

VOTE NO TO CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION!

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Dear Community Engagement & Inclusion Committee:

It seems that some of the city council members have already made up their minds to vote "for" the ceasefire resolution. What could be their reasons for doing so, possibly self-aggrandizement, possibly wanting to get ahead in politics and not caring about the aftermath because it won't personally affect them ... or maybe they simply like people on one side of the argument and dislike those on the other side. Or maybe they just like to foment division and then sit back and watch it fester and explode. If this describes you, no thanks for that.

It seems that some of them want to incite and pit one side against the other. Maybe they haven't lived in Malden for one whole generation, but, if I'm describing you, I gotta tell you ... this kind of behavior is so un-Malden. Additionally, I gotta tell you ... Malden has no need for your incitement, or for your instigating, or for your manipulating. If you recognize yourself here, then stop it ... and do better.

Or maybe you're thinking back to past wars and conflicts our country has fought. This current war in the Middle East is not like any of our past USA wars. The current fighting that we're referencing began because, after a history of centuries of conflict, war, and bloodshed, there was a sort of "warring peace" in Israel, meaning there was no actual peace but a state of "abnormal" that all Israelis knew all too well. But then suddenly and without warning, innocent people, living in a free nation, living their everyday lives ... men, women, children, babies were brutally slaughtered and kidnapped for no reason other than, well, hatred, I guess.

I'm not sure you understand that Israel's goal, what has always been Israel's goal, is peace. If tomorrow a ceasefire were to happen, there would be continued strife in that region ... people in Gaza would continue to be impoverished, hungry, and suffering while ruled by Hamas; and Israel would continue to be attacked and live in danger ... no improvement in Palestinian quality of life, no improvement in Israeli quality of life. However, if tomorrow Hamas were to surrender and return all the hostages, then tomorrow, as soon as tomorrow, there would be peace. Israel wants peace and has always wanted peace. Israel prays for peace but will respond only if she must.

Some of those on the council have professed sadness and concern ... hopefully, sincere sadness, sincere concern, but it's hard to be sure. Politicians can be really good at acting,

y'know?

And it was pretty clear where your sympathies lie when the last person to speak at the recent city council meeting, a woman speaking pro-ceasefire resolution, was allowed extra time that no other speaker was given. I don't know about anyone else who spoke that night, but I had a lot more to say yet was constrained by your 2-minute rule that I did respect and abide by.

The Malden4Palestine movement is asking for a resolution to stop crimes in Gaza. Perhaps you don't realize this, but a resolution approved in Malden, MA, in the United States of America will have no effect in the Middle East. This resolution in Malden is all for show, again probably for whomever is attempting to make a name for herself, himself, or themselves. The only results of the passing of this resolution will be divisiveness, heightened bigotry, hate, and hurt in a Malden that has not been divided in the past. If you want to have a meaningful resolution that both sides might agree on, then please allow me to suggest foregoing the word "ceasefire" and replacing it with "the surrender of Hamas." That word "ceasefire" needs to not be there. So call this resolution something else, or don't have it at all.

What needs to happen is the return of all hostages who are still alive, the return of all deceased hostages' bodies, and the complete surrender of Hamas. But, of course, this argument is taking place here in America and will have absolutely no bearing on what happens in Gaza. So what's the point of this resolution, other than inciting and making Maldonians, primarily Jewish Maldonians, miserable?

It's just not helpful to have the aforementioned resolution in our community. It will do nothing but further divide us, and it's just not "Malden" to do this. The deaths in Gaza would never have happened if not for Hamas who hides behind children and uses them as shields. Hamas is the cause. Hamas is to blame.

And what's the deal with the city council committee scheduling a meeting on a Jewish holiday, understanding fully well that devout members of the Jewish community would not be able to attend said meeting, yet making a point of not scheduling a meeting on a Muslim holiday so as to show respect? Respect for thee but not for me, eh? Really, City Council? Really? Hopefully this issue has been resolved by now. In the last council meeting one of the speakers said to you, Malden City Council, "Be careful ... your Islamophobia is showing." Well, I am now saying, "Be careful ... your anti-Semitism is showing."

One last thing ... when we discuss Israel, let us not forget that the Israeli people include Jews, Muslims, Christians and more, all diverse faiths living and working amongst themselves peacefully. A highly diverse area ... hmmm, kinda sounds like Malden, doesn't it?