

Thank you for putting my statement below in the record as a public comment. If time permits I would like to give a spoken comment at tonight's meeting.

Councilors,

I am a Malden resident with people in my life on both sides of Paper 271-24, and I want to make it clear that passing the resolution is the most centrist, moderate, peace-seeking step forward.

In the dialogue many of you want to have about this conflict, there are not as easy sides to take. But there are two sides tonight: the “yes” side is a vote to acknowledge the basic humanity and pain of our Palestinian neighbors alongside our Israeli neighbors. Making a statement acknowledging this pain is the minimum action the city can take to make a further dialogue possible.

I have many people in my life who have family in Israel, are Israeli citizens, or have lived in Israel. They are scared of antisemitism affecting them here, and they are scared for the safety of the people of Israel in any post-war scenario. I share those concerns, and I think you all do as well.

But the city has formally acknowledged their fear and pain.

When the “vote yes” side is acknowledging the pain on both sides and asking for the city to stand for the proposition that the conflict causing active pain for both must stop, and the “vote no” side is saying that merely acknowledging the pain of the “yes” side is unacceptable, I need your progressive, people-centered values to win out. It is a reactionary right wing tactic to claim that just naming someone’s humanity and pain harms someone else.

Let’s focus on the Malden impact, pass this resolution, and use this difficult moment to lean into hard conversations to come.

Caitlin Peale Sloan, 69 Columbia Street

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