

Subject: Urgency of City Action to Respond to Crisis in Gaza - 4. Oral Communications from the Public 3/07/24 HRC Meeting

March 5, 2024

Dear Human Relations Commission,

Due to the extreme urgency of the crisis in Gaza, the HRC is in an ideal position to advise the Mountain View City Council on taking further action in response to the humanitarian crisis.

As you might have seen, the City of Mountain View released on February 21, 2024, a [City Statement calling for the cessation of hostilities in Gaza](#). Also, during its February 13 City Council meeting, the Council considered a referral to HRC to respond to the community's request for a ceasefire resolution.

Accordingly, we urge that the HRC request a City Council referral to support the City in taking immediate and prioritized actions this month of March on responding to the crisis in Gaza.

Furthermore, we ask the City of Mountain View to join the [growing number of U.S. cities](#) and the [153 countries of the UN General Assembly](#) that are in favor of an immediate and ultimately, permanent ceasefire.

The HRC helps speak for the community in the interests of human relations generally, and to address the various economic, political, educational, and social issues facing the community. If ever there was a need for you as a body to step forward to act boldly and universally, this is the time.

The people of Gaza are suffering and dying. As we all have witnessed since October 2023, the current warfare and related restrictions have gravely compromised Gaza. All of this can be readily verified through widely trusted sources such as [United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA), [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), [Amnesty International](#) and other sources we could point you to.

For example:

- The occurrence of bombing in locations inhabited by innocent civilians.
- The extent of fatality, disease, starvation, and famine.
- The destruction of infrastructure, including essential infrastructure, such as hospitals and other medical aid facilities, and all that serves transportation, housing, electricity, water sewage, and communication needs.
- The reality of widespread trauma, both physical and psychological.
- All we can expect that results from extreme overcrowding, with no established or anticipated path forward on any fronts by all parties we can or should hold responsible or accountable.

To help with your efforts, we suggest examining recommendations listed in [the petition to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to adopt a ceasefire resolution](#). The recommendations include:

- 1. A clear and urgent call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire with a recognition of the massive scale of this humanitarian crisis*
- 2. An acknowledgment of the historical roots of this crisis*
- 3. An acknowledgment of the United States' role in supporting these atrocities financially, diplomatically and politically*
- 4. An acknowledgment and a condemnation of the rise of anti-Palestinian hate*
- 5. A statement on channeling our resources and energies to mitigating the crisis not aggravating it*

In short, the HRC must seek a referral from the City Council to explore the best ways to address this dire situation, for all the reasons we have discussed in this letter.

Thank you,

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