

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:49:43 PM

My name is Janet Taksa. I am a Jew and an Albany resident. My husband and I are deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. We are in fact about to travel to Israel this coming Friday to learn more and to better understand what is a complex situation, difficult to assess from a distance and impossible to comprehend using the kind of information which we find among the shrill voices here in the streets and at city council meetings.

We who live in Albany did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power and the return of the hostages as a condition for any cease fire. The return of the hostages is simple justice. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against us.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds, including me and my family. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Taksa

Sent from my iPad

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution and Add Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:15:27 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. While killing civilians anywhere is problematic, the situation in the Middle East is complicated, has deep roots, and any resolution passed in Albany will alienate and hurt local residents while doing nothing to improve the situation in Gaza or Israel. Leave international politics to people who are better informed, and do what you can to support and make safe and welcome all residents of Albany. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews, has stated this aim in its founding charter, and has publicly declared an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sophia Lehmann

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for the ceasefire resolution
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:17:44 PM

Dear members of the Albany City Council subcommittee of a ceasefire resolution,

As an Albany resident, I am greatly concerned with the suffering of the people of Gaza and the impact this is having on our community. My taxes are being used to unconditionally support Israel's killing of the people of Gaza. Many of us have friends or family members from the region, and witnessing their suffering that we pay for is having a detrimental effect on our mental health. Palestinian community members and their supporters are worried about repercussions for speaking out. Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian bigotry and anti-semitism is a growing concern.

I thank you for taking on the drafting of a ceasefire resolution. I urge you to pass a resolution such as the one below, one that in no way demonizes Palestinians or feeds into mainstreamed Islamophobic narratives that seek to justify their genocide under the guise of "Israel's right to self-defense". Please bring the ceasefire resolution to vote as soon as possible. The people of Gaza are now dying from starvation. The President and congressional leaders are not listening to the majority of Americans who are demanding an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and the unrestricted passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Passing this resolution may help to build pressure on our leaders to stop this carnage. It cannot wait.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DEVOTE ALL OF ITS EFFORTS AND POWER TO BRING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, AND THE IMMEDIATE EXPANSION OF ADEQUATE FOOD, WATER, ELECTRICITY AND MEDICAL AID FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

WHEREAS, the Albany City Council hears and feels deeply the pain of its community caused by the violence in Israel and Gaza; and

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the City of Albany has a long and proud history of standing on the side of peace, and affirming our commitment to speak against injustice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany condemns the rise of antisemitic, Islamophobic, anti-Arab and other racist and xenophobic attacks in our community, our region and throughout our world; and

WHEREAS, rising fear and anxiety over the loss of life and peace in Israel and Palestine has caused community members to feel silenced, unwelcome and unsafe in the spaces they live and work; and

WHEREAS, over 1,200 citizens in Israel and over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, with over two-thirds of those Palestinians being children and women, violence has already claimed the lives of too many Israelis and Palestinians, and wounded too many more; and

WHEREAS, millions of Gazans lives are at imminent risk if Israeli attacks and blockades continue, if a ceasefire is not achieved and basic human needs are not made available immediately; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.7 million people in Gaza, nearly 75 percent of the population, are estimated to be forcibly displaced and facing infected wounds and disease as they live in unsafe, unhealthy, and deplorable conditions; and

WHEREAS, many international humanitarian organizations, including Amnesty International, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, have made urgent calls to end the violence and prevent the further loss of life of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the urgency of the crisis, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a preliminary ruling in the case brought by South Africa against Israel, stating that it has found South Africa has made a “plausible case” of genocide and on the basis of this has ordered Israel to take immediate action pursuant to legally binding “provisional measures” to stop the genocide; and

WHEREAS, the government of the United States, being uniquely positioned diplomatically, militarily and economically as a world power, has to date not sufficiently used its influence to end the hostilities or address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Albany does hereby support:

An immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire by all parties;

An immediate end to all acts of violence against all civilians;

Unrestricted delivery of humanitarian assistance, restoring the amounts of fuel, food, water, electricity, medical supplies, and other goods required to sustain life for the people of Gaza;

Unconditional release of all hostages, both Israeli and Palestinian;

Begin through diplomacy a reinvigorated effort that seeks a permanent, just solution to the conflict and lasting peace in the region; and

In general, for the United States government to respect and adhere to international law, most especially in adhering to the judgment of the International Court of Justice, and for the United States to use its best efforts to move Israel toward the same respect and adherence to international law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to President Joe Biden, and to Vice President Kamala Harris, invoking them to act to end the Israeli attack on Gaza and act to expedite the resumption of unimpeded delivery of fuel, water, food, medicines and medical equipment, and all other material goods necessary to sustain life to the people of Gaza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to the offices of Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, to State Senator Nancy Skinner, to Governor Gavin Newsom, to US Congresswoman Barbara Lee, to US Senator Laphonza Butler, and to US Senator Alex Padilla, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end the violence and deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Albany on this ____ day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Our resolution
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:47:05 PM

Dear Albany City council:

I hope by now you have seen our counter resolution that calls attention to the real actions that we need to end the war in order to get a ceasefire. Please let me know what has to transpire in order for the City council to consider this resolution. I would like to know what the procedure might be to have this put on the agenda, because I don't know of any law that says it cannot be considered along with your resolution that was written by Mayor Miki and Mr. Tiedemann who originally decided that a resolution should be written. I hope that you are open to other ideas.

I am opposed to all resolutions that have to do with foreign affairs, and hope that you will vote against the one that Mayor Miki and Mr. Tiedemann submitted with the idea that it speaks for all.

Foreign affairs are not your area of expertise, or the job for which you were elected. But since you decided to use City time and money on this issue, I think that you would also consider one that emanated from other citizens and one that has 109 signatures.

Thanks.

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Dorothea Dorenz

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: The upcoming "Ceasefire Resolution"
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 11:07:53 PM

Dear Albany city council. I've been writing and meeting with you to urge you not to take up the issue of the Israel Hamas war at all, with the concern that it will only lead to more divisiveness. I want to really acknowledge the hard and humble work of the Mayor Miki and Council Member Tiedemann in both the process and crafting of this resolution -- it is clear that you have genuinely tried to hear out and balance extremely divergent perspectives within the community.

Nevertheless, writing on behalf of well over 30 Albany residents that are part of the Jewish Coalition of Berkeley, there are still a number of points that our Jewish and Israeli community finds very troubling. Quite honestly, the biggest problem with the resolution as proposed is its title. A "Ceasefire" is nothing but a tactical aim within war, and frankly both sides to the current conflict clearly view it as a platform to continue the battle when the time suits them. What all of us really want and what is actually spelled out in the resolution is the hope for a process that can lead to long-term peace and security.

I therefore urge you to change the title to: **A Resolution Calling for a Cessation of Hostilities in Israel-Gaza, Leading to Long-Term Peace and Security for All**

In addition, any clear-eyed person sees that such a process requires removing Hamas from power and I therefore ask you to include such a call as well.

Finally I object to the seeming equivocation between Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, a large number of whom are convicted murderers, and urge you to edit: "the release of those prisoners who were not convicted in trial of violent crimes against civilians."

Thank you very much,
Itamar Landau

--

Itamar Landau

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Advocacy for immediate ceasefire
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:20:15 PM

Dear members of the Albany City Council.

As an educator in Albany, I am worried about the impact that the war on Gaza has/ continues to have on the psyche of the children of Albany. Though I am not a resident, I have taught in Albany for 10 years and formed relationships with many students and families. As such, I consider myself a stakeholder in the community. Numerous students have friends or family members from the region, and witnessing their suffering is having a detrimental effect on their relationships and friendships, even at an elementary school level. Writing this email, I am concerned about how my advocacy to END the murder of Palestinian civilians and to release all Israeli hostages will be treated as hostile, radical, and/or not my place as a teacher. On the contrary, as a teacher, mother, and human being, I believe it is my duty to send this email even if it will have damaging effects to my reputation. I will not stand for the dehumanization of ANY group of people and my priority is always peace, safety, keeping families together, access to food, shelter, medical care-- and of course education for all youth!

