

Madalyn Letellier

From: E N <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:12 AM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Cc: Willie Burnley, Jr.; Wilfred Mbah; strezoatlarge@gmail.com; Jake Wilson; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; councilorjessclingan@gmail.com; Naima Sait; Lance Davis; judyforward7@gmail.com
Subject: Please vote NO on 1/25 Ceasefire Resolution (Somerville)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the Somerville City Council Members,

As a concerned resident, I am writing in opposition to the [Ceasefire Resolution](#) on the Agenda for 1/25. **Please vote NO on the ceasefire resolution.**

As it currently stands, [this resolution](#) is **one-sided and unfairly biased**. Specifically:

- **It does not call for the surrender of Hamas as a precondition to any ceasefire.** It is unacceptable to allow Hamas, a genocidal terrorist organization that has vowed to repeat Oct 7 again and again, and whose charter and stated goals are the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people, to remain in power. **Allowing Hamas to remain in power also hurts the Palestinian civilians**, who are subject to myriad human rights abuses at the hands of Hamas
- This resolution implies a **false equivalence** between innocent Israeli civilians including babies and the elderly held as **hostages** by Hamas with **Palestinian prisoners** in Israeli jails, many of whom are accused of murder or attempted murder
- This resolution cites the **number of deaths in Gaza** without noting that the **source of these numbers is Hamas**, and that civilians and combatants are not separated out
- This resolution discusses the **impact of the war on Gazan civilians but ignores the impact on Israel post October 7**, including the destruction of entire communities/homes, the **displacement of a large number of Israeli communities** on the border, who are not able to safely return, and the near constant **daily rocket fire** directed at Israeli civilians by Hamas.
- The resolution does not mention the **use of human shields and civilian infrastructure by Hamas** for military purposes, which **drives significant Palestinian civilian casualties**, nor the **misappropriation of Gaza aid by Hamas**, the prevention by Hamas of civilians attempting to flee the war, and multiple other human rights abuses, nor does it mention the attempts of Israel to safeguard Palestinian civilian lives through warnings, leaflets, phone calls, and detailed evacuation maps

Also relevant is the history of prior ceasefires:

- Israel just proposed a 2-month ceasefire plus a hostage-prisoner exchange. **Hamas rejected Israel's ceasefire proposal and has not issued a counter-proposal.** Thus, the blame for a lack of ceasefire lays with Hamas.
- **Hamas deliberately broke the temporary ceasefire** which allowed for the hostage-prisoner exchange you repeatedly cite earlier in the war.
- **There was a ceasefire in place prior to October 7th** and Hamas violated this ceasefire by the atrocities it perpetrated on Oct 7
- Even before Oct 7, **Hamas has a history of repeatedly breaking ceasefires** and firing upon civilians. **Thus, a permanent unilateral ceasefire from Israel would not only be immoral and dangerous, it would also be ineffective, as Hamas would once again break the ceasefire.**

While this resolution on the surface appears to be in favor of peace, by making the terms unilateral and not calling for the surrender or destruction of Hamas, **this resolution is actually calling for the unilateral surrender of Israel.** Many, including myself, consider this to be **antisemitic in effect if not in intent**, which is why this **resolution must be rejected or significantly amended.**

Furthermore, this resolution **will not convince Israel to end the war. All it will do is alienate Somerville's Jewish community. Is this really the goal of Somerville, a town of tolerance and peace?**

Please do not allow Somerville to put forward an **antisemitic resolution that holds Israel to a double standard that no other country has ever been asked** (or would ever be asked) **to abide by.** (Unless Somerville has passed resolutions about the Russia-Ukraine war, the Syrian war, and the myriad other wars around the globe?)

If you must pass a ceasefire resolution, please first make the amendments outlined above.

Thank you,

Emma Nal
A concerned resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: Brian Sokol [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 8:29 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution
Attachments: FB_IMG_1706047214019.jpg

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Dear City Council Members:

I am a Somerville resident in Ward 2 and I am writing to ask that you oppose the resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. While it may seem like something uncontroversial--nobody wants more war---it is decidedly not.

It is wrong for the city, and it is wrong geopolitically and ethically.

