

Draft of City Council Resolution

Resolution NO. _____, condemning all forms of hate and discrimination in this city and around the world; supporting the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a halt to the fighting in Gaza; demanding the release of all Israeli and Palestinian hostages; demanding reinstatement of U.S. government funding for United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); calling for enforcement of the Leahy Law.

WHEREAS, this Council condemns violence of any kind and all forms of hate including racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism; and insists that all people have the right to learn, work, worship, and live free from intimidation, harassment and fear of violence;

WHEREAS, Israel sustained a horrific attack on October 7 that left 1,200 dead and more than 1,400 Israelis have died as a result of the conflict and more than 5,432 have been wounded;⁽¹⁾

WHEREAS, Israel's post-Oct. 7th bombardment of Gaza has killed over 34,735 Palestinians, 70% of which are women and children and over 78,000 have been wounded;⁽²⁾

WHEREAS, 412 Palestinians including 106 children have been killed in the West Bank since Oct 7;⁽²⁾

WHEREAS, Israel has routinely bombed and shelled hospitals (24), schools (80% of all schools are damaged or destroyed), universities (12 institutions), mosques (227), churches (2) and heritage sites (195);⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾

WHEREAS, 70 percent of all infrastructure in Gaza has been destroyed or damaged and now 500,000 Palestinians are permanently without housing;⁽²⁾

WHEREAS, Oxfam reports that "the escalation of hostilities in Palestine (Gaza Strip) in late 2023 has created the most severe food crisis in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) history;"⁽⁶⁾

WHEREAS, the UNRWA is vitally important to the survival of the civilian population of Gaza and the the United States has withdrawn all funding for UNRWA⁽⁷⁾

WHEREAS, Israel continues to impede the entry of essential humanitarian aid into Gaza;⁽⁸⁾

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice found it is "plausible" that Israel has

committed acts that violate the Genocide Convention, and said that Israel must take "immediate and effective" measures to ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services;⁽⁹⁾

WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza; ⁽¹⁰⁾and

WHEREAS, the U.S. "Leahy law" statutes prohibit the U.S. Government from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights; now,⁽¹¹⁾ therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That this Council condemns all forms of hate and discrimination in this City and around the world, and supports the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a halt to the fighting in Gaza.

Section 2. That this Council calls for the release of all Israelis and Palestinians being illegally held or imprisoned.

Section 3. That this Council hereby demands that Congress reinstate all funding to UNRWA to avert the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Section 4. That this Council hereby demands that President of the United States Joseph Biden enforce the Leahy Law by ceasing to provide funding for weapons and other military/defense uses to Israel until it complies with the UN Security Council Resolution calling for a ceasefire and with the ICJ's order that Israel ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services; and until a thorough investigation into the claims of "plausible genocide" can be made by the appropriate international authorities.

Sources

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- 3) "All 12 universities in Gaza have been the target of Israeli attacks: 'It's a war against education'" LaMonde. Ghazal Golshiri, Published on March 7, 2024, at

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- 4) "UN experts deeply concerned over 'scholasticide' in Gaza" United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner April 18 2024.
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-scholasticide-gaza>
- 5) "Oxfam reaction to the Global Report on Food Crises 2024."
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- 10) United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. "World Health Organization Chief, Briefing Security Council on War in Gaza, Joins Calls for Immediate Ceasefire, Unfettered Humanitarian Access." Nov 10 2023
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