In Albany, we teach about kindness, equity and justice. We teach about being upstanders to those who require assistance. We teach that sometimes, often, it is uncomfortable to do the right thing. So in the face of this devastating reality, the only just solution is an immediate ceasefire to this carnage.

I stand with Albany residents in demanding an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and the unrestricted passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Passing this resolution may help to build pressure on our leaders to stop this war. It cannot wait.

Thank you.

Here is a suggested template:

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DEVOTE ALL OF ITS EFFORTS AND POWER TO BRING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, AND THE IMMEDIATE EXPANSION OF ADEQUATE FOOD, WATER, ELECTRICITY AND MEDICAL AID FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

WHEREAS, the Albany City Council hears and feels deeply the pain of its community caused by the violence in Israel and Gaza; and

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the City of Albany has a long and proud history of

standing on the side of peace, and affirming our commitment to speak against injustice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany condemns the rise of antisemitic, Islamophobic, anti-Arab and other racist and xenophobic attacks in our community, our region and throughout our world; and

WHEREAS, rising fear and anxiety over the loss of life and peace in Israel and Palestine has caused community members to feel silenced, unwelcome and unsafe in the spaces they live and work; and

WHEREAS, over 1,200 citizens in Israel and over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, with over two-thirds of those Palestinians being children and women, violence has already claimed the lives of too many Israelis and Palestinians, and wounded too many more; and

WHEREAS, millions of Gazans lives are at imminent risk if Israeli attacks and blockades continue, if a ceasefire is not achieved and basic human needs are not made available immediately; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.7 million people in Gaza, nearly 75 percent of the population, are estimated to be forcibly displaced and facing infected wounds and disease as they live in unsafe, unhealthy, and deplorable conditions; and

WHEREAS, many international humanitarian organizations, including Amnesty International, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, have made urgent calls to end the violence and prevent the further loss of life of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, the government of the United States, being uniquely positioned diplomatically, militarily and economically as a world power, has to date not sufficiently used its influence to end the hostilities or address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Albany does hereby support:

An immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire by all parties;

An immediate end to all acts of violence against all civilians;

Unrestricted delivery of humanitarian assistance, restoring the amounts of fuel, food, water, electricity, medical supplies, and other goods required to sustain life for the people of Gaza;

Unconditional release of all hostages, both Israeli and Palestinian;

Begin through diplomacy a reinvigorated effort that seeks a permanent, just solution to the conflict and lasting peace in the region; and

In general, for the United States government to respect and adhere to international law, most especially in adhering to the judgment of the International Court of Justice, and for the United States to use its best efforts to move Israel toward the same respect and adherence to international law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to President Joe Biden, and to Vice President Kamala Harris, invoking them to act to end the Israeli attack on Gaza

and act to expedite the resumption of unimpeded delivery of fuel, water, food, medicines and medical equipment, and all other material goods necessary to sustain life to the people of Gaza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to the offices of Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, to State Senator Nancy Skinner, to Governor Gavin Newsom, to US Congresswoman Barbara Lee, to US Senator Laphonza Butler, and to US Senator Alex Padilla, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end the violence and deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Albany on this ____ day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

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Izzy Cohen

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc:
Subject: Support for the ceasefire resolution
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:36:38 PM

Dear members of the Albany City Council:

As Albany residents, and as a Jewish household, we are greatly concerned with the suffering of the people of Gaza and the impact this is having on our community. Many of us have friends or family members from the region, and witnessing their suffering that we pay for is having a detrimental effect on our mental health. Palestinian community members and their supporters are worried about repercussions for speaking out. Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian bigotry and anti-semitism is a growing concern.

We want to thank you for taking on the drafting of a ceasefire resolution. **We urge you to pass the resolution before you**, and ensure that if any changes are made, that it in no way demonizes Palestinians or feeds into mainstreamed Islamophobic narratives that seek to justify their genocide under the guise of "Israel's right to self-defense". The people of Gaza are now dying from starvation. The President and congressional leaders are not listening to the majority of Americans who are demanding an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and the unrestricted passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Passing this resolution may help to build pressure on our leaders to stop this carnage. It cannot wait.

Thank you.

Max Gara and Anita Kumar
Residents of Albany, CA

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:27:30 AM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Dorothea Dorenz

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Re: Ad Hoc Israel Resolution Committee
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 10:17:14 PM

Hello Mayor Miki and City Council,

I just learned that you have drafted an Israel resolution for vote tomorrow. It is very disappointing that you are doing this based on reacting to the loudest voices in the city council chambers without considering what city residents actually think. I suggest extensive polling of constituents before suggesting a vote on this. As I mentioned in my previous communications, a city passing an international geopolitical resolution is a very dangerous and irresponsible precedent. Instead focus on the hate that is manifesting in Albany. It isn't half way around the world. It is right here!!! Your city!!!

It is not too late to denounce the hate that has occurred in Albany over this issue (bullying and assault on pro-Israel protesters, bullying of Jewish students, and anti-semitic graffiti). Mayor Miki told me in person he wished he spoke out about this, but you all still have an ability to do something now. In fact it is your responsibility as civic leaders. Read my original email in this thread for tangible and appropriate action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Judd

PS - Please realize that many in our community work and have parenting duties at 4 pm on a Monday. Myself included.

On Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 4:28 PM Judd Goodman wrote:

<https://www.ajc.org/news/what-you-need-to-know-about-israels-humanitarian-aid-to-gaza>

On Sun, Mar 17, 2024 at 8:17 PM Judd Goodman wrote:

Hi John,

I just listened to this podcast last night and recommend it to you and potentially Councilman Tiedemann. Part 1 is good too.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2OVvcajJCc0hoGnV0CYpcc?si=0zuPdKFMQs-GGH3v03CMEA>

I find that it helps put this conflict in context. Let me know if you would like to discuss

after listening. A good one for washing dishes to :)

If you have draft language to share, then I would appreciate reviewing it.

Best Regards,
Judd

On Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 8:43 AM Judd Goodman wrote:

Hi John,

Thank you for meeting me on Monday! We covered a lot.

As follow up, I look forward to talking with the City Manager and Police Chief about lessons learned from the 1/6/24 Albany/El Cerrito Ceasefire Now march.

For all the reasons I mentioned in person and in my email message, just say no to a divisive Israel resolution. If you absolutely have to have one, which I think is a big mistake with dangerous precedent, then you must know the following:

Anything short of condemning Hamas and calling for their removal from power would be divisive and disrespectful to me and my community.

Please do strongly consider my suggested action items laid out in my original email. If you have questions about them, then do not hesitate to reach out. It is not too late to denounce the hate that has occurred in Albany.

If you have a list of individuals in our community who have been directly impacted by the war (e.g., family and friends killed, injured, kidnapped) on any side, please let me know so I can write them a personal letter of support. So many are in mourning right now and we need to let them know that the community does care, even if we do not agree on everything.

Lastly, my friends are strong advocates for this organization to raise awareness about suicide and mental health. I would be happy to reach out to them and see if we can have a local night walk. Is this something you would be interested in?

<https://www.theovernight.org/>

Best,
Judd
714 552 5324

On Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 12:22 PM John Miki wrote:

Judd,

Look forward to speaking with you later today.

John

From:

Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 at 11:57 AM

To: John Miki

Subject: Re: Ad Hoc Israel Resolution Committee

My cell # is 714 552 5324 in case you need to reach me.

Best,

Judd

On Sun, Mar 10, 2024 at 10:24 PM Judd Goodman wrote:

I will plan to see you at Everest Kitchen at 5 on Monday. See you tomorrow.
Thanks!

