

Madalyn Letellier

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 2:25 PM
To: [REDACTED] Public Comments; All City Council; Jake Wilson; strezoatlarge@gmail.com; Willie Burnley, Jr.; Naima Sait; wmbah@somerville.gov
Subject: Pass Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution

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Hello,

I wanted to write to encourage the city council to prioritize passing a resolution calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

What we are seeing in Gaza is genocide and ethnic cleansing at work, and as a progressive city, we have a duty to stand unequivocally against genocide, with the UN, many local labor unions, including the MTA, countless NGOs and humanitarian groups, and other progressive cities like San Francisco.

As your constituent, I urge you to take swift action. Call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, an end to the siege on Gaza, an end to the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, an end to apartheid in Israel, and for freedom and dignity for Palestinians.

As a city that is grappling with our past as a settler colonial project, it is our moral imperative to oppose settler colonialism wherever it occurs and ensure that we as a city are not complicit in further settler colonial violence. Somerville can take important steps in ensuring that our city is not complicit in this genocide by passing a ceasefire resolution, mandating that the Somerville Police Department does not participate in any training or exchanges with Israel (known as the Deadly Exchange), supporting Somerville teachers against retaliation for teaching about current events and the history of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and divesting from companies and entities that support the occupation.

This is an urgent domestic issue, as recently retired Police Chief David Fallon, as well as Tufts University Police Department leadership, participated in the Massachusetts Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel in 2017, as part of an all-expenses-paid delegation of US law enforcement to Israel sponsored by the New England chapter of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Training our police department to view Somervillians the way that Israel views Palestinians makes us all less safe. Local surveillance company Recorded Future, has offered its services to the Israeli government, and weapons manufacturers who directly profit from this genocide, Raytheon and Elbeit Systems, are a stone's throw away in Cambridge.

The urgency to act to halt these atrocities cannot be overstated. I implore you to take a courageous stance against genocide that aligns with Somerville's proud role as a progressive global city. I reject complacency and urge tangible policy changes to prioritize justice over politics-as-usual.

Please note, I have programmed this email to be sent daily, but I am a real human who wrote and coded this, and who believes deeply in dignity and justice for all humans. I look forward to dialoguing with you on this issue.

Thank you,

Meriwether Burruss

