

From: [Matthew Garland](#)
To: [Peg Crowe](#); [Paul Condon](#); [Amanda Linehan](#); [Ryan O'Malley](#); [Ari Taylor](#); [Jadeane Sica](#); [Stephen Winslow](#); [Chris Simonelli](#); [Craig Spadafora](#); [Carey McDonald](#); [Karen Colón Hayes](#)
Cc: [Mayor Christenson](#); [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Ceasefire resolution update
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 4:41:09 PM

Dear Councilors,

In advance of the committee meeting, I would like to address new developments related to this issue.

On Monday, June 10, the US brought a ceasefire resolution to the United Nation Security Council, which passed 14-1, calling on Israel and Hamas to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition.

The AP [reported](#) (emphasis added):

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield reiterated, however, that Israel has accepted the cease-fire deal, which is supported by countries around the world.

The resolution's adoption, she said, "sent a clear message to Hamas to accept the cease-fire deal on the table."

"The fighting could stop today, if Hamas would do the same," Thomas-Greenfield told the council. "I repeat, this fighting could stop today."

I ask again, what is the purpose of the City Council getting involved in this conflict? The stated goal has been accomplished; the President has pushed the Israeli government to accept extreme concessions that could potentially lead to Hamas remaining in power with military capabilities, which will lead to another round of this in 5 - 10 years. The ball is in Hamas' court. A resolution from the City will not stop anyone from dying. It will not cause anyone to stop fighting.

This is a [video posted to Instagram](#) from yesterday. In New York, this mob of antisemites boarded a subway train and chanted "Raise your hand if you're a Zionist. This is your chance to get out." Sure, they said "zionist", and not "Jew". But do you think I would have been safe sitting there, wearing my yarmulke?

Shortly before that a large crowd of pro-Hamas protesters surrounded the Nova exhibit, which is dedicated to showing what happened on October 7 at the massacre of the Nova Music Festival, and yelled "Long live the intifada!"

Also yesterday, a Chabad Rabbi was violently assaulted on UCLA campus.

Richie Torres [tweeted a video](#) on June 8 of a pro-Hamas protest near the White House, in which protesters were chanting "Hezbollah, Hezbollah, Kill another Zionist now".

I know you may have thought I was being hyperbolic when I said that a ceasefire resolution endangers the Jewish community, but I was not. For the past 2,000 years, whether we have been in Christian countries or Muslim countries, Jews have had periods of welcome and prosperity, and periods of massacres and expulsions. Almost every Jew who is alive today is the descendant of the Jews who said "I'm getting a bad feeling about this place, we need to get

out of here."

Antisemitism in America has been slowly rising for a decade, growing faster under each subsequent president. And it is far more open now than before. When the governments show a lack of support for Israel and the Jews, antisemites feel like they can get away with whatever they want. And it's not just at the federal level; local governments have a very strong impact on how people relate within their cities.

As I mentioned to Councillor Colon-Hayes, the Jewish community feels extremely disrespected by having this meeting on our holiday. We understand it was a mistake, and when I thought that the meeting could not be changed, I was willing to accept that and move forward. However, I must represent the needs of my community. Knowing that the meeting could have been rescheduled, but isn't, is in some ways more disrespectful to my community. I understand the desire to resolve the issue before the summer recess, and I am told that the Muslim community feels disrespected by not having met with the mayor, but neither of those are compelling reasons to blatantly disrespect a part of the Malden community that has been around for 120 years.

Not allowing public comments is small comfort, and stating that another meeting will be scheduled for 6/18, during the Muslim holiday, is no comfort, since many things could come up that would prevent that meeting from taking place. If the stated goal of the council is to prevent further damage to the community and to lead to healing, dialogue, and coming together, this action of meeting on anyone's holiday has the opposite effect. It causes hard feelings and divisiveness, and makes it harder to get people together.

My request to postpone the committee meeting until both groups can attend at the same time has been denied, and so I request in the strongest terms that the committee, and the council at large, take my other words to heart, and recognize the damage that is being done, and will be done, if the committee focuses on finding a palatable "ceasefire" resolution instead of leaving international geopolitics to the appropriate levels of government and focusing on addressing the local issues of hatred and discrimination.

Thank you,

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