It is wrong for the city to involve itself in broad international issues that have little or nothing to do with the governance of the city itself. This city is extremely diverse. We share a common goal of improved quality of life for all of us, despite our differences. Focusing on international matters beyond this can only divide us and make us feel less safe.

It is also wrong from a process point of view. People in the Jewish community only became aware of this resolution on Tuesday, where as there already seems to have been substantial organizing from those in favor of the resolution, this has yielded an illusory sense of large scale support for the resolution.

While I don't believe it makes sense to wade into this controversy at all, since we are doing so, I also believe it is the wrong policy stance. Israel was forced into this war in response to a brutal attack that included 1200 murders, large scale rape, hostage taking, and rocket attacks. Israel has a right to defend itself against terrorist threats. A cease fire would give Hamas the time to regroup and attack Israel again when it is ready on its own terms. It will not hesitate to break a cease fire, as it did on October 7, when it meets their needs and call for it once Israel retaliates. The cease fire does not merely constitute negotiating with terrorists, but also meeting their key demands.

In addition to all of this, I find the resolution's implied moral equivalence of the hostages and Palestinian detainees who have committed violent crimes repugnant. Hamas took babies, children and elderly people hostage purely for the sake of terror. One baby, Kfir Bibas, just spent his first birthday as a Hamas hostage. There is no equivalence before this.

Finally, circling back to home, I would like to make you aware of the implied threats we as a family have already received for having a "Stand With Israel" sign, which to me represents supporting my family and friends in the region who are in harm's way. Our sign was greeted with a Nazi-identified note, and ended with "Heil Hitler." (See attached.) This is particularly egregious as my 81 year old mother, a Holocaust survivor, lives here with us.

As I said, this issue causes deep rifts and pain and is out of place in city politics. As such, I strongly ask that you reject the resolution.

Best regards,
Brian Sokol
[REDACTED]

Hello! My name is
Heinrich Eichmann.
I live nearby and I am
a Nazi. I am also a
member of a local group
called Nazi Lives Matter.
My Nazi friends and
I just noticed your pro
Israel/Jew sign and
~~why~~ we find it to be
rather offensive. To be
frank you are hurting
our feelings. Could you
please show some consideration
and remove your sign?
We would really appreciate
it. Thank you very much.
Have a happy holiday
season and heil Hitler!



SCAN M

WITH

ISRAEL

#HUMANITY

Madalyn Letellier

From: Amine Yakine [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Ben Ewen-Campen; strezoatlarge@gmail.com; Willie Burnley, Jr.; [REDACTED]
Matthew McLaughlin; Naima Sait; councilorjesseclingan@gmail.com; Lance Davis;
judyforward7@gmail.com; Public Comments; All City Council; Mayor
Subject: URGENT: This Constituent Says VOTE YES on CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION/NEVER AGAIN for GENOCIDE.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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City Councilor -

I'm a Somerville community member, and I write today to urge your support of the Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution, to be introduced by Councilor Ewen-Campen at the City Council meeting this Thursday (1/25/24).

Somerville's support for a ceasefire is resounding and unequivocal. The Israeli Genocide must not stand and never again means never again. As of 1/22/24, over 700 community members have signed an open letter supporting ceasefire and Palestinian liberation. We've demonstrated in the streets from Somerville to D.C., and we'll pack the city council chambers on Thursday evening. We're using our civic power to call for a permanent and immediate end to the horrific daily violence unfolding in Gaza, and we demand that you stand with us.

As elected officials, you'll have to answer to Somerville voters for your action -- or lack thereof -- on this generation-defining atrocity. As a human being, you'll have to answer to your conscience.

Be brave this Thursday and VOTE YES on the Ceasefire Resolution. You've got Somerville behind you.

Thank you for your attention and your solidarity.

Amine Yakine
History Teacher

أستاذ التاريخ و الفلسفة

I am multilingual Arabic/English/French/Darija

مرحباً، أنا أتحدث العربية والفرنسية و الدارجة المغربية والإنجليزية

" Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd."

