



Memorializing Resolution of the City Council - #0011-2024

Sponsored by: **Mitch Gruber**, At-large Representative. Co-Sponsored by: **Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.**, At-large Representative; **LaShay D. Harris**, South District Representative; **Michael A. Patterson**, Northeast District Representative; **Bridget A. Monroe**, Northwest District Representative

March 20, 2024

To The Honorable
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Resolution for a Ceasefire in Gaza

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution – asking the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the United Nations Security Council and the International Diplomatic Community to seek a permanent ceasefire in Gaza that precludes all further violence by Israel and Hamas; the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners; the cessation of U.S. military aid for the continuation of this war; and the provision of sufficient humanitarian aid in Gaza – and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve**:

WHEREAS, the City of Rochester is a Sanctuary City committed to upholding the human rights, freedom and dignity of all individuals in our community and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Hamas' brutal attack and capture of hostages on October 7th and the subsequent devastating incursion by Israel into Gaza has resulted in immense suffering and loss of human life, with the death of more than 1,000 Israelis and more than 30,000 Palestinians, of whom over 12,000 are children; and

WHEREAS, the United States has spent billions of dollars on Israel's military assault in Gaza, a situation for which the Secretary of State has acknowledged there is no plausible military solution, and the continuation of Israeli military action will only contribute to an increase in violence in the entire region and further harm the Palestinian people, both in Gaza, where there is mass displacement, destruction of vital infrastructure, and dire shortages of food, water and medicine; and in the West Bank, where Israel is expanding illegal settlements onto Palestinian land and detaining thousands without due process; and

WHEREAS, locally, the October 7th attack and subsequent war in Gaza is materially harming the social health and culture of Rochester in disturbing ways, including increased Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, polarization of opinions, emotional and mental health crises, and other consequences which negatively impact public welfare.

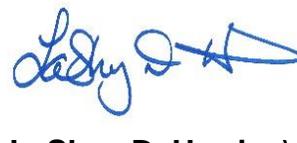
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned members of the Rochester City Council supports, via U.S. congressional action, a resolution of the UN Security Council, or international diplomacy, a permanent ceasefire in Gaza that precludes all further violence by Israel and Hamas; the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners; the cessation of U.S. military aid for the continuation of this war and the provision of sufficient humanitarian aid in Gaza; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Rochester stands in solidarity with our Palestinian, Israeli and wider Muslim, Arab, and Jewish communities, affirming our commitment to the safety, security and inclusion of all people within our city; and we express our sincere hope that the international community similarly come together to work toward a political solution that leads to a lasting and just peace that will safeguard human and civil rights for all people in Israel and Palestine.

Sincerely,



Mitch Gruber, Councilmember



Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., President
At-Large Representative

LaShay D. Harris, Vice President
South District Representative



Michael A. Patterson, Councilmember
Northeast District Representative

Bridget A. Monroe, Councilmember
Northwest District Representative