

Madalyn Letellier

From: Daniela Gontownik [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 6:03 PM
To: All City Council; Public Comments; Willie Burnley, Jr.; Wilfred Mbah; [REDACTED]; Jake Wilson; Matthew McLaughlin; JT Scott; Ben Ewen-Campen; [REDACTED]; Naima Sait; Lance Davis; [REDACTED]
Subject: Vote NO on ceasefire resolution
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Dear Somerville City Council Members,

I write in opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution. While this resolution appears to be in favor of peace, by not calling for the surrender or destruction of Hamas, this resolution is actually calling for the unilateral surrender of Israel. This is antisemitic in effect, if not in intent.

We note that Hamas just rejected a proposal for a 2 month ceasefire along with the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the hostages' return. This is precisely the deal Senator Markey asked for in your preamble. It is folly to think that a unilateral ceasefire will stop Hamas from waging war or bring the hostages home alive.

If you insist on a ceasefire resolution, please amend some of the biases and one-sided arguments presented. For example, your proposal does not call for the surrender of Hamas, whose charter and stated goals are the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. It implies a false equivalence between innocent Israeli civilians held hostage and Palestinian prisoners in jail for crimes like murder. It cites the Hamas-provided death toll, and doesn't mention that civilians and combatants are not differentiated (nor that these deaths are driven by Hamas's use of human shields).

Most importantly, it does not note that there was a ceasefire in place prior to October 7th. Hamas violated this ceasefire and slaughtered 1300 people. They vow to repeat it until Israel is destroyed. Please do not endorse this as your public stance. Your resolution will not change the course of the war. But it will move people against Israel, and will increase antisemitism in Somerville. Please vote NO.

Thank you,
Daniela Gontownik
Sent from my iPhone