

The City of Salem Human Rights Commission proposes the following language for the City of Salem City Council to use in a Resolution on the crisis in Gaza.

WHEREAS, the ongoing atrocity in Gaza has resulted in immense human suffering and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem holds as a key value compassion and is committed to promoting peace, unity, and respect for all its residents; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and stand in solidarity with our Muslim and Jewish communities, reaffirming our commitment to their safety, security, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, \$2,357,111 of Salem taxpayers' dollars are estimated to annually have been used to fund Israel's atrocities on Gaza<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, we share dire concerns with the atrocities in Gaza in which over 34,735 Palestinians have been killed, reported as of May 6, 2024<sup>2</sup> with the exact amount unknown due to the inability to count the dead as the health system collapses, another 80,000 injured and several thousand more reported missing and presumed to be dead under the rubble; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli government and Israel Defense Forces, through violence and blocking humanitarian aid are widely acknowledged by the international community to be violating international law and enacting genocide against the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, The displacement of two million Palestinian civilians and the impact on Israeli lives is utterly appalling and unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the people of Gaza face further devastation from the lack of food, water, sanitation, and other basic necessities, with over half a million Gazans reported starving by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, we condemn Hamas' attacks on Israeli citizens that took place on October 7, 2023 and tragically took the lives of over 1,200<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the urgency of the situation and the imperative need for immediate action;

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<sup>1</sup> According to the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, sourced from this web page: <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>

<sup>2</sup> According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, sourced from this web page: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-213>

<sup>3</sup> According to the American Jewish Committee, sourced from this web page: <https://www.ajc.org/IsraelHamasWar>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of Salem, Oregon calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and end to the hostilities in the region which are causing a catastrophic loss of Palestinian life; and
2. We demand that no more U.S. aid, monetary or otherwise, be directed to the arming or defense of Israel or the Israel Defense Forces for the purpose of arming, defending, or executing offensive military actions; and
3. We urge for the immediate and unrestricted proliferation of humanitarian aid commensurate with the multiple levels of socioeconomic collapse in Gaza; and
4. We urge leaders to prioritize the safety and well-being of all hostages and detainees, recognizing their right to freedom and immediate and unconditional release; and
5. We extend our support to diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at facilitating a peaceful resolution to the conflict that establishes a free and liberated Palestinian state; and
6. The City Council asks all members of Oregon's Federal Delegation to use the platform provided by their office to end genocide and facilitate an immediate and long-term peace; and
7. We express our unwavering commitment to fostering peace and unity within the City of Salem and representing the voices and concerns of all its residents; and
8. We stand in solidarity with our Palestinian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, affirming our commitment to their safety, security, and inclusion within the fabric of our city; and
9. We condemn and will not tolerate anti-Semitism, anti-Palestinian or anti-Arab bigotry, Islamophobia, or any acts of bias or hate against Jewish, Muslim, or Palestinian residents of the City of Salem; and
10. We endorse the City of Salem's Human Rights Commission in their support of a coalition and solidarity-building process that will convene community partners and leverage existing City infrastructure that will continue to facilitate necessary and difficult conversation that mitigate injury, promote harmonious relations, and grow compassion; and
11. We express our sincere hope that the current conflict will be resolved swiftly and peacefully, leading to a just and lasting peace, and that an immediate and permanent ceasefire is the first step in bringing about that process.