Best,

Judd

On Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 11:23 AM John Mik wrote:

Judd,

I can meet ant 5 any where in Albany. We can meet over coffee or tea, most of the coffee shops are closed by 5 but we could try at Chez Mansour, or Everest Kitchen.

John

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM, Judd Goodman wrote:

Hi Again.

Can you meet at 5 pm on Monday? Where is convenient?

Best,

Judd

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 2:27 PM Judd Goodman wrote:

Hello John,

Yes, I can meet Monday afternoon. I am figuring out logistics now for what exact time.

Thank you for reaching out.

Best,

Judd

714 552 5324

On Wed, Mar 6, 2024 at 9:20 PM John Miki
wrote:

Judd,

Thank you for writing to us. I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of this email. I would appreciate an opportunity to follow up with you.

I can meet next week on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday in the afternoon between 3 and 5pm. If weekdays are harder, I can also meet on Sunday anytime between 11 am and 4pm.

Please let me know if you would like to meet and if one of these times might work.

John

From:

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 1:47 AM

To: citycouncil

Subject: [Ad Hoc Israel Resolution Committee](#)

Hello Albany City Council (particularly Mayor Miki and Councilmember Tiedemann),

I am a Cornell Elementary dad. This letter is in response to your decision tonight to create an Ad Hoc International Geopolitical Committee of Middle East Peace and Conflict Studies for our small City on the opposite side of the globe!?!? After watching the council meeting, my heart aches.

I want to urge you to no longer tolerate hate in our lovely community. To anyone. Any color. Any religion. Any nationality. I witnessed firsthand the ugly antisemitism that took place during the 1/6/24 Albany/El Cerrito Ceasefire Now march and protest. While a minority of the Pro-Palestinian protesters were the troublemakers, none of them intervened to stop it. They let it happen. It was not safe for the Pro-Israel protesters, who were actually all trying to keep to their own space separate from the larger protest. I would be happy to share my personal experience with you in person if you wish to learn more.

I realize this incident, as well as the abundant anti-Jewish graffiti around town, may seem small relative to war in the Middle East. However, these incidents are happening in our City and as council members this is what you must be focused on. You cannot ignore it any longer! Focusing on the other side of the world only puts blinders to what is happening right here in Albany!

In partnership, here are my recommendations for appropriate future City actions:

1. Develop safety measures for future free speech. Base it on lessons learned from the aggression, bullying, and assault that occurred by pro-Palestinian protesters on 1/6/24 and others like it like on UC Berkeley campus last week.
2. Acknowledge that hate acts occurred by some pro-Palestinian protesters on 1/6/24 and denounce it.
3. Educate the public about anti-semitism in our community so that when they see it, they can recognize it and know what to do about it. Empower us all to help the Police keep neighborhoods safe.
4. Keep it local. No resolution on Israel. Don't divide this strong community and distract from solving important city

issues.

These are things you can tangibly accomplish as leaders to help the community.

Considering an Israel resolution will only:

- divide our diverse and strong community.
- distract from, and has nothing to do with, important local issues and the core function of city government.
- breed unnecessary hate;
- encourage those compassionate for all to choose a side;
- waste everyone's time and energy (I am not the only one losing sleep tonight);
- bring bad publicity;
- be insensitive to many in our community who have horrifically lost family and friends at the hands of Hamas;
- will isolate Israeli, Pro-Israel, and Jewish students, families, and teachers, who are valuable community members.

Many of our neighbors support a ceasefire resolution without denouncing Hamas or release of the kidnapped (including women forced to become sex toys for Hamas terrorists, not to mention babies). Some neighbors hate Zionists and Jews simply because of their identity. I know because I met them on 1/6/24. Many others are well meaning and have good hearts, but are confused in what will bring peace. A world with Hamas terrorists in power has proven to not bring peace. Instead it brings rape, torture, mass burning of children alive, babies killed in ovens, mutilation of women, an education of hate to Palestinian children, and neglect of the Gazan people. Regrettably, the radical anti-semites have manipulated the well-intentioned to think otherwise. The brilliant Palestinian plan to capture the pliable minds of Americans, particularly in college and in media, was laid out and documented 25 years ago. I plead the City Council not fall into the trap and exacerbate the problem.

Please end this painful exercise now and focus on local governance. You have created more distraction and waste for yourselves and you know it. You could not even complete your city council agenda tonight after going off the rails with this issue. This only demonstrates that the decision to consider a resolution has already impeded your ability to govern. From day 0 minute 0 of this initiative you have proven that you do not have the bandwidth for this, nor should you. It is not your

responsibility to take on.

Thank You for your consideration and for your commitment to our community.

Best Regards!

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public comment from Peter Bernhardt on March 25, 2024 special meeting, agenda item 3.1 Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 10:56:36 PM

Dear Council Members,

On Tuesday, March 12th, I and seven other members of the Albany community met with Mayor Miki and Council Member Tiedemann to discuss their work pursuant to drafting a resolution calling for a bilateral ceasefire in Gaza. Together, we reviewed the a draft resolution that Council Member Tiedemann had prepared and provided feedback and suggestions for improving the text of the resolution, summarized in an email sent to the subcommittee on March 15th from Zainab Hossainzadeh writing on behalf of our group, and including specific requests for changes to the resolution.

Having read the text of the resolution up for discussion at tomorrow's special meeting, I was disappointed to find that only a few minor changes that we requested were implemented in the resolution.

Resolution 2024-16 reads as the product of an impotent and ahistorical neutrality, taking great pains to avoid critical matters of fact, so much so that it would be impossible to know from reading this resolution who is on the brink of annihilation and who is responsible for it. In your effort to accommodate those who never wanted this topic discussed in the first place, you have neutered its impact.

I urge you to rethink this approach and make the following improvements towards clarity and focus.

First, add this clause to the resolution so the uninformed reader might have some clue as to why there is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

WHEREAS, recognizing the urgency of the crisis, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a preliminary ruling in the case brought by South Africa against Israel, stating that it has found South Africa has made a "plausible case" of genocide and on the basis of this has ordered Israel to take immediate action pursuant to legally binding "provisional measures" to protect the citizens of Gaza from genocide; and

Also, revise the clause at line 26 on page 2 as follows so our elected leaders understand that our community does not accept their complicity in genocide.

WHEREAS, the government of the United States, being uniquely positioned diplomatically, militarily and economically, has vetoed three separate ceasefire resolutions in the United Nations Security Council, and has supplied weapons to Israel that are used to kill civilians in Gaza in violation of both international and domestic law.

The United States recently presented a resolution to the UNSC, which was vetoed by Russia and China. This was not a serious ceasefire resolution (see <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15637.doc.htm> and the statement from the representative from Guyana here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwidJXehAMc>), but it does show that our government is starting to bend to diplomatic pressure and why it is vitally important that we urge them to adopt the global consensus for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

Our resolution must also call out our government's role as the primary supplier of weapons to Israel. Writing in the March 6, 2024 edition of the Washington Post, John Hudson describes how the Biden administration has circumvented Congress to escalate delivery of weapons to Israel while it conducts its assault on Gaza.

"The United States has quietly approved and delivered more than 100 separate foreign military sales to Israel since the Gaza war began Oct. 7, amounting to thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker busters, small arms and other lethal aid, U.S. officials told members of Congress in a recent classified briefing."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/03/06/us-weapons-israel-gaza/>

So, we learn that in addition to billions of dollars in military and economic aid we provide Israel every year, the Biden administration has seen fit to surreptitiously deliver even more weapons to Israel as it commits genocide in Gaza. We cannot waive it away with our hand as something of no consequence or hide it with ambiguous language.

