

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Ceasefire NOW: Alameda Community Stands with Gaza
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 5:59:12 PM

From: Noelle Ozioli Moreno <nmoreno2254@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:27:03 PM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire NOW: Alameda Community Stands with Gaza

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to call upon the rich history of resistance, activism, and diversity that our beloved city of Alameda proudly embodies, and urge you to 1) draft and pass a formal resolution in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, who are being subject to ethnic cleansing and genocide by the Israeli state backed by the United States, and to 2) demand a CEASEFIRE NOW. Already, over 8000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli airstrikes, with more than half of these being women and children. I also find hope in the calls to action from Jewish allies when they say: “‘Never Again’, means never again for anyone”, and this heartwarming solidarity they have displayed with pro-Palestinian voices.

As you may have heard, on Tuesday, October 24, Richmond City Council boldly passed a resolution standing against genocide in Gaza, making it the first U.S. city to stand on the right side of history on this critical issue. We are now calling upon the City of Alameda to take a firm stance against a genocidal apartheid regime. We can set a powerful precedent to hopefully lead a wave of solidarity across the nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Noelle Moreno

From: [Irish Science](#)
 To: [Chi Dayk](#)
 Subject: [First: Gaza Ceasefire Only When Hamas is Eliminated](#)
 Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 4:55:44 PM

From: Murray Toas <murraytoas@hotmail.com>
 Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 7:45:10 AM
 To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; idaysog@alamedaca.gov <idaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; spencer@alamedaca.gov <spencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
 Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gaza Ceasefire Only When Hamas is Eliminated

Dear Honorable Mayor Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Daysog, and Councilmembers Jensen, Spencer, and Vella,

Please consider not joining those who call for an immediate, unconditional Gaza ceasefire which will result in more evil, barbarous torture and killing of Israelis. As the Hamas leader has stated, Hamas is dedicated to conducting more October 7 attacks. **Hamas must be defeated and destroyed for the safety of the people of Israel and of Gaza.** It's painful for all Americans, Israelis, and many Palestinians to see the death of innocents anytime, including in war. However, Hamas' goal is innocents' and noncombatants' deaths and their rule in Gaza and existence will only come to an end with military force. Let's all of us who love life agree that use of force must come to an end as soon as possible with the defeat of Hamas.

Only the elimination of Hamas will bring peace and the preservation of life. Hamas is dedicated to killing Israelis and ignoring the safety of Palestinians.

From news reports <https://nationalpost.com/news/senior-hamas-official-we-will-repeat-oct-7-until-israel-is-finished>

Senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamad told Lebanon's LBC TV on Oct. 24 that the terror group would continue to carry out massacres like the one it carried out in southern Israel on Oct. 7 until the Jewish state is destroyed.

"Israel is a country that has no place on our land. We must remove that country because it constitutes a security, military and political catastrophe to the Arab and Islamic nation, and must be finished," said Hamad, according to a translation of the interview provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute.

We are not ashamed to say this, with full force," he added.

Israel's existence was "illogical," he said, adding, "The existence of Israel is what causes all that pain, blood and tears."

"The Al-Aqsa Flood [Hamas's name for the Oct. 7 mass terror attack] is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth, because we have the determination, the resolve and the capabilities to fight," said Hamad.

An NBC News video: <https://www.nbcnews.com/how/video/hamas-official-vows-repeat-attacks-on-israel-this-is-our-legal-right-196999237771>

In your letter, you suggest that the people of Alameda may know what's better for the safety of the people of Israel than they themselves.

Please help your constituents understand that included in Israeli citizens are elderly who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, their children and grandchildren, and the descendants and relatives of the six million slaughtered. Also living in Israel are those who were exiled from all Arab lands and their descendants. They cannot accept more persecution, death, and exile.

Total Estimated Holocaust Deaths by Country from <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/estimated-number-of-jews-killed-in-the-final-solution>