Al-Rumi

"When education is not liberating, the dream of the oppressed is to become the oppressor." Paulo Freire



Madalyn Letellier

From: David Lichter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Ceasefire resolution feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear City Councilors,

Moments ago, I became aware of the Somerville City Council's Thursday vote on a 'ceasefire resolution' for the Israel/Hamas war. I am writing to offer my perspective, and to respectfully ask the Council not to bring the resolution for a vote, or if necessary, to vote against it. My name is David Lichter, and am a 42-year-old Jewish American scientist, originally from New York and now a 20-year Somerville resident.

The October 7th terrorist attack by Hamas was a devastating attack targeting innocent Israeli Jews, with unimaginable violence like murder, rape, beheadings, and killing of children. Over 100 hostages are still being held against their will, and they, their families, all Israelis, innocent Palestinian civilians, and the entire international community have suffered as a result.

This Somerville ceasefire resolution includes many recommendations for incredibly complex topics (e.g., release of all political prisoners on all sides), which, I would respectfully argue, is beyond the scope of the elected City Council.

I was recently inspired by London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco, and her refusal to sign a similar ceasefire resolution. She highlighted the problems with US city government officials being pressured to take a stance on issues such as this, which they were not elected to do, and make recommendations for issues they are not qualified for, here, on complex foreign policy.

In today's age of social media domination, oftentimes politicians, news organizations, media, corporations, and ordinary civilians, whether educated on relevant issues or not, feel pressured to take on an immediate, strong stance, and use their online platform to share it with the world. There are consequences for doing so, and can be dangerous, especially for public officials or those with a large platform.

We have many recent examples of how words and actions matter in the battle against anti-Semitism and bigotry against any group. Ivy League Presidents lacked the courage to recognize calls for genocide against Jews as unacceptable; as a result, many Jews at Harvard felt unsafe, and there were other provocative consequences, including a plane which flew over Somerville and Cambridge with a banner that read "Harvard Hates Jews." Thankfully, I was alone when I saw it flying over my house and didn't have to explain it to my 7-year-old daughter.

Proposed resolutions like this one, while on the surface calling for peace for all groups, may ultimately prove divisive for our community, as the topic is extremely complex and charged. I respectfully encourage the

Council to engage with the community rather than take a definitive position to President Biden, and instead continue to look for ways to encourage peaceful dialogue about the issues.

We are very fortunate to live freely in the US and Massachusetts and have the luxury of discussing and debating these issues in a civil manner. Israel, conversely, has been challenged by decades of threats of its destruction, so residents do not have the same security guarantees.

I welcome further discussion and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Lichter

[REDACTED]

Somerville, MA

Madalyn Letellier

From: David Lobron [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:21 PM
To: All City Council
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: Comment on Resolution #240089 "In support of an enduring ceasefire in Gaza."

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Somerville Council:

I am a former Somerville resident, now living in Newton. I am writing in opposition to the proposed resolution.

I am very upset by the loss of life and damage in Gaza. However, I think this resolution is extremely one-sided. In particular:

- It quotes casualty figures from Hamas, but omits that an estimated 9,000 of these were from direct combat (according to the IDF). That would make the ratio of civilian to combat deaths about 1.5, which is much less than similar urban combat in Iraq (around 3:1 by U.S. estimates). There is no mention of misfired Hamas and PIJ rockets, which are aimed at Israeli civilians, and fired from Palestinian civilian areas.

- It ignores Israel's efforts to minimize civilian casualties in Gaza, including leaflets, phone calls and creation of safe corridors. It also ignores Hamas's documented use of hospitals and schools for military purposes. It does not mention the Israeli hostages currently being held in conditions that include rape and torture.

- Hamas has vowed to repeat the murder, mass rape, and kidnapping of October 7 as soon as it can. This resolution makes no mention of that, nor does it provide any ideas for other ways Israel could protect its citizens. I do not think that the proposed ceasefire would be "enduring" at all.

I urge you to vote against this resolution in its current form.

Sincerely,

David Lobron
[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: David Waller [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:40 PM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Proposed city order

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the esteemed members of the Sommerville City Council

I have been made aware of a proposed city order calling for cease fire between Hamas and Israel. I have read the document and reread it.

I am writing with two objectives:

- To express my deep concerns and reservations with the proposed city order as written.
- To propose the City Council pursue an alternative path that has potential to be constructive for the people living and working in your city.