Finally, and importantly, this resolution is an appeal to OUR elected officials in California and Washington, D.C., exhorting them as state and federal policymakers to end this crisis. To maximize the impact of this resolution and have it stand as a serious document, change the final clause on page 3 to add Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, and remove all references to officials of foreign governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor of California

Gavin Newsom, U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. President Joe Biden, and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to negotiate an end to the violence in Gaza.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Bernhardt

m: peter.bernhardt@gmail.com

p: 925/263-9263

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Please- No Cease Fire Resolution
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:02:31 AM

Dear Council Members,

Until now, Albany has been a safe haven against the vitriol and hate that resulted in other communities that proposed such resolutions. As an Albany resident, I am deeply concerned about how the harassment and violence against Jews will spill into this community. As a Jew, my family and I feel threatened and unwelcome in other cities that have taken these steps. Predictably, the council meeting will be filled with people passionately advocating for passage, yet most of them will not be from Albany. Instead, they seek to advance a global agenda be spewing hate and misinformation that they openly and publicly have expressed at other council meetings. It has nothing to do with Albany.

Everyone can agree that it is a horrible situation in Gaza that we all pray will end. It could end instantly if Hanas would release the hostages. However this resolution will play no part in achieving this goal and, instead, will only sow division, intimidation and hatred that we clearly see happening elsewhere. Please keep Albany the safe, loving and accepting place always been and not one that will be polarized by this resolution.

Darren J. Kessler

Email: DarrenJKessler@gmail.com

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution for Albany
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:00:18 AM
Attachments: [image000000.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2393.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2391.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2374.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2392.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2373.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2386.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2387.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2388.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2375.jpeg](#)
[IMG_2389.jpeg](#)

Hi City Council members,

Below is an email I sent to the subcommittee on a Ceasefire Resolution, including photos of Albany businesses who are enthusiastically supportive of an end to the atrocities against Palestinians. I extend it for your consideration as well, in advance of the meeting today. I added a few phrases, in italics.

Mayor and Councilman,

You're welcome for the pictures. It's important for you to understand the level of support this cause is building. I'm wondering if you saw any pictures or news about the interfaith pilgrimage that happened yesterday from sunrise to sunset, from North Berkeley to Alameda? There were a number of faith leaders involved, representing all walks of life.

Are you still seeing the atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank? They haven't stopped. They are escalating. But we hear less and less because so many people have been killed by israel. Have you heard about the mass rapes, executions and violence at Al Shifa Hospital? The decomposing children found in the rubble? The soldiers posting horrendous acts on social media?

Is it a natural state to your minds that Palestinians should be skin and bones, orphaned, disabled, starving??

It's disappointing that the subcommittee didn't meet with more pro ceasefire people (*two meetings, to our knowledge, out of a dozen*). It doesn't show fairness. The new resolution shows this lack. It shows a perturbing lack of awareness of the scale, depth and urgency at hand. I doubt you have watched any of the material or social media accounts I've sent.

The resolution is clearly skewed to appease those who believe their violence is justified. They have bullied us into fear and silence for a long time. It seems that their tactics are working on

you. Tell the truth. They will be mad either way. Don't let their fear of a hypothetical genocide allow you to make concessions for an actual genocide to continue.

I took your word that you would add in the ICJ clauses, *including its significant findings on the unfolding genocide*. It takes little moral courage to call this what it is. There is no lack of evidence, unless one actively avoids it. Don't omit key context.

The US just passed a law saying that we would deny aid to Palestine if they tried to charge genocide. Who would pass such a law unless they were guilty? (*adding links to news articles from different viewpoints [here](#) and [here](#).*)

I'm hoping at tomorrow's meeting you can find courage enough to do this very minor, enragingly delayed action: call for a ceasefire and call it what it is. It is genocide. I understand your wish for peace. Peace can't happen without truth or justice. We cannot skip any steps, or next time it will be even worse.

Amber Yada
Albany, CA



AV
ERRIES
PANTZZ
+ MORE
Y BAND
SALUTE
PACIFICO
EST DJS
OKERS
(C)
UO
ATELLITES
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THE DETAILS
+ JILL SOBULE
MMY'S CAMARO
KASSI VALAZZA
E DOOR?)
21+
ONLINE
DOM.COM

**NOTHING
JUSTIFIES
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMXN**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**
SILENCE = VIOLENCE

IVY ROOM
GIPSY CERTIFICATE
AVAILABLE
AT THE BAR

*Proud to be a
WOMAN OWNED
& OPERATED
Small Business*

ALBANY
for a
PERMANENT
CEASEFIRE
NOW!
GET INVOLVED
& LEARN MORE

MR. HAT
**SMOKED
OUT SOUL**
FRIDAY MAY 10 | IVY ROOM ALBANY | 8 PM
MRHATPRESENTS.COM

ALLY OF
ALL RACES
ALL RELIGIONS
ALL COUNTRIES
OF ORIGIN
ALL SEXUAL
ORIENTATIONS
ALL GENDERS
I STAND WITH YOU
YOU ARE
WELCOME



ALBANY

for a
PERMANENT
CEASEFIRE
NOW!