Country	USHMM Holocaust Memorial Museum		Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial	
	Number of Jews Killed	% of Jewish Population Murdered	Number of Jews Killed	% of Jewish Population Murdered
Austria	65,459	35%	50,000	27%
Belgium	24,387	27%	28,900	44%
Czechoslovakia	260,000	73%		
Bohemia & Moravia	77,297	66%	78,150	66%
Slovakia	75,000	83%	68,000-71,000	75%
Sudetenland	360	15%		
Denmark	52-116	2%	60	1%
Estonia	963	21%	1,500-2,000	44%
France	72,900-74,000	22%	77,320	22%
Germany	165,200	69%	134,500	24%
Greece	58,800-65,000	91%	60,000-67,000	87%
Hungary**	564,507	68%	550,000-569,000	69%
Italy	7,858	13%	7,680	17%
Latvia	70,000	75%	70,000-71,500	
Lithuania	130,000	85%	140,000-143,000	
Luxembourg	1,200	24%	1,950	20%
Netherlands	102,000	73%	100,000	
Norway	758	42%	762	50%
Poland	2,770,000-3,000,000	90%	2,900,000-3,000,000	90%
Romania	211,214-260,000	34%	271,000-287,000	50%
Soviet Union	1,340,000	44%	1,000,000-1,100,000	33-36%
Yugoslavia	67,228	82%	56,200	60%
Slovenia	1,300	87%		
Serbia	15,060	88%		
Macedonia	6,982	90%		
Albanian-annexed Kosovo	210	38%		
Croatia	30,148	77%		
Montenegro	28	93%		
Backa and Baranja	13,500	84%		
TOTAL	6,636,235	63%	5,846,032	60%

From Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_exodus_from_the_Muslim_world

Table of the Jewish population exiled from Muslim countries

In 1948, there were between 758,000 and 881,000 Jews (see table below) living in communities throughout the Arab world. Today, there are fewer than 8,600. In some Arab states, such as Libya, which was about 3% Jewish, the Jewish community no longer exists; in other Arab countries, only a few dozen to a few hundred Jews remain.

Jewish Population by country: 1948, 1972 and recent times			
Country or territory	1948 Jewish population	1972 Jewish population	Recent estimates
Morocco	250,000 ^[74] –265,000 ^[71]	31,000 ^[263]	2,100 (2019) ^[264] ^[better source needed]
Algeria	140,000 ^[70]	1,000 ^[263]	50–200 (2021) ^[265]
Tunisia	50,000 ^[74] –105,000 ^[71]	8,000 ^[263]	1,000 (2019) ^[264]
Libya	35,000 ^[74] –38,000 ^[71]	50 ^[263]	0 (2014) ^[267]
North Africa Total	~500,000	~40,000	~3,000
Iraq	135,000 ^[71] –140,000 ^[8]	500 ^[263]	5-7 (2014) ^[267]
Egypt	75,000 ^[71] –80,000 ^[8]	500 ^[263]	100 (2019) ^[267]
Yemen and Aden	53,000 ^[74] –63,000 ^[71]	500 ^[263]	50 (2016) ^[268]
Syria	15,000 ^[74] –30,000 ^[71]	4,000 ^[263]	100 (2019) ^[267]
Lebanon	5,000 ^[71] –20,000 ^[26] ^[better source needed]	2,000 ^[263]	100 (2012) ^[269]
Bahrain	550–600 ^[27] ^[better source needed]		36 (2007) ^[271]
Sudan	350 ^[257]		0
Middle East (excluding)			

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: In opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 4:51:09 PM

From: David Mendelsohn <dmendelsohn510@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 10:49:55 AM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in opposition to the City of Alameda approving a ceasefire resolution. I will not address the Israel - Hamas war specifically as it is quite nuanced and cannot be adequately addressed in a one-page letter. Instead, I want to focus on whether the City Council is the appropriate forum for the sponsor's resolution and its effects on our community. I submit that the resolution is misplaced as it has nothing to do with the business of Alameda and is actually counter to its values of inclusivity and safety for all.

The author of the resolution claims that the City of Alameda should take up the resolution because it supports enhanced livability and quality of life, including the housing crisis and homelessness. However, what does a ceasefire resolution over a war in the Middle East have to do with the livability and quality of life on the island of Alameda? It certainly has nothing to do with the housing crisis or homelessness.

Moreover, other cities have passed similar resolutions. Ask yourself, is the quality of life now better in those cities? Are those cities now more livable? Did it effect the war in any meaningful way? Unfortunately, *the only thing enhanced is antisemitism and Islamophobia*. I can tell you that entertaining the resolution is making Jews in Alameda feel scared and unsafe.

Please note that there was a ceasefire in effect prior to October 7, 2023. Hamas intentionally broke that ceasefire and purposely chose to invade and kill, rape, and maim Israelis and non-Israelis, Jews and non-Jews. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is real and tragic and is the proper domain of the US government not local government. Over the weekend, Egypt proposed a plan for a ceasefire. It was quickly and summarily rejected by Hamas. Hamas as government of Gaza should put the well-being of its citizens ahead of their goal of destroying Israel but alas it does not. Instead, Hamas hides under the ground and strategically leaves its citizens to

suffer. The war could end tomorrow if Hamas wanted it to.

