
From: Isabelle Marcus
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:33 PM
To: City Council
Subject: item 5-public comment

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Dear esteemed Members of the city council,

I wish to oppose the divisive resolution of a ceasefire.

- 1- The council must reject any foreign policy distractions that divide, incite hatred among residents and to keep the focus on local matters critical to our community's well-being.
- 2- The council has never ever considered a resolution on any other international conflict and passing this resolution would show that the council just only cares for this one particular conflict which involves Israel, a democratic state and a US ally, at war against a US designated terrorist organization, Hamas, following a terrorist attack and the worst massacre of jews since the holocaust. The Israeli nation seeks to avert its own extermination and retrieve innocent hostages Hamas refuses to release.
- 3- The Council must stand UNITED to prevent our city councils from being manipulated by those who sympathize with foreign terrorists like Hamas and who seek to undermine the well-being of our cities and local community. These individuals aim to infiltrate, intimidate, and hijack our democracy's core values, inciting division among our citizens and fostering hatred against Jewish people. Refer to the article below:

https://www.ocregister.com/2024/03/09/attacks-on-israel-and-american-democracy-through-city-councils-must-stop/?fbclid=IwAR01WYWRucoaA70Rq3omCSZ3GPGDeokB32tXtpMAWOTMc_BZJmeNI870vM8

Instead of fueling division and intolerance, we must work together to create a community where everyone feels safe and respected, regardless of their background or beliefs.

Thank you.

Isabel Marcus

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From: Misbah Ashraf <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: [3/19 Item #5] Agendize a Ceasefire Resolution in Mountain View

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mountain View City Council ,

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY DEMANDS THE MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL
AGENDIZE A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION.

The community of Mountain View demands their City Council to agendize a ceasefire resolution. Mountain View must add its voice to the call for immediate, permanent ceasefire now. The ceasefire resolution must advocate for sustainable peace in Palestine and Israel, an end to the siege on Gaza, and for an immediate and permanent end to the killings of all civilians.

As a Human Rights City, Mountain View "aspires to be a leader among cities in advancing human rights and human dignity [by] explicitly embracing the principles of equality, inclusion, respect, involvement, and the recognition of human dignity." As the February 21st statement from the Mountain View City Council states, we "unequivocally condemn all actions that endanger innocent people." This issue stands at the intersection of human rights, women's rights, environmental justice, and many others. Therefore, the Mountain View community also urges for the prompt and safe delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to Gaza, including food, water, medical supplies, and fuel.

While it is heartening to see both President Biden and Vice President Harris include a temporary ceasefire in their public statements, neither of them has gone so far as to set conditions on military funding to Israel. Israel makes its own decisions as a sovereign state, yet the United States is responsible for deciding how much aid we provide towards sustaining

Israel's bombardment. 30,000 people killed in Gaza is already too many, and we demand an end to additional military funding to Israel.

The local Mountain View community is being directly impacted by the current atrocities in Palestine and Israel. We grieve with our community and neighboring cities over the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost. Our mourning continues as we bear witness to further devastation and loss as the Gazan population faces crisis levels of hunger, lacks access to basic survival necessities, and continues to be bombarded.

Cities across California – including San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Hayward, Hollister, Davis, Pomona, and counting are passing resolutions in support of peace and to advocate for the protection of all life in Gaza. These are communities with students and families with loved ones who have been killed in Israel and Palestine, and Mountain View is no different.

Misbah Ashraf

Hayward, California 94544

From: Contact
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:44 PM
To: City Council
Subject: I am STRONGLY AGAINST cease fire resolution

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Sent from my iPhone

From: Olga F
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Request Not to Include Any Resolutions on Israel-Hamas war on the Agenda

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Dear Members of the City Council of Mountain View,

I hope this email finds you well. It has come to my attention that at today's city council meeting there will be a substantial effort to include a resolution calling for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. I am writing to you to share my deep concern about including any such resolutions on the agenda.

I believe the city council must prioritize local issues and refrain from involvement in matters beyond our jurisdiction. While I understand the importance of global issues, I firmly believe that the role of our city council should be to focus on the needs of our community. International affairs resolutions are outside the scope of local counties. Allocating time and resources to international affairs detracts from our ability to effectively tackle pressing local issues such as infrastructure, education, and public safety. Such resolutions sow distrust and hate in our small community, and have nothing to do with our county or this committee. Furthermore, taking a stance on complex international matters risks alienating members of the community who hold differing perspectives. The Jewish community in Mountain View is already facing an unprecedented rise in antisemitism. Our city council should strive to foster unity and focus on initiatives that bring us together rather than divide us.

Unless you are prepared to adopt resolutions regarding the conflict between Iran-sponsored Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia, or the one between the Democratic Republic of Congo's army and Tutsi rebels, or the one between Ukraine and Russia, or comment on the Sudan humanitarian crisis, or condemn Iran for arresting and murdering dissidents, or comment on the ongoing Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan, then a foreign-relations statement that specifically targets the one Jewish state naturally comes off carrying a message that you may not intend. While there may be many loud voices on both sides of this issue, following the temptation to involve a local city council into matters outside of its scope will pit friend against friend and neighbor against neighbor. I strongly urge you not to position the city council on either side of a foreign-relations issue. Please decline to introduce or vote on any resolutions regarding the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Olga Fortenko, M.D.

From: Yoram Arnon
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:52 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Thank you for your resilience regarding the war in Gaza

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Honorable Mayor, dear councilmembers,

It has come to my attention that at today's council meeting it is expected that the public comments section will include a large contingency of people urging the council to agendize a ceasefire resolution in Gaza. Having attended such meetings in the past I know that they can be combative and even belligerent, I applaud your courage as you perform your duties.

I would first like to congratulate and thank you for the nuanced and balanced statement that you published on the matter last month. I think it approaches the subject sensitively, striving for unity and safety in our community.

I would urge the council to avoid agendizing a ceasefire resolution, for multiple reasons, some obvious and some a bit less so:

- * it is not a city council's job or charter to recommend or advocate foreign policy to the federal government. As a municipal government it is council's job to look after the local community's needs
- * there was a ceasefire in place on October 6, before it was brutally broken on October 7. A ceasefire without assurances that a new ceasefire will not be broken will just encourage additional hostilities, and needless to say, Mountain View is not in a position to facilitate such assurances
- * there are ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire, mediated by the US government among other parties. Anyone in their right mind wants a ceasefire, and the safe return of the hostages to their families. I suspect that some Hamas members and some of their supporters, possibly some who attend today's meeting, might not be seeking the release of the hostages and would rather see a ceasefire that keeps the hostages in place. That would be horribly wrong.
- * a ceasefire resolution, unless it's as nuanced and balanced as your published statement, is certain to cause anguish to members of our community, and increase both antisemitism and islamophobia. It would do nothing to actually bring about a ceasefire

Sincerely,
Yoram Arnon