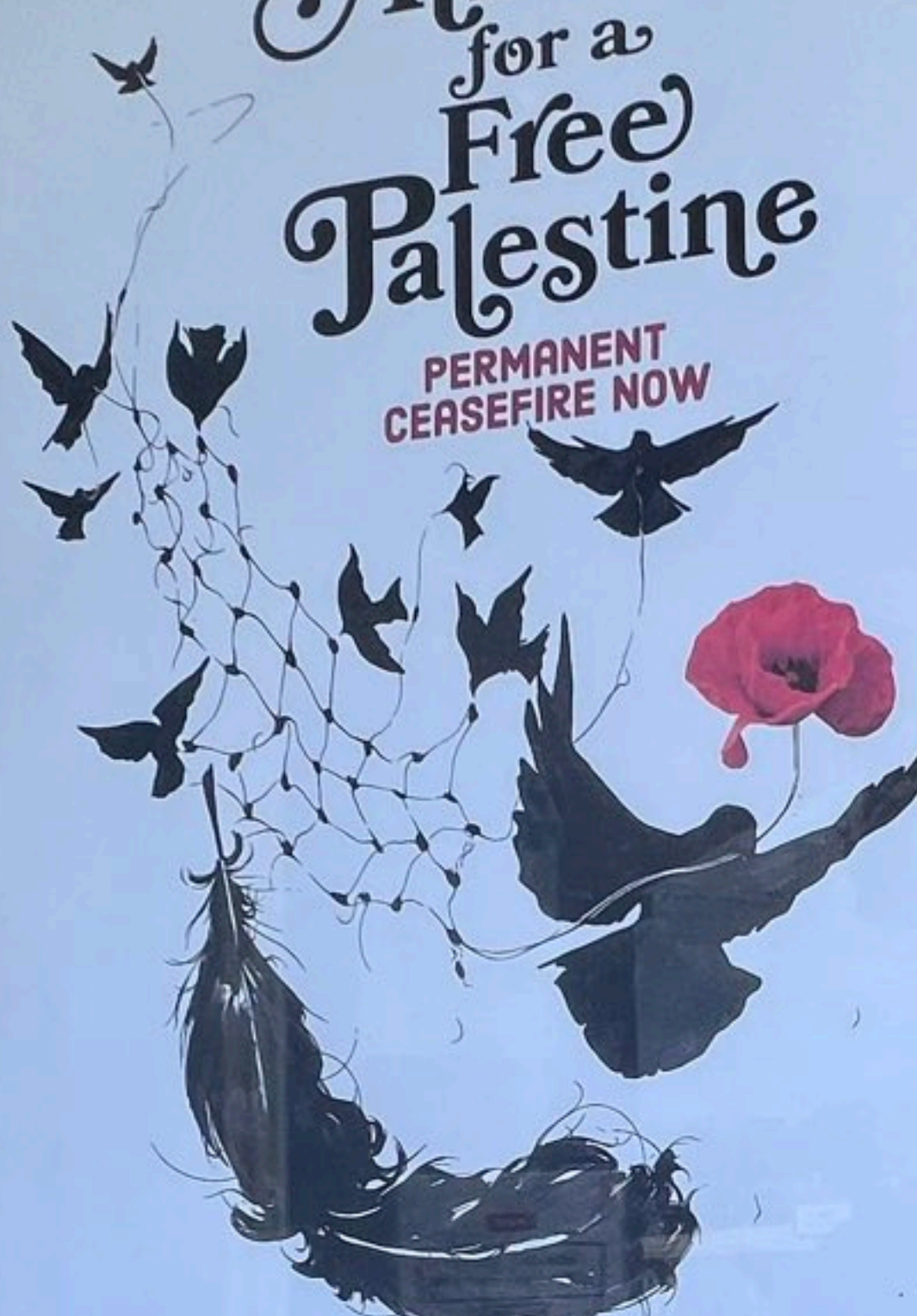
GET INVOLVED
& LEARN MORE

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Free
Palestine

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ORDER HERE



Scan to order

CONTACT FREE

Scan to order

Order & Pay

Pickup

FROM NEW YORK
with LOVE

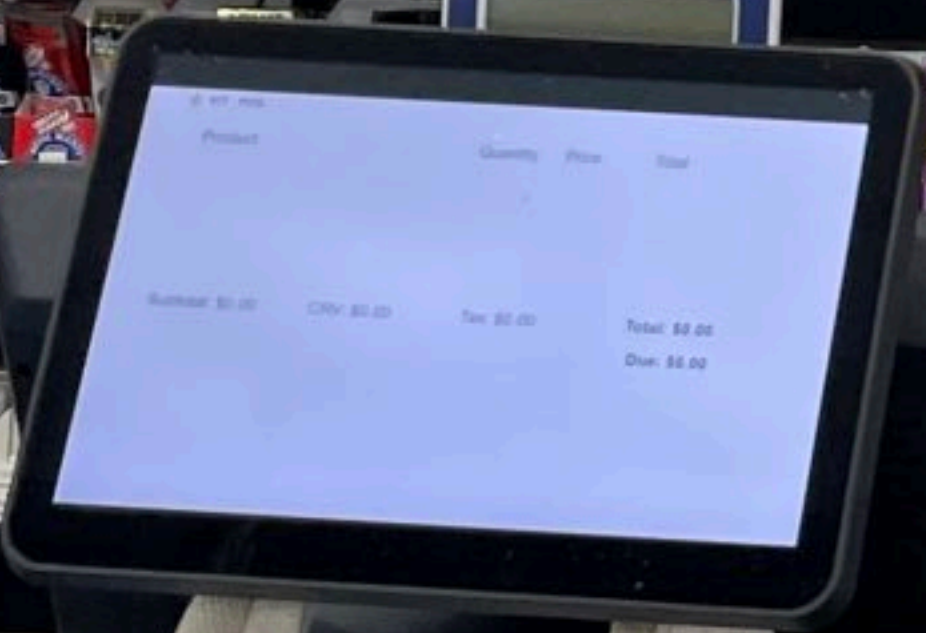
iSLICE





PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SHOW I.D.
NO ONE UNDER 21 WILL BE SERVED

ALBANY
FOR A
PERMANENT
CEASE
FIRE
NOW!
GET INVOLVED
& LEARN MORE



NO REFUND
AFTER SALE

FREE
Palestine



STRICTLY

records

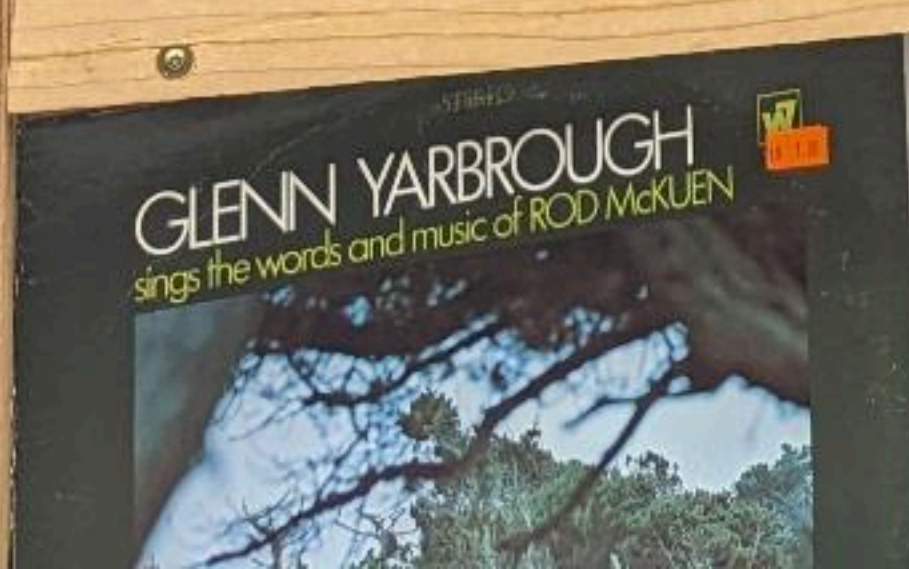
KUSF.ORG
ROCK 'N SWAP
SF'S LARGEST RECORD FAIR!
SUNDAY APR 7
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
\$3 GEN ADMISSION (AFTER 10:00 AM)
\$20 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL (7:00 TO 10:00 AM)
FREE WITH ANY \$20+ TICKET
USF CAMPUS
MCLAREN CENTER
2130 FULTON ST.

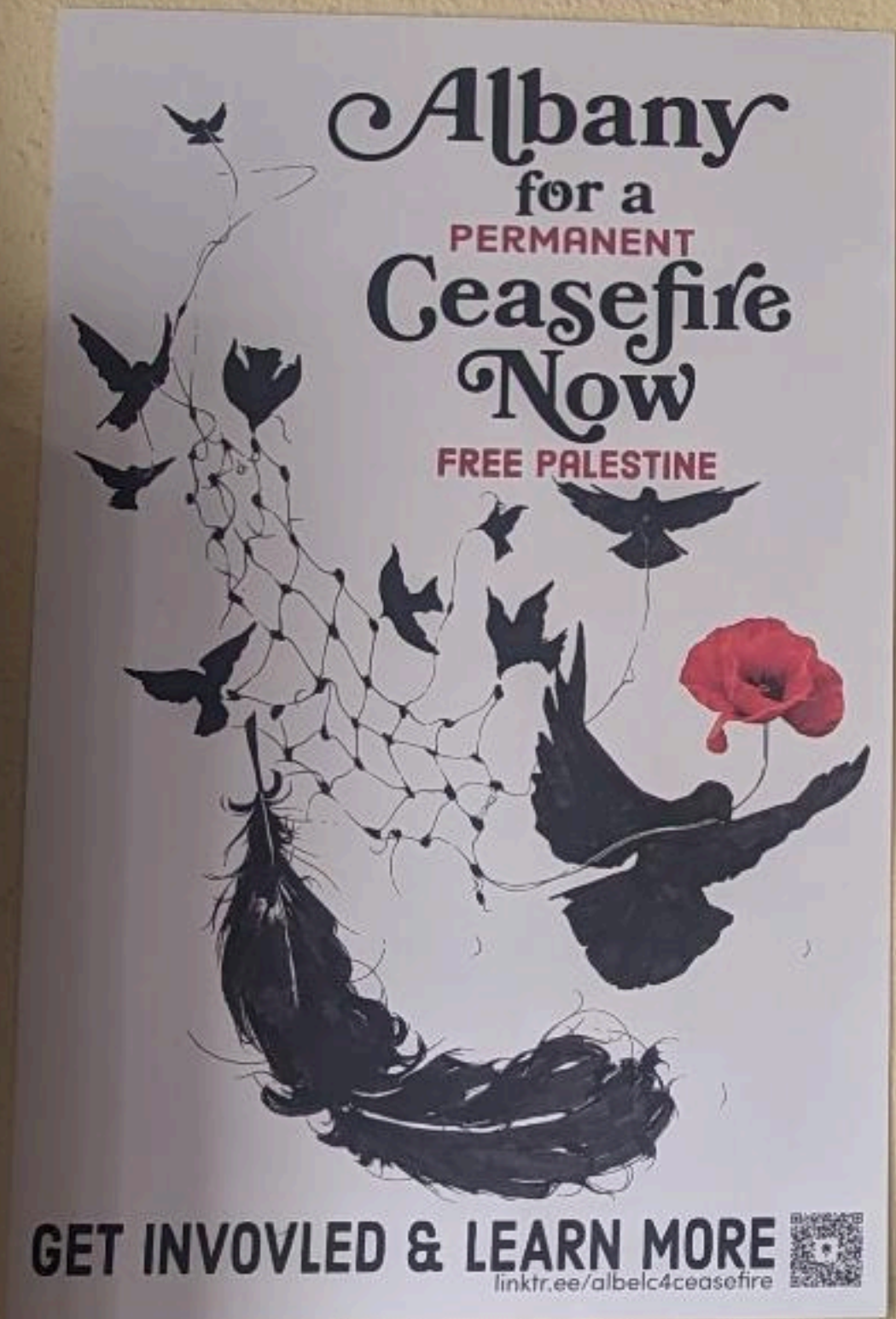
Albany
for a
Free
Palestine
PERMANENT
CEASEFIRE NOW
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MUTANTS
PSYCHOTIC
PINEAPPLE
THIRD THURSDAY
BLUES BAND
MARCH 9th
IVY ROOM
860 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
21+ W/ID REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES
(510) 524-5888 info@ivyroom.com