I'd like to share with you 4 facts to ground my observations, none mentioned in the proposed city order:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization that has purposefully and willfully murdered Holocaust survivors, raped women and beheaded babies.
- Hamas has been in power since June 2007, has not had elections in over 15 years, and left Palestinians in dire straits even as its leaders live abroad.
- Hamas leadership has doubled down its commitment to kill Jews for being Jews - this is genocide.
- When asked about a two-state solution, Hamas leadership demands 100% of all of the land - the destruction of the State of Israel.

With this as background, it does seem appropriate and necessary to pursue a just and lasting peace:

- Hamas should return the hostages - both those still alive and the bodies of those who have died - as an immediate next step.
- Hamas must relinquish control over Gaza, it has terrorized and kept impoverished its own people for nearly 2 decades and refuses to discuss peace.
- Israel must be willing to work with the Palestinian people, once the first two objectives are met, to find a path to lasting and prosperous peace.

I would also like to comment that the proposed city order, as written, will enflame communal tensions, create further divisions at a time when our society needs reasons to come together rather than break apart. There is zero benefit to push forward with this city order, this is non-binding and it won't make the lives of those who reside or work in Sommerville better. To the contrary, it runs the very real and significant risk to exposing the City of Sommerville to acts of anger and hatred, which will make the lives of those living and working Sommerville (much) worse.

I would ask the Somerville City Council to vote down this proposed city order, instead stick to what the City of Somerville can impact. That is, reassure all communities that Somerville is safe for them and that Somerville rejects in no uncertain terms antisemitism, Islamaphobia and all other forms of hate.

I have for nearly 40 years spent time in Somerville, in most recent years, frequenting the many fine restaurants the city has to offer. This proposed city order will end my visits to Somerville because I will feel neither safe nor invited to visit.

Best,

David Waller

Madalyn Letellier

From: David Wluka [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Help stop the insanity in Gaza - RELEASE THE HOSTAGES
Attachments: Outlook-t2tqylil

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I fully understand the empathy and heartbreak for the people of Gaza. However, no one seems to be taking Hamas to task! If they were to release the hostages, stop using their own people as shields and stop the continued terrorist attacks in Israel, the "war" could wind down. Don't forget the concurrent incursions from the West Bank, Lebanon and other surrounding countries - all funded by Iran.

This is an existential war. Hamas doesn't want freedom, it wants Israel not exist!

Three times Israel traded land for peace. They got land - there has never been peace.

Consider this analogy, if you were Somerville and everyone in Cambridge, Malden, Revere and Boston is working to kill all of you and take over the City.....what would you do?

If you must pass a resolution, do so to have Hamas release the hostages and stop sacrificing their own people. Have them sue for peace with a two-state solution and secure borders.

Thank you



David Wluka, Realtor®

Wluka Real Estate Corp.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1999 President Greater Boston Real Estate Board

2006 President Massachusetts Association of Realtors®

2018 RVP National Association of Realtors®

2021 Director National Association of Realtors®

Realtor® Emeritus

www.wlukarealestate.com

Follow our Cemetery Restoration Project in Poland

www.nowydworjewishmemorial.org

Madalyn Letellier

From: Elana Bloomfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Gaza Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear City Councilors,

I went into my daughter's elementary school class in her Somerville Public School to talk about Hanukkah this past December. I brought a menorah and gelt and dreidels, envisioning an opportunity to share traditions that we keep in our home and that are important to our community. I briefly explained the story of Hanukkah. The moment I uttered the word Israel as the place where this story took place, a child in my daughter's class raised his hand and told the class, "Israel bombs innocent people." People will say that criticism of Israel is not antisemitism. That can absolutely be true. But the barrier is murky and shrinking, and people who don't know the nuances and history cannot make this distinction. I came to share about a Jewish holiday, and was confronted by a political anti-Israel statement. This boy doesn't know that, and I don't fault him, but this is how it starts--incomplete understanding gets morphed into something else, until it mutates and becomes the thing we all worry most about--overt antisemitism. I am desperately trying to slow the spread of antisemitism and reduce the risk to my children, to my family, and to my community. There are appropriate places to advocate for what you believe, but choosing to do this in the city, where our children learn alongside other children, where we value differences of beliefs, of religions, of traumas, of historical oppression is to make open season a call for hate in our sacred spaces of learning and of community.