By way of background, I am a property owner and 25-year resident in Alameda and a business owner. My children have attended Edison Elementary and graduated from Alameda High School. I have been a youth sports coach for the Alameda Soccer Club, Alameda Girls Softball Association and Alameda Youth Basketball. I also am a second generation Holocaust Survivor.

I would like to meet with you to discuss the appropriateness of this resolution as a city matter.

Sincerely,

David Mendelsohn

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Israel Hamas Ceasefire resolution
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 5:36:56 PM

From: JERRY WAGNER <jerry.wagner@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 7:05:06 AM
To: CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Israel Hamas Ceasefire resolution

As a long life Alameda resident living on Bay farm island I am asking the City Council to NOT adopt any resolution regarding the Israel Hamas war. Hamas attacked the state of Israel and murdered, raped and kidnapped two hundred citizens of Israel from their homes and community
You don't fully understand the situation there, stick with the concerns that you were voted to office to for and that is the concerns of the city of Alameda
stay out of international issues as even though you think you are doing the right thing you are playing into the hands of Hamas and Terrorists and doing exactly what they want
Jerry Wagner
Alameda CA 94502

From: [Skye Morgan](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [Tommy Kedar](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Issues with Resolution in Alameda
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 5:32:25 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I, and so many members of the Jewish community, are disappointed, sad, and scared to see that you have given into pressure to include a ceasefire resolution on the January 2nd agenda. I'm sure you're aware of what happened at the Richmond and Oakland City Council meetings and the ramifications in their communities. Their resolutions of course did not lead to any movement towards a ceasefire, but led to division and [increased anti-Semitism](#).

Before your meeting occurs, as a local Jewish woman and soon-to-be-mother, I want you to be aware of what has and is happening as a result of your decision. We hoped you would follow the example of Berkeley mayor (summary [here](#)) but I'm saddened that you've chosen a different path that I, and the larger Jewish community in Alameda I am connected with, see as divisive.

- You are creating a rift between the City of Alameda and the Jewish community that will be very difficult to repair. If you doubt that, talk to Jewish Oakland citizens about what they felt after their City Council meeting. Ask their superintendent how many children have successfully put in applications to leave OUSD and enter Piedmont schools. Read Jewish (not Israeli, but American Jewish) newspapers and blogs to learn what the impact has been.
- A wider Bay Area Jewish community is galvanizing around us Alameda Jews right now to show us support in light of your decision. We're getting calls - "are you safe in Alameda?" This includes Rabbis, congregations in the entire East Bay, the JCRC, fellow Jewish parents, and other allies. We are meeting to talk about how to combat the antisemitism that is very likely to happen at your Council meeting because we are scared.
- Respectfully, you don't have the power to impact the outcome of geopolitical events half a world away. You were not elected on platforms or promises to fix complicated issues in the Middle East. What you DO have power over, and a responsibility to, is the community of Alameda and whether or not everyone, including Jews, feels safe to live here. There are so many other issues at hand right here in our community - which is in fact your responsibility to handle! Why not protect your citizens with the issues immediately facing us instead of fueling the flames of a much larger international issue which you really have no impact on (except igniting antisemitism and dividing communities)

During this upcoming meeting, you might think this is about Israel's actions, but Israel will not be affected by what is said in that room. The Jewish mothers, fathers, grandparents, and children will.

Finally, it is your duty to watch the **entire** video of what happened at the Oakland City Council during the ceasefire resolution, and be prepared for that to happen in Alameda. It made international news, and not for a good reason. This Alameda City Council meeting will inevitably make at least the national news, and Jew hatred remarks that unfortunately are likely to be spoken will be viral and forever associated with our island.

Here is [a link](#) to some of what was said. You truly should watch the whole video of the Council meeting as it was traumatizing to my Jewish friends - and continues to be to this day.

This was my Rabbi's summary of events: "it was impossible not to feel the vitriol, anger, and even hatred for Israel in the room... This was not just criticism of Israel, but a mob rule mentality filled with demeaning, outrageous, extremist language, Holocaust imagery turned upside down, and indiscriminate, exaggerated and untrue uses of words like genocide, fascism, and colonialism."

