

Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear Councilor,

Last Tuesday, I was outside at the counterprotest and was relieved to hear the city council vote was postponed. This past weekend, like many others, I was incredibly elated to hear the Israeli Defense Forces launched a raid that successfully rescued 4 hostages - Noa Argamani, 25; Almog Meir Jan, 21; Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 40. Their liberation ended 8 horrific months of malnutrition, physical and psychological abuse while being held captive by jihadist terrorists. Earlier today, the United Nations Security Council adopted a US resolution calling on Hamas to accept the latest ceasefire proposal. A proposal which has already been accepted by the Israeli government. This ceasefire proposal would see Hamas and Islamic Jihad releasing all Israeli hostages in 3 phases in exchange for Israeli authorities releasing a larger number of prisoners and a pause in fighting for an extended period that would allow a surge of aid into Gaza. If the Malden city council wants to further endorse this current ceasefire proposal, that would be far better. I do strongly oppose an unconditional ceasefire resolution which would disrupt Israeli rescue operations and prolong the suffering of the hostages. While it's understandable that people want to voice their opinions on international issues, Malden's elected officials do not have much influence on the global stage. If our city's representatives choose to make an official stance on a foreign conflict, we must craft a message that most members of the Malden community would agree with. Endorsing the current ceasefire proposal which has been endorsed by our own president is far more productive than a calling for an unconditional ceasefire which is not even in consideration. As far as making sure our city's residents feel safe, I agree that is an important cause. However, public safety in Malden is a separate issue from making statements on foreign policies. We are continuing to urge you to please oppose an unconditional ceasefire resolution.

Thank you

Dave Gealekman & Lindsay Kipnis

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