

The Council should focus on the City, not a ceasefire

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Dear Councilors,

Finding language for a ceasefire resolution that satisfies all of Malden's varied constituencies would be impossible. One of the wonderful things about Malden is that there are so many diverse ethnic and religious groups living side by side. Asking local leaders to choose a side in an incredibly complex international conflict -- which would have no bearing whatsoever on the result of that conflict -- will only inflame local tensions and turn friends against each other. It would also greatly increase the physical danger for residents of Malden, as highlighting this conflict will lead to normally peaceful people lashing out against those with whom they may disagree.

It is also highly inappropriate for our local City Council to issue a resolution on one particular international conflict when it has not done so for any of the dozens of other active conflicts around the globe. Why is the City of Malden not calling for a ceasefire in Haiti, or in Yemen, or in Sudan, or in Myanmar? "Why should we?," you ask? Exactly! You shouldn't. The job of the Malden City Council is to focus on issues that directly impact our residents, like the delay in yard waste pickup or the shortage of affordable properties. Making grand statements about complex events happening on the other side of the planet would only cause sadness and anger here at home.

As previously mentioned, a ceasefire resolution recently brought before the Brookline Town Meeting was tabled by a vote of 181-42-10 because everyone agreed that it did not belong on the town docket. That was a proper action. We have enough problems to focus on already, we don't need to go looking for more.

If for some inexplicable reason it is decided that a ceasefire resolution is necessary, it must make clear that responsibility for the current war in Gaza lies entirely with Hamas. The terrorists of Hamas started this war by breaking a previous ceasefire, massacring over 1200 civilians, and kidnapping over 250 more, including citizens of more than 20 different countries. The leaders of Hamas have clearly and repeatedly stated in media interviews that they intend to repeat the massacre at the first opportunity. If they would release their hostages and lay

down their weapons, the war would end at that moment.

It would be infinitely preferable, however, for the City Council to stay in its lane and focus on improving conditions for residents of the city we all love.

I strongly oppose any resolution relating to the war in Gaza and urge the Committee and the Council to focus on addressing our local issues here at home.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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