California congressman Adam Schiff was horrified at the meeting to hear citizens "downplay, deny or even seek to justify" the "horrific attacks, rapes, killings and kidnappings." I hope you are prepared to hear and respond to that and have that be part of Alameda's legacy.

Sincerely,
Skye Morgan

From: [Alina Baugh](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT submit a resolution on Gaza to city council
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:28:40 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Alameda City Council:

I learned that a Gaza "cease-fire" resolution is being considered for the City Council January 2, 2024 agenda, and I am writing to request that you not proceed with this agenda item because of the harmful impact it will have on my Jewish child, my Jewish family and all the Alameda Jewish residents.

Your resolution will have zero impact on the crisis in the Middle East but will have an enormous impact on escalating Jewish hate in our communities.

My family immigrated to California from the former USSR when I was a teen, because of antisemitism we endured on a daily basis. I have vivid memories as a child of the discrimination, the vulgar messages that adults were yelling at me directly, and the physical harm that was done to me by adults, just because I am Jewish.

Jewish people in the Bay Area are now experiencing similar treatment in 2023 that I endured as a child in the USSR in the 1980s. My child is now hearing the messages in Alameda that I heard in the USSR.

My husband and I chose Alameda as a home because this was a safe and diverse community to raise our child. We purchased a home during the real estate boom, and moved with the expectation of higher taxes for a trade of a safe community with good public schools.

In the last month we learned of at least two instances in Alameda elementary and high school where kids were using Jewish hate speech.

The City Representatives of Alameda have a responsibility for efforts taking place in our city and our local communities. Our City Representatives must focus on making this a safe place for our school age children, not spending time or efforts on international conflict or their policies.

What you may believe is a "do-good" effort of making statements on international conflict only polarizes the ongoing media sound bites of misinformation and misrepresentation, and unfortunately leads to more prejudice, misperception, and hate crimes. We see this already happening in Oakland.

If you proceed with your agenda goal of "cease-fire resolution", you are abusing your power as a Mayor for issues not related to Alameda. I would like to trust that you would not use your power to inflame and destabilize our community, and you will not abuse your power to bring harm upon my Jewish child and my Jewish family.

Please use your power to keep Alameda lawmakers focused on Alameda.
Please resist voicing your opinions on international regions that will only inflame the already existent hatred locally.
Please make a responsible decision.

Sincerely,
Alina Steinberg

From: [Joan Korin](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire resolution
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 7:09:43 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Alameda City Council Members,
I am writing as a Jewish resident of Oakland to encourage you to reconsider the ceasefire resolution. While it may feel good to consider such a resolution, like you're doing something, it won't make a ceasefire happen in Gaza. It will, however, lead to increased anti-Semitism, and your Jewish citizens will feel more vulnerable. Just look at what happened in Oakland. Please remember your obligation to all of your citizens.
Thank you,
Joan Korin

From: [Susan Simon](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of the Jewish community and against this resolution
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:01:44 PM

I am writing to urge you to abandon efforts to pass this resolution.

One of your core goals is to provide efficient and effective **municipal** services. That sounds perfect to me. Your core values include innovation, integrity in all decisions, professionalism, flexibility and responsiveness. Bravo. Your job is the City of Alameda.

I cannot comprehend how you are taking on an issue in a place that is thousands of miles from Alameda, doesn't impact anything about governing in Alameda, or California for that matter. It seems to me that Alameda just wants to jump on the bandwagon and be part of the in crowd.

No resolution that you pass will have any impact on the Middle East. Your resolution will do nothing other than to show how you have simplified a very complex situation. There is a trend in this country and in other places around the world to determine who is a victim in a conflict and flock to their aid without doing the research needed to have a basic understanding of the situation.

When you consider a resolution on a cease-fire, you are telling the community, **those residents who you have promised to protect and respect**, that you want an independent country to listen to you and stop the war. Have you done that in Syria lately? Have you done that in Sudan lately? Did you pass a resolution about Ukraine? What about Iran? How about Taiwan?

I'm sure you know I am Jewish. Imagine how it feels to me that when Israel is brutally attacked, instead of the world flocking to aid Israel, Israel is seen as the aggressor. Imagine how unsafe I feel right now with synagogues being vandalized because much of the population of Israel is Jewish. You do NOT hear the Israeli Arabs calling for a cease-fire, do you? You don't see Egypt opening its borders to take care of refugees, right? What about Jordan, are they helping the people of Gaza?