SATURDAY MARCH 9TH
DOORS 7:30PM / SHOW 8:30PM / \$10 ADV / \$15 DOOR
KAYODOT
CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLAR SPECIAL IN THE CITY
FEATURING THE POLY-PHONIC LINEUP FROM THE 1980s
SILENCE IN THE SNOW
+ DJ THE LAST ANGRY MANNY
NECK OF THE WOODS
21+ W/ID REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

buy





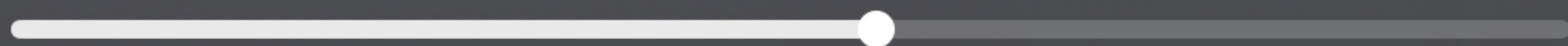
4:50



You
3/11/24, 1:52 PM



View from the bus 😊

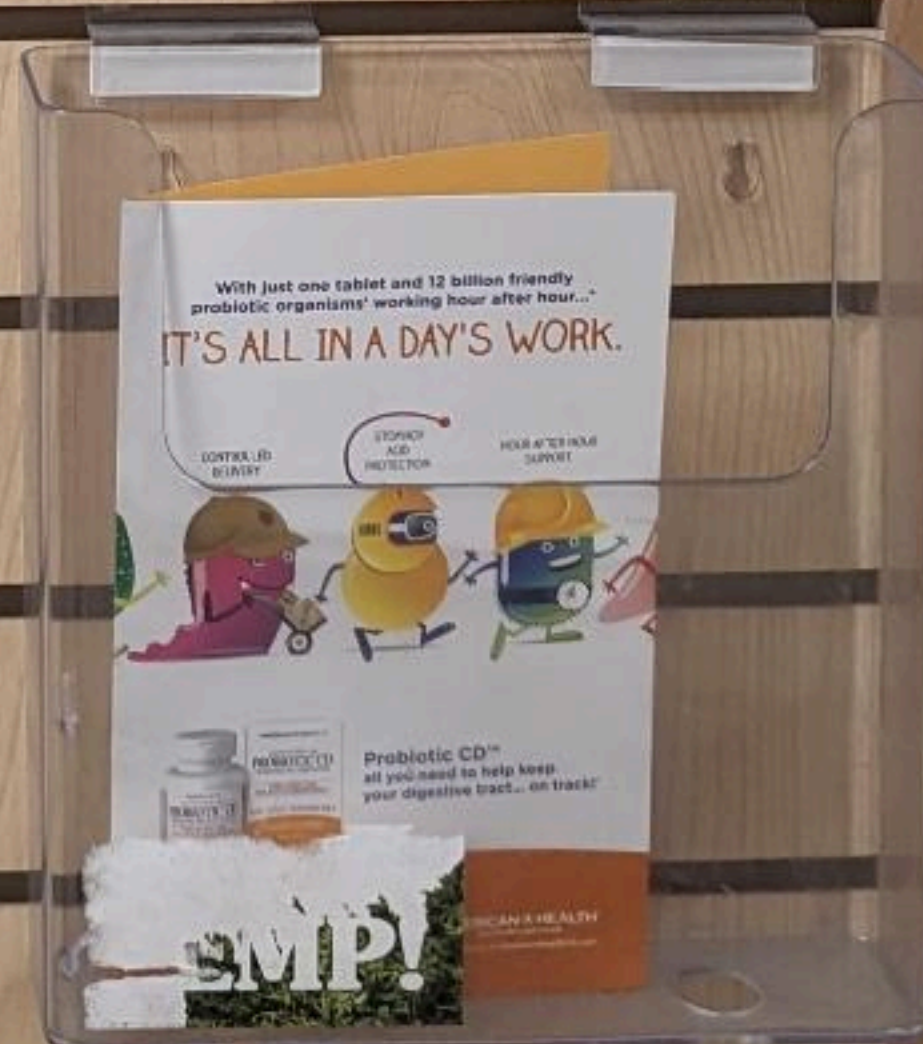


00:03

-00:02







Albany
for a
LASTING
Ceasefire
Now



GET INVOLVED & LEARN MORE

linktr.ee/albelc4ceasefire



From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:26:51 AM

I am an Albany resident for 45 years and I am deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Meyers

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public comment from Peter Bernhardt on March 25, 2024 special meeting, agenda item 3.1 Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:49:04 AM

As you probably know, this morning the UNSC passed a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, with all members voting in favor except for the United States, which abstained. See <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15641.doc.htm>.

It is important to note this resolution only calls for a ceasefire for the month of Ramadan "leading to a permanent ceasefire". In light of this news, I ask that the council update the first sentence of the clause on line 6 of page 3 to add "permanent" as we originally recommended to the subcommittee:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Albany joins other cities in calling for our national government to demand an immediate, unconditional, **permanent** and bilateral ceasefire in Gaza ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Bernhardt
Date: Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 10:54 PM
Subject: Public comment from Peter Bernhardt on March 25, 2024 special meeting, agenda item 3.1 Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza
To: <citycouncil@albanyca.org>

Dear Council Members,

On Tuesday, March 12th, I and seven other members of the Albany community met with Mayor Miki and Council Member Tiedemann to discuss their work pursuant to drafting a resolution calling for a bilateral ceasefire in Gaza. Together, we reviewed the a draft resolution that Council Member Tiedemann had prepared and provided feedback and suggestions for improving the text of the resolution, summarized in an email sent to the subcommittee on March 15th from Zainab Hossainzadeh writing on behalf of our group, and including specific requests for changes to the resolution.

Having read the text of the resolution up for discussion at tomorrow's special meeting, I was disappointed to find that only a few minor changes that we requested were implemented in the resolution.

Resolution 2024-16 reads as the product of an impotent and ahistorical neutrality, taking great pains to avoid critical matters of fact, so much so that it would be impossible to know from reading this resolution who is on the brink of annihilation and who is responsible for it. In your effort to accommodate those who never wanted this topic discussed in the first place, you have neutered its impact.

I urge you to rethink this approach and make the following improvements towards clarity and focus.