Please learn from the cities that have gone before us. San Francisco brought a similar Ceasefire motion to their City Councilors and it devolved into overt antisemitism. I have included the letter below and urge you to read it. What happened there is hateful and painful and completely unacceptable. Whatever you feel about a ceasefire, and about Middle East politics more broadly, the implications of this resolution will make no foreign policy difference abroad but every difference here in Somerville for what is quickly becoming an alienated community among many of us Jews. Please keep us safe. Advocate in your organizations, write op-eds, talk to your community members from a place of deep learning and awareness, but do not sanction antisemitism cloaked as anti-Israel rhetoric in this city. Our lives depend on it.

Sincerely,
Elana Bloomfield
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA, 02144



January 19, 2024

President Aaron Peskin
Members, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA, 94102

RE: File # 231263 "Calling for a Sustained Ceasefire in Gaza, Humanitarian Aid, Release of Hostages, and Condemning Antisemitic, Anti-Palestinian, and Islamophobic Rhetoric and Attacks"

Dear President Peskin and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

As I said last week, I almost never comment on or engage with nonbinding resolutions from the Board of Supervisors. This one warrants an exception.

Since the Board of Supervisors introduced their Gaza ceasefire resolution, and certainly since they passed it last week, our City has been angrier, more divided, and less safe. Sadly, that may have been the point. Their exercise was never about bringing people together; it was about choosing a side. And while late amendments mitigated this, the damage was already done.

At the Board's hearing on this resolution, one man spoke about his family members who were killed by Hamas on October 7. People in the crowd made pig noises, devil horns with their hands, and screamed for him to "kill himself" as he walked out the chamber. Protestors surrounded a Jewish city employee in the restroom to intimidate him while he was doing nothing more than being present in his workplace. They shouted down and intimidated those who disagreed, including a legislator offering amendments citing the atrocious acts of Hamas.

At a Supervisor candidate debate on Wednesday, a candidate, who is Jewish, brought up these instances at the Board and the crowd booed him loudly. When he mentioned the documented sexual violence committed by Hamas, people yelled "liar" and continued jeering him throughout the event.

I think about that and I wonder: What if we replaced "Jewish" with "black" or "gay" or "Asian"? Would anyone speak up? I hope we would. I hope we will now.

If the women who were murdered, raped, or otherwise brutalized by Hamas — teenagers, grandmothers, babies — weren't "Israeli women" but "Bay Area women," would we allow their friends and relatives to be shouted down as "liars"? Or would we say, "No, that's too far. We can disagree but that's just wrong."

No one in these crowds seems to be saying that. Sadly, demonization, heartlessness, and abject antisemitism have, it seems, become politically and socially acceptable among a certain subset of activists.



Since October 7th, I have spoken with numerous Jewish San Franciscans who tell me they don't feel safe in their own City. They were afraid to attend the last Board hearing, and they certainly wouldn't attend another. They are fearful of the growing acts of vandalism and intimidation, and the targeting of Jewish-owned businesses. They are worried this is the beginning of something worse, right here in San Francisco.

No one should feel unsafe in our communities. And no one should think that while advocating for peace abroad it's okay to stoke division and hate at home.

People I know and love have asked me to veto this resolution, to send a signal that this must stop, that the antisemitism we are seeing is unacceptable.

I have grappled with this request for ten days. It has kept me up at night. I've spoken with friends and faith leaders on all sides. I've prayed for clarity. And were it not for today's deadline, I would likely continue to do so.

A few things guide my decision today.

First, the Board of Supervisors should never have put our City in this position. City Supervisors are neither elected nor qualified to undertake complex foreign policy. Frankly, neither are Mayors. And it was naive to think two hearings and last-minute amendments were adequate to forge San Francisco's official position on a crisis as fraught as this. We should be creating opportunities for conversation, for people to rally around our common values, advocate for peace, and support human life. We should be coming together, supporting each other, seeking the cohesion at home that we hope for abroad. The Board has done the opposite, and I worry their irresponsibility will continue.

Second, my heart breaks for the people of Gaza, the victims of this war on all sides, and their relatives and friends around the world. The loss of life, including children, the violence, and destruction of homes and hospitals are hard to witness and even harder for those who have family members in the region. The war has caused irreparable harm in Gaza. I pray for peace and want to see this end.