What about what is going on in Yemen right now - do you even know? Why did you select the tiniest country in the middle east, the only democracy in the middle east, to attack, to condemn?

My heart breaks thinking of the people of Gaza who are suffering while at the same time I can't even comprehend how the families in Israel who

have loved ones as hostages even get through day to day.

I run the religious school at Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland. Do you know how many children I have to calm down because they are terrified? **They are terrified because of resolutions like this one which reminds them that the world hates Jews.**

Your resolution will have no impact other than to further frighten Jewish families. Why should WE be afraid? Explain that to me? Why are people like your council attacking us? Because we are Jewish?

Please reconsider lumping people together as though we are subhuman. We breathe and bleed just like you. A resolution like this will hurt the many Jewish residents of Alameda and beyond. Is that what you want?

With hope and prayers,
Susan Simon
Director of Education
Temple Beth Abraham
Oakland, CA

--

Susan Simon
Director of Education
Temple Beth Abraham
336 Euclid Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
510.663.1683
School Dismissal Phone: 415.314.7427

My day off is Monday.

2023-24 Bet Sefer Registration: <https://forms.gle/xNohs1aftGhNCj2o6>

From: [Rick Heeger](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda City Council Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:36:58 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and the Alameda City Council,

I'm sorry to hear that you plan to vote on a resolution at the next City Council meeting promoting a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. All it will do is bring out anti-Semites to air their vitriol, like it did in Richmond and Oakland. Those city council meetings were vile, horrific, filled with lies and hate. You say that you can't stay silent but, yes, you can. NO ONE needs to hear from the City of Alameda about a war in the Middle East.

I want more than anything an end to the violence. It's heartbreaking every day to see the death and destruction leveled on the people of Gaza. And I wish there was another way to defeat the terrorists who perpetrated the horrible actions of October 7. But your actions will do nothing to influence what's happening there, it will only serve to divide your fine city and unleash hatred upon the Jewish community in Alameda.

Please do not do this.

Respectfully,

Rick Heeger
rickheeger@gmail.com
510-333-6249

From: [Ivan Goldwasser](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:37:28 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council

I am a resident urging you to reject attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

As the whole country witnessed in Oakland and Richmond, the consideration of these divisive resolutions results in hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and hateful conspiracy theories, as well as general confusion and lack of decorum.

During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Ivan Goldwasser

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jo Budman](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Cc: [Jacqueline Palchik](#); [Genevieve Pastor-Cohen](#); [Norm Budman](#); [Madeline Weinstein](#); [Beverly Blatt](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cease Fire Resolution in Alameda
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:40:18 PM

We've just learned the Alameda City Council will be voting on a ceasefire resolution at the January 2nd City Council meeting, despite the actions of many of us urging the mayor and council members to consider the harm it will pose to the Alameda Jewish community, regardless of how the vote goes.

We're sure you're aware of what happened at the Richmond and Oakland City Council meetings and the ramifications in their communities. Their resolutions did not lead to any movement towards a ceasefire, but led to division, fear, and increased anti-Semitism.

As Oakland and Alameda County community supporters of over 70 years and 4 generations - we are saddened and horrified about what has and is happening as a result of these decisions.

We hope you will follow the example of the Berkeley mayor instead of creating a rift between the City of Alameda and the Jewish community. This includes Rabbis, congregations in the entire East Bay, the JCRC, fellow Jewish and non-Jewish diverse city supporters, friends and allies.

Respectfully, you don't have the power to impact the outcome of geopolitical events half a world away. You were not elected on platforms or promises to fix complicated issues in the Middle East. What you DO have power over, and a responsibility to, is the community of Alameda and whether or not everyone, including Jews, feels safe here.

Your Alameda City Council meeting will inevitably make at least the national news, and Jew hatred remarks that unfortunately are likely to be spoken will be viral and forever associated with divisiveness.

In Oakland, this was not just criticism of Israel, but a mob rule mentality filled with demeaning, outrageous, extremist language, Holocaust imagery turned upside down, with indiscriminate, exaggerated and untrue uses of words like genocide, fascism, and colonialism.

California congressman Adam Schiff was horrified to hear citizens "downplay, deny or even seek to justify" the "horrific attacks, rapes, killings and kidnappings" that started the war in the Middle East.

Please do not add to hatred and fear of antisemitism in Alameda and the Bay Area.

Jo and Norm Budman

From: [Aviva Tabachnik](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO on ceasefire resolution - help Jewish community feel safe
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 9:45:29 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I, and so many members of the Jewish community, are disappointed, sad, and scared to see that you have given into pressure to include a ceasefire resolution on the January 2nd agenda. I'm sure you're aware of what happened at the Richmond and Oakland City Council meetings and the ramifications in their communities. Their resolutions of course did not lead to any movement towards a ceasefire, but led to division and [increased anti-Semitism](#).

Before your meeting occurs, as a Jewish East Bayer from birth and mother, I want you to be aware of what has and is happening as a result of your decision. We hoped you would follow the example of Berkeley mayor (summary [here](#)) but I'm saddened that you've chosen a different path that I, and the larger Jewish community I am connected with, see as divisive.

-

You are creating a rift between the City of Alameda and the Jewish community that will be very difficult to repair. If you doubt that, talk to Jewish Oakland citizens about what they felt after their City Council meeting. Ask their superintendent how many children have successfully put in applications to leave OUSD and enter Piedmont schools. Read Jewish (not Israeli, but American Jewish) newspapers and blogs to learn what the impact has been.

-

A wider Bay Area Jewish community is galvanizing around us Alameda Jews right now to show us support in light of your decision. We're getting calls - "are you safe in Alameda?" This includes Rabbis, congregations in the entire East Bay, the JCRC, fellow Jewish parents, and other allies. We are meeting to talk about how to combat the antisemitism that is very likely to happen at your Council meeting because we are scared.

-

Respectfully, you don't have the power to impact the outcome of geopolitical events half a world away. You were not elected on platforms or promises to fix complicated issues in the Middle East. What you DO have power over, and a responsibility to, is the community of Alameda County and whether or not everyone, including Jews, feels safe to live here.

I am very frightened to attend the meeting, but I will be doing so because it is my responsibility. You might think this is about Israel's actions, but Israel will not be affected by what is said in that room. The local Jewish mothers, fathers, grandparents, and children will.

Finally, it is your duty to watch the **entire** video of what happened at the Oakland City Council during the ceasefire resolution, and be prepared for that to happen. It made international news, and not for a good reason. This Alameda City Council meeting will inevitably make at least the national news, and Jew hatred remarks that unfortunately are likely to be spoken will be viral and forever associated with here.

Here is [a link](#) to some of what was said. You truly should watch the whole video of the Council meeting as it was traumatizing to my Jewish friends in the room that night. This is what I'm mentally preparing to face on January 2nd.

This was my Rabbi's summary of events: "it was impossible not to feel the vitriol, anger, and even hatred for Israel in the room... This was not just criticism of Israel, but a mob rule mentality filled with demeaning, outrageous, extremist language, Holocaust imagery turned upside down, and indiscriminate, exaggerated and untrue uses of words like genocide, fascism, and colonialism."

California congressman Adam Schiff was horrified at the meeting to hear citizens "downplay, deny or even seek to justify" the "horrific attacks, rapes, killings and kidnappings." I hope you are prepared to hear and respond to that and have that be part of Alameda's legacy.

I ask if you're truly ready to bring this to our county.

Sincerely,

Aviva Tabachnik
917-635-2001
Temple Beth Abraham
VP Sales @ Zip.co

From: [Alicia Beth](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [Rabbi Meir Shmotkin](#); [Rabbi Mark Bloom](#); [Rabbi at Temple Israel of Alameda](#); [Rabbi Art Gould](#); [Scuderi, Pasquale](#); [Bryan Schwartz](#); [ellen steuer](#); [Gene Kahane](#); [Jacqueline](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution, Please read
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 9:23:54 AM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council,
I am writing to you to express fear and disappointment regarding a ceasefire resolution on the January 2nd agenda. These resolutions that we have seen in other Bay Area communities have not lead to any movement towards a ceasefire, but to division and increased Jewish hatred.

I would like you to consider how the Alameda Unified School District is responding to this. I along with many Jewish families have been pleased with the response from the Alameda Unified School District. The District's current message strikes the right balance and holds the line that they are committed to make school a safe place for all students and they will not tolerate any discrimination against any students including Jewish or Palestinian students. They go on to explain that they *may not be qualified to be the ultimate judges of long-standing global disputes and political grievances, yet we can forcefully denounce the premeditated killing, maiming, and abducting of innocent civilians - especially children - anywhere.*

How can we take the lessons from the Alameda Unified School District and make all residents feel safe in Alameda, especially Jewish residents?

The district's *intention is to educate students to become thoughtful, collaborative members of society who seek just and peaceful solutions to today's issues. That value incorporates teaching students to think critically about global issues.*

Can we ask that of the adults in our community as well, to lead by example and seek peaceful solutions to today's issues.

How can we do this? We can start by building bridges. I remember working with you and the Alameda City Council in 2017/2018 when there was an uptick in Jewish Hatred. There were many incidents on AUSD school campus', student harassment, swastikas found and even a brick thrown through the glass at Temple Israel, where the community came together for vigil in support. And what did we do, we became solution oriented and got stronger.

During this time AUSD adopted the Everyone Belongs Here campaign and the Elementary Schools on the island with the help of PTA and the ADL all formed DEI groups. Alameda became one of the first Districts in the Bay Area to Adopt the No PLace for Hate Curriculum, teaching students how to be an upstander. We all came together as a community. I remember sharing a meal with you, Rabbi Chester and Imam Ariff. We learned about the pillars of Islam one evening and about Jewish customs and holidays starting at sundown on a different evening. Jewish Muslim and Christian parents and children came together to learn about foods and traditions. When people sit down and talk and share food they begin to build

relationships and see each other on a human level. We are living in a world that is extremely stressful and we don't have the power to impact the outcome of geopolitical events half a world away. What we can do is foster community here in Alameda and start with interfaith alliances and start exploring the question, how can we live well together amidst our differences?

The hate that will grow from this meeting will never be repaired but the opportunity to grow and learn from each other in Alameda is endless. We teach students about the Growth Mindset, can we as adults embrace growth as well?

I can tell you as an educator in Oakland we are seeing many Jewish students leaving the district and putting in interdistrict transfers to places where Superintendents have committed to student learning and social emotional well being. Adults set the stage for the next generation, can we give them the tools for repair? The AUSD uses Toolbox to help students overcome social and emotional challenges, can we as adults develop our own toolbox to repair the world, one interaction at a time?

I hope you will consider my email and think about a path that connects rather than divides.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting on January 2 as I will be out of the country.

The timing of this meeting is not ideal since it is the AUSD winter break and many families are out of town.

In Partnership,
Alicia Cernitz-Schwartz
Mother of two AUSD Students
Oakland Educator of Newcomer Students
Relationship Builder

Please see the letter from the Superintendent

In the wake of the violence unfolding in Israel and Gaza since Saturday, we know that students, staff, and families may be struggling with deep feelings of anxiety, despair, anger, or fear.

Let me be very clear: We do not accept or condone, under any conditions, discrimination or violence towards people based on their race, ethnicity, or religion.

We may not be qualified to be the ultimate judges of long-standing global disputes and political grievances, yet we can forcefully denounce the premeditated killing, maiming, and abducting of innocent civilians - especially children – anywhere.

As such, as a school district we want to emphasize that our highest priority is keeping our students safe. We should be extra attentive over the coming weeks for any reports of students being bullied based on their ethnicity, race, or religion or based on current events. Please confer with an administrator immediately if students report in any way being harmed or harassed in this fashion.

Anti-Jewish and Islamophobic rhetoric and expressions are never acceptable here in AUSD, and we are asking our entire community to help us ensure that we affirm that with clarity as we navigate these dire current events and their global and local impact together.

I also want to emphasize that our intention is to educate students to become thoughtful, collaborative members of society who seek just and peaceful solutions to today's issues. That value incorporates teaching students to think critically about global issues. It also entails social and emotional learning - teaching students to get along with others, to understand their own and others' emotions, to navigate differences skillfully, and to seek common ground intentionally.

We also strive to support spaces for young people that the rest of the world has long struggled to create - spaces where Jewish and Palestinian students, for instance, can learn and grow together, where straight and LGBTQ+ students can be embraced and find acceptance, where students across all racial and cultural lines can compare and share their life experiences.

These are not easy times. And as an educational institution our role in the face of difficult world events is to shape and support the next generation to understand the events, to have compassion for innocent victims, and to work towards peaceful communities for all.

I want to remind you that we have mental health resources available for students who may be struggling because of the violence in the mid-East right now. Please see our [Mental Health Resources page](#) for a listing of counseling services available at our school sites and in the community or speak to your student's teacher or principal for guidance. We also provide resources on anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and talking to children about war and violence in general on our [Tools for Family Conversations web page](#).

For employees seeking support, I'd like to remind you that we have a new Employee Assistance Program through Claremont that offers counseling, online peer support groups, and 24-hour crisis help. Information about that program is available on our [Employee Benefits web page](#).