First, add this clause to the resolution so the uninformed reader might have some clue as to why there is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

WHEREAS, recognizing the urgency of the crisis, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a preliminary ruling in the case brought by South Africa against Israel, stating that it has found South Africa has made a “plausible case” of genocide and on the basis of this has ordered Israel to take immediate action pursuant to legally binding “provisional measures” to protect the citizens of Gaza from genocide; and

Also, revise the clause at line 26 on page 2 as follows so our elected leaders understand that our community does not accept their complicity in genocide.

WHEREAS, the government of the United States, being uniquely positioned diplomatically, militarily and economically, has vetoed three separate ceasefire resolutions in the United Nations Security Council, and has supplied weapons to Israel that are used to kill civilians in Gaza in violation of both international and domestic law.

The United States recently presented a resolution to the UNSC, which was vetoed by Russia and China. This was not a serious ceasefire resolution (see <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15637.doc.htm> and the statement from the representative from Guyana here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwidJXehAMc>), but it does show that our government is starting to bend to diplomatic pressure and why it is vitally important that we urge them to adopt the global consensus for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

Our resolution must also call out our government’s role as the primary supplier of weapons to Israel. Writing in the March 6, 2024 edition of the Washington Post, John Hudson describes how the Biden administration has circumvented Congress to escalate delivery of weapons to Israel while it conducts its assault on Gaza.

“The United States has quietly approved and delivered more than 100 separate foreign military sales to Israel since the Gaza war began Oct. 7, amounting to thousands of

precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker busters, small arms and other lethal aid, U.S. officials told members of Congress in a recent classified briefing.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/03/06/us-weapons-israel-gaza/>

So, we learn that in addition to billions of dollars in military and economic aid we provide Israel every year, the Biden administration has seen fit to surreptitiously deliver even more weapons to Israel as it commits genocide in Gaza. We cannot waive it away with our hand as something of no consequence or hide it with ambiguous language.

Finally, and importantly, this resolution is an appeal to OUR elected officials in California and Washington, D.C., exhorting them as state and federal policymakers to end this crisis. To maximize the impact of this resolution and have it stand as a serious document, change the final clause on page 3 to add Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, and remove all references to officials of foreign governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. President Joe Biden, and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to negotiate an end to the violence in Gaza.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Bernhardt

m: peter.bernhardt@gmail.com

p: 925/263-9263

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Vote YES Ceasefire resolution
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 11:04:35 AM

Dear City Council,

I am a Jewish person with four generations of family in and around Albany. I belong to the Reform branch of Judaism and have a quite a few Holocaust survivors in our family, along with many lost to that genocide. Many in my family, including myself, are against a Jewish State or any state that privileges certain groups over others, especially for religious or ethnic reasons, because of the lessons from the Nazis, the US days of slavery, Jim Crow and genocide of Indigenous people, South African apartheid, imposition of Islamist rule in Saudi, Iran and Afghanistan, the rise of Hindu nationalism in India, and other flagrantly intolerant regimes. Thankfully my WW II vet father, father-in-law, and cousins are not alive to see Israel's genocidal attacks on Palestine. They would say Not in Our Name- Never Again for Anyone!

Please vote YES on the Ceasefire resolution. This resolution is supported by a cross section of Albany voters. Since our US Senators and Congress members are not preventing the genocidal misuse of our tax dollars, we need local governments to send the message for the return of all hostages and an immediate ceasefire. Only then will our US politicians pay attention. Think of all the things that could be funded by the billions of dollars going to mayhem and murder in Occupied Palestine.

Sincerely,
Dorah Rosen

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:32:37 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:37:33 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:59:37 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Suzi Sholin

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 3:23:48 AM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 6:26:23 AM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to weigh in on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community. This resolution would further and deliberately isolate and ostracize Jews.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Professor Ren Fiss, PhD

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: No foreign policy resolutions!
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 7:06:04 AM

24 weeks ago on October 7 2024 thousands of terrorists infiltrated Israel and slaughtered entire families, tortured, raped, and burned people alive.

Some of us have not and will never forget how this war started.

You were not elected to drag our town into these foreign wars.

You were not elected to pander to the people who graffitied ugly hateful messages on the walls of our businesses, and who blocked streets and attacked those who stood peacefully in disagreement.

Stand strong with the city Councils of Berkeley and El Cerrito and elsewhere who refused to cater to the bullies. By caving now, you are creating a dangerous precedent where local time, energy and finances are wasted on foreign policy issues, rather than local needs.

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 10:43:26 AM

Dear City Council,

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter,
-Barak

Barak Ben-Gal
Albany, CA
barak.bengal@gmail.com

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 11:26:02 AM

I am deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. You were elected to take care of city business, not to act on foreign matters.

Adopting this resolution will only divide and hurt the community more. It will not have an impact on the foreign conflict.

If you do vote on the amendment, please insist that contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

Please amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Joanne Donsky

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support of Resolution Israel/Palestinian
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 3:51:20 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply approving of your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Palestinian War on March 25. Albany residents are part of our United States community, and I am thankful that we see beyond our city borders to reflect on and give our opinions about international matters. The adoption of this resolution by many communities across the United States just MIGHT help to change current governmental policy towards strong and on-going support of a cease fire.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, it might be helpful to amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include peace talks, world support (including support from the United States to help people living in terror both in the Gaza Strip and Israel) and the stopping of terrorist actions against Palestinians across Israel. Hamas is an organization which also needs to be controlled; killing attacks on either the Israeli nor the Palestinian side are senseless.

It is my hope that this amendment also ensures that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Diane Sharken Taboada
Albany CA

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Mar 25 Agenda Item 3-1, "Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza"
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:34:42 AM

I am an Albany resident. I urge you to set aside Resolution No. 2024-16 concerning the war between Hamas and Israel. It will not do anything to improve the situation in the Middle East. It may well make things worse in Albany, California. The wording of the resolution is a sincere attempt at "even-handedness," in the hopes of making everyone happy. It will make no one happy.

Jesse Arreguín, Mayor of Berkeley, when faced with a similar call for a resolution, wisely said, "These resolutions will not end the violence abroad, but they do fan the flames of hatred here at home. That's a threat I cannot ignore." [1]

On January 6, a so-called "Peace" march began in Albany. It ended in violence a little while later in El Cerrito, when one of the marchers attacked a woman carrying an Israeli flag. [2] The attacker has since been arrested for committing a hate crime. [3] Do we want more of that in Albany, encouraged by the City Council?

Complex international situations with hugely high tempers on all sides are neither the responsibility nor the area of expertise of the Albany City Council. Please stay away from this.

Michael Budiansky
Albany, CA

[1] <https://twitter.com/berkeleyside/status/1729683036663341196>

[2] <https://www.ktvu.com/news/police-seek-protester-accused-of-assualting-woman-burning-her-israeli-flag-in-el-cerrito>

[3] <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/california-man-charged-with-hate-crime-for-allegedly-burning-israeli-flag-during-protests/ar-BB1jkjDw>

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: one final thought on tonight's ceasefire resolution
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 12:22:27 PM

Dear Albany City Council,

Thank you to both Council Member Tiedemann and Mayor Miki for your time, efforts, and thoughts on drafting Albany's ceasefire resolution. I know everyone here understands in their hearts how atrocious Israel's actions are. I just want to mention one thing as I read through the resolution: There is hardly any mention of who is committing these atrocious actions, i.e. Israel with loyal support from the US. The passive voice is rampant in it, which allows the agent of those crimes to go unnoticed. Bombing, killing, and starving is happening because someone is causing them to happen. And that someone is the government of Israel, and that needs to be explicitly stated so that they are held accountable for their crimes. Using the passive voice leaves the reader with a feeling of sadness about the crimes being perpetrated, but does not leave the reader with a sense of who is committing those crimes and therefore should be stopped. So, as you think about any final changes to this resolution, I ask that you consider utilizing the active voice more in the wording of the resolution.

Thank you, and see you tonight.

Best,

Zainab

--

Zainab Hossainzadeh
Graduate Student
Department of German
University of California, Berkeley
zhossainzadeh@berkeley.edu | 831-261-0618

from Albany
resident
ms w stock

March 25,
2024

Greetings, Cease Fire

It is the only
way to address
the genocide in
Gaza + West Bank

~~Cease~~ Fire

now + forever

STOP the Colonization

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:05:00 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a previous commitment.

Sincerely,
Julie M. Patrusky
Albany, CA 94706
Julie.patrusky@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

From:
To: [citycouncil](mailto:citycouncil@albanyca.org)
Subject: Subj: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:05:01 PM

To: citycouncil@albanyca.org

Subj: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rachel McClelland

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:05:10 PM

I am an East Bay resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. You were not elected to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community. As a Jewish female, I feel unsafe in my own community these days.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include the immediate return of ALL hostages and Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany and the Bay Area remains a welcoming place for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:05:13 PM

I am an Albany resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Please Support the Counter Cease-Fire Resolution
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:04:11 PM

Please support the Alternate Cease-fire Resolution.

An Unconditional Cease-Fire resolution is unacceptable. The Hostages held by Hamas must be released and returned to freedom.

Hamas is responsible for the death of Gazan civilians because they are using innocent civilians as human shields in a cynical effort to obtain sympathy for Palestinians.

Thank you,

Susanne (Sanne) DeWitt

94708

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:10:24 PM

I am an Oakland resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Karen Bloom
Oakland, CA

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Amend Resolution/Call for Hamas Removal
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:10:24 PM

I am an Oakland resident deeply concerned about your consideration of a resolution about the Israel-Hamas War on March 25. Albany residents did not elect you to opine on international matters and this action is unprecedented. The adoption of this resolution will not bring peace abroad, and as seen in Oakland and Berkeley, it will only exacerbate community tensions and increase hate targeting the local Jewish community.

If the Council decides to move forward on this matter, I request that you amend the resolution to properly contextualize the war by clearly stating that a lasting peace must include Hamas being removed from power. The need to remove Hamas is the official position of the United States and European Union, and a necessary clarification given that Hamas is a terrorist organization which seeks to kill Jews and has publicly stated an intent to launch future attacks against Israel.

It is my hope that you will amend this resolution to properly frame the war and ensure that Albany remains a welcoming city for residents of all backgrounds. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Karen Bloom
Oakland, CA

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for the ceasefire resolution
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:26:05 PM

Dear Albany City Council,

I am writing to you to show my support in passing the ceasefire resolution at today's special meeting.

In the face of the atrocities Israel has been committing against Palestinians for more than 5 months now this is the least we can do to show where we stand. I appreciate the strong leadership you have shown in speaking up against war crimes and indiscriminate violence. Despite what pro-genocide supporters say, we know this is not anti-Semitic and not divisive. People of all religions, ethnicities, nationalities, and races stand together to demand a CEASEFIRE NOW!

Thank you again for passing this resolution today. I wish I could be at the meeting to celebrate with you all.

Warmly,
Liana

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: 3-1. Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:24:37 PM

Dear Council Members,

I am an Albany resident and a Jewish person. I support adoption of the Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you for your thoughtful approach, carefully crafted language, and for your effort to respond to our community's concerns.

Lisa Jacobs Pontecorvo

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: A concerned citizen
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:22:15 PM

Hello City council members,

I can't understand how you advocate for the release of administrative detainees in Israel when you clearly lack the understanding of why they were detained. These individuals are considered a threat to public safety, and their incarceration is a preventive measure based on assessments, often relying on confidential intelligence from the Shin Bet (Israeli security agency), usually supplemented by historical data. The decision to issue such orders is not judicial but undergoes structured judicial review immediately and periodically thereafter. A petition for release can always be brought to the High Court, where intelligence information is presented unilaterally to the supreme court judge.

Do you know how many administrative detainees the US holds? Around 30k. Do you think they should be released?

Its very possible your resolution will spark ideas in people who have relative detained by the US - they can kidnap innocent civilians and offer to release them in exchange for their incarcerated love ones.

Best,
Liron

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: ceasefire
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:22:06 PM
Attachments: [1711423240738blob.jpg](#)

They didn't care about anything you said or anything you wrote. As long as it asked for a ceasefire, they call it a victory

And your decision will be used to pressure El Cerrito and Berkeley

Inline image



From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Israel Resolution
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:23:36 AM

Dear Council members,

I am a Jewish Albany resident. I am extremely distraught by the loss of life in Gaza. I have been opposing the Israeli government's policies for many years, I want an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid to be delivered forthwith, an end to US support for arms and a solution that supports those on all sides who want to live in peace. While what the Israeli government has done during years of occupation is absolutely horrendous, it is also critical for people to recognize, and decry in the strongest possible terms, Hamas, for the terrorist organisation they are, who not only held Gazan's hostage for many years but also care little about the loss of life in Gaza. Their violent rampage committed the most heinous crimes, violating and desecrating children and women's bodies in ways for which I lack appropriate vocabulary. There are no sides to this conflict only many ordinary people who are suffering horribly, caught between extremists bent on destruction of the other for their own ends.

Initially, I was very disheartened to hear about the council planning a resolution, though listening to your discussion today (on zoom) and reading the resolution (before it was amended at the meeting) I feel better. It is not the diatribe we have seen in other communities. I am proud of you for that effort. I think you were attempting to address the divisiveness in order to try and heal the community. I appreciate that you were trying. However the issue is so fraught, the Jewish community itself so divided by the ensuing actions and reactions from all sides since october 7th that your spending so much time debating a resolution is not a good use of your or the community's time.

After 9-11, many of us in Albany, put together a wonderful afternoon of events for the Albany community (Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Arab, indigenous, black) at the then middle school, emphasizing the connectedness between all the various communities, through art projects, story telling, discussions and finally a communal meal. I think your time would be much more fruitfully spent bringing people together rather than debating/wordsmithing what is ultimately just words in a proclamation that goes nowhere. If you deplore what happened to people who were trying to demonstrate peacefully, just say that and dont tie yourselves in knots to please everyone. Do something practical and helpful instead!!

Thank you for being on the city council and for the time you spend serving the community. Please pay more attention to what you can usefully do to fix the many issues (rent control, police oversight, supporting our minority communities etc) we have here in Albany.

Sincerely
Caroline Lehman

From:
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Re: A concerned citizen
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 12:03:45 PM

Hello,

I would very much like to receive an answer regarding the email I sent. Why is it okay in your eyes to call for the release of administrative detainees in Israel, a civilized country like any other western country? I did not see that you called for the release of the administrative detainees in the United States, Great Britain, Australia and the list goes on... Expanded and added Mr. Lopez on his Instagram account and called for the release of all political prisoners, as if those arrested in Israel are not people who are arrested for acts of terrorism and sabotage and harming civilians in his eyes Israel is actually a third world country that arrests people because they oppose the regime. It is implied from his words that the hostages, among them the baby Kfir Bibs, are all political prisoners and not regular people (jews and muslims) who were kidnapped from their beds in their home and are dying in the dark, undergoing physical, sexual and mental abuse. You have lost your morals.

Liron Ouziel

On Mon, Mar 25, 2024, 8:21 PM liron hakikian wrote:

Hello City council members,

I can't understand how you advocate for the release of administrative detainees in Israel when you clearly lack the understanding of why they were detained. These individuals are considered a threat to public safety, and their incarceration is a preventive measure based on assessments, often relying on confidential intelligence from the Shin Bet (Israeli security agency), usually supplemented by historical data. The decision to issue such orders is not judicial but undergoes structured judicial review immediately and periodically thereafter. A petition for release can always be brought to the High Court, where intelligence information is presented unilaterally to the supreme court judge.

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Liron