

NO TO CEASEFIRE

Tina Weldai <trwadybug@aol.com>

Wed 6/12/2024 6:27 PM

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

Cc: Mayor Christenson <mayor@cityofmalden.org>; Carol Ann Desiderio <CDesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>

Councilors, Mayor, and City Clerk,

I am writing to reiterate that Malden is no place for a city council resolution regarding geopolitical conflicts. It should also be no place for Hate.

My feelings before the June 4 council meeting were that this type of resolution is most definitely not within the purview of a municipal body and therefore should never be put before the Malden city council. I felt certain that regardless of the language, such a resolution would only accomplish one thing - and my hope is that it is not the goal - to divide our city. My feelings after the June 4 council meeting were sadly confirmed.

It was horrifying to see the disdainful sneering and smirking of our neighbors, behind the backs of "certain" speakers from our community during public comment at the podium. It was incredibly disheartening to see the open taunting and rude gesturing by young people to their Jewish neighbors within the council chambers as well. All the while, some of their adults stood by without redirecting. Upon watching the recording of the June 4 meeting which was filmed from a different physical vantage, it was evident that there was additional blatant disrespect taking place. What I saw was appalling. This is just the beginning of the results of introducing this ceasefire resolution: encouraging and accepting antisemitic behavior.

I am also writing to you as a Malden teacher for over 20 years. I have experienced as well as witnessed antisemitic acts over those years. Typically, they would come from a parent and at times from a fellow teacher. One example is during my first year of teaching 1st grade, I was told by a set of parents that they did not want their child around "anything Jewish". I reported this to my principal who did nothing more than transfer the child to another classroom. Remember, the parents didn't want the child to be around anything Jewish. The situation was "handled" as if it were a simple transfer, without addressing or even acknowledging the antisemitism at the root of the issue. It was a rude awakening to realize how normal and inconsequential such an interaction appeared to be.

My point is that unfortunately, antisemitism has always been present, but it has been spreading like wildfire - especially post October 7, 2023. There is NO excuse for adding fuel to that fire, which is exactly what a proposed resolution has already begun to accomplish. It is NOT OK to claim that a proposed resolution for Malden is an act of kindness in recognizing one group of people, when it is at the expense of the safety of another. What I saw right in council chambers was emboldened and excused hateful behavior towards Jewish community members. !This should never be acceptable here in Malden! It is unconscionable that it is being relentlessly pushed onto our community from within the Malden City Council.

Malden is no place for hate! Let us NOT normalize it in any way in our community.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Tina Weldai
97 Hill St.

Malden, MA
781-264-1628