Lastly, I must uphold the safety and cohesion of San Francisco. The anti-semitism in our City is real and dangerous. My veto would send this issue back to the Board of Supervisors, in whom I have no confidence on this issue. It would likely lead to yet more divisive, harmful hearings, which in turn would keep this matter and divisiveness front and center in our City, and fan even more antisemitic acts.

I cannot watch us divide ourselves even more. A leader, like a doctor, should be guided by the basic ethos to "do no harm," to not make a bad situation worse. The Board of Supervisors has put us in this terrible position and, unfortunately, after much consideration and prayer, the best thing I can do is try to quell it, try to turn down the volume and begin the healing. I must choose unity.

When we advocate for people thousands of miles away, we should still care for the people who are right here in San Francisco, the people who are in pain and are afraid. We are all San Franciscans. We don't close people off; we open our arms and our minds. And we must get through this together.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

So let us behave as we believe. Let us reject those that seek to divide us. Let us show that life is sacred, that we are stronger united, and that we all deserve to express ourselves without fear, ridicule, retribution, or division.

I return this resolution without my signature.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "London Breed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

London N. Breed
Mayor

Madalyn Letellier

From: Henry Winkleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Cease Fire resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

I am in opposition to the resolution #240089.

You need to see the precarious position Israel is in day after day

Unless you have a proposal to eliminate the Hamas movement, cease fire is untenable.

If you want a resolution, have a resolution that will require Hamas to cease its attacks on Israel and murders of Israelis. There must be a government that can deal with Hamas.

All money given to Gaza must be used to aid the Palestinians not to build a huge tunnel network.

There should also be a condemnation of Iran who is funding terrorist such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

Thank you for your time

Henry Winkleman
InSent from my iPhone

Madalyn Letellier

From: Nicole LG [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:56 PM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Resolution #240089

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Dear Somerville City Council,

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposed ceasefire resolution, and to urge you to vote no on the resolution.

I'm concerned that passing this resolution would exacerbate civic tension for those populations who are already feeling unsafe. After seeing what happened at the San Francisco city council meeting, naturally I fear the same thing could happen here as well. Tensions are already really high. People disagree on the best approach to foreign policy but, as Mayor London Breed wrote, "City Supervisors are neither qualified nor elected to undertake complex foreign policy." She later says that "[w]e should be creating opportunities for conversation" and acknowledges that antisemitism is "real and dangerous."

I strongly urge you not to pass this ceasefire measure. In the Boston area, Jews are already feeling unsafe enough. Please consider modeling conversations across differences instead of making the divides greater.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,
Nicole Gann

Madalyn Letellier

From: R Maidman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:39 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Gaza Ceasefire Resolution

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Dear City Councilors,

I understand that the Somerville City Council is to vote Thursday on what has been called a ceasefire resolution on social media. I am still devastated by the rapes, sexual violence, beheadings, and killing of innocent Israeli children and civilians by Hamas, the ruling government in Gaza, on October 7th. Over 120 Israeli and foreign citizens are still being kept hostage in Gaza by Hamas, including children and a 1 year old infant. I also empathize with the current situation faced by Palestinians in Gaza.

These events have elicited strong feelings on all sides. But I would like to offer my perspective on the upcoming vote as someone who is feeling deeply worried and unsafe here in the United States and Somerville. Antisemitism, which many Jews including me naively believed had been largely eradicated, has overnight become prevalent and acceptable in progressive places such as our wonderful city. We need safety, compassion and healing here, and an official statement like the upcoming ceasefire resolution will lead to the opposite. I found particularly powerful a letter from the mayor of San Francisco London Breed, explaining why city politics are not an appropriate forum for such resolutions and statements on complex international conflicts, in particular those eliciting strong opinions on all sides. I have attached a link to that letter below.

<https://x.com/LondonBreed/status/1748518517442584655?s=20>

We have already seen what resolutions like this look like from cities that have gone ahead of us. They only serve to further divide our community.

I respectfully ask the Council not to bring the resolution for a vote. If you do, I ask that you vote no for the reasons I have articulated.

Sincerely,

Richard Maidman
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA