

Madalyn Letellier

From: Aaron Drasner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 1:19 PM
To: Ben Ewen-Campen; Ben Wheeler; Naima Sait; Public Comments; Mayor's Office
Subject: Opposition to the Israel Boycott Ordinance

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Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to this ordinance.

First off, the people voted for a non-binding resolution in a very low turnout election. When I spoke with the members of the group pushing this resolution, I was told the purpose was to "have their voices heard." The people did not vote for a binding ordinance and that is what you are pushing for, you have no right to do this as it is not the will of the people you represent. This is a tactic I would expect to see from the Trump administration, we should be better than that.

Secondly, the method in which the supporters of this gained support involved gaslighting the public about Apartheid and Genocide. Repeating something over and over again does not make it true. Facts and data make an argument true. The facts are, there is no Apartheid in Israel. However, there is gender apartheid in Palestine and all other Arab nations that no one talks about. I encourage you to take a trip to the Middle East and see the situation with your own eyes.

Hamas' stated mission in their charter is Genocide of the Jewish people. Genocide requires intent. If Israel wanted to commit genocide, they would have been finished with the mission on October 8th. Your gaslighting is another tactic we see from the Trump administration and again, we should be better than that. Spreading this misinformation is contributing to the rise of anti-semitism all across the nation and your contributions to that mean there is blood on your hands.

I do not agree with all the tactics the Israeli government is taking to defend themselves and their right to exist against a terrorist group that wants to eradicate all Jews from the planet. However, gaslighting the public and creating an unsafe environment in the community for Jewish people is not how to solve this problem. This problem is out of the hands of the City of Somerville. I encourage you all to focus on the city first as there is plenty of work to do here.

I've lived in Somerville for 18 years and I am now ashamed to call myself a resident and you all should be ashamed of siding with a terrorist organization.

-Aaron Drasner
[REDACTED]