

Resolution language with local impact only

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Dear Councilors,

Attempting to find common language for a ceasefire resolution that satisfies both Malden's Muslim and Jewish communities is a Sisyphean task. The Muslim community stated it needs a ceasefire language that puts the onus of the war on Israel as part of their political strategy to pressure Katherine Clark. The Jewish community stated that we need no such resolution, and if it must say ceasefire it must emphasize that Hamas has the ability to stop the war that it started by returning the hostages and surrendering, to prevent the emboldening of antisemites that historically follows when a government appears to not support Israel and the Jews.

The City Council's primary job is to address the immediate, local needs of the residents of Malden. The Muslim community also voiced that they are living in fear and facing discrimination and bullying in schools. The City Council can address this need, and the need of the Jewish community, by passing a resolution that speaks against any form of hate within the City, and resolving to investigate and address the discrimination and bullying the Muslim community faces.

I strongly oppose any wording of a resolution that addresses the war in Gaza and urge the Committee to instead focus on addressing our local issues here at home.

Thank you,

Colleen Mitchneck
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