Moving forward, we pledge to continue to be alert to the ways in which we can support our community members during this very difficult time.

Thank you for watching over our students and please take care of yourselves.

*Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent
Alameda Unified School District*

From: [Karen Bloom](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not bring the ceasefire resolution forward on Jan. 2
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 10:18:45 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am a resident of Oakland, a teacher in Piedmont, a wife of a rabbi, mother of two, and a Jew. I am a proud Zionist who wishes for peace in the Middle East and the entire world. I have personally observed how much pain these local ceasefire resolutions are causing all members of their communities, especially the Jewish human beings who live here.

Resolutions passed in Oakland and Richmond did nothing to help the situation in Israel and Gaza and simply created an environment of hatred, division, and antisemitism. I personally know of several Oakland families who are leaving OUSD due to their teacher's union resolution creating an unsafe environment for their children.

Please follow the example of Berkeley mayor Jesse Arreguin who said: "These resolutions will not end the violence abroad, but they do fan the flames of hatred here at home," he said in a statement. "That's a threat I cannot ignore." Full article here: <https://shorturl.at/erNUY>

As my friend and Alameda resident, Jacqueline Palchik says: "Respectfully, you don't have the power to impact the outcome of geopolitical events half a world away. You were not elected on platforms or promises to fix complicated issues in the Middle East. What you DO have power over, and a responsibility to, is the community of Alameda and whether or not everyone, including Jews, feels safe to live here." Jew hatred is real and will be on display when this resolution is opened up to public comment. You have the power to prevent this. The lies of apartheid, colonialism, fascism, etc. and false accusations of genocide create an environment that is unsafe for the Jewish community and the Jewish residents of the East Bay.

Please do not allow a ceasefire resolution to come before Alameda City Council.

Sincerely,
Karen Bloom
Oakland, CA

From: [Tobias Kahan](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Jews in Alameda Safe
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 11:24:14 AM

Dear City of Alameda Council Members,

I am writing to oppose agenda item 10-D on the agenda of the January 2nd City Council Meeting.

The letter under discussion condemns Hamas and expresses concern for all civilians, a well intentioned ethical position. However, raising this highly charged matter in a City Council Meeting only serves to create an open forum for anti-Jewish hate. The scenes of pure anti-Jewish bigotry from the Oakland City Council meeting that went viral are just the beginning. Since then, Oakland has seen a surge of anti-Semitic acts including the destruction of our public Menorah, an act being investigated as a hate crime by the Oakland Police Department.

Jews are less safe today in Oakland because of the ceasefire resolution that was debated and passed in Oakland.

I urge you not to put your well intentioned desire to take an ethical stand on a foreign matter ahead of your constituents. You will simply be importing the pain and agony experienced abroad into your own City.

Sincerely,

Tobias Kahan

From: [raviv.moore](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Screening of the October 7th Hamas invasion - please read and respond
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 12:21:19 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

We are writing to you following the decision to bring up a city resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza.

While we understand you mean well, please consider the consequences of this action.

Jews in this town feel threatened. I just spoke with a Jewish teacher in an Oakland charter school that had a student giving her the Heil-Hitler salute. This is a result of bringing these topics into our towns.

Before bringing the resolution up to the city council meeting, it is important that you know all facts about what happened on October 7th.

For this purpose, we would like to schedule with you a screening of videos documenting the Hamas invasion and takeover of Israeli towns that day.

This video is not public due to the fact the victims have families, and is only shared with certain groups of decision makers.

We strongly feel that before making a decision impacting the city community, YOU NEED TO KNOW and have the details in front of you.

Please respond and let us know if we can go ahead and schedule the screening at your convenience.

Thank you in advance,

Raviv Moore

Alameda

510-435-2727

From: [Maya Rath](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO ceasefire resolution
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 12:44:06 PM

Why is it the role of Alameda to intervene and take a stand on the Middle East conflict? What purpose does this serve besides showing your anti-semitism. A vote for a cease fire is nothing but anti-semitism. Please know that.

I'm guessing this is being done out of total ignorance as to the history of the events in that area. Do you know what they are? Can you recite the history of the area and the origins of the conflict? Why didn't you take a stand against Hamas for the atrocities committed on October 7? THIS is what you are choosing to spend your time on? Do you know what a ceasefire will do? Wow. You are putting a wedge between your community and the Jewish population. Shame on all of you who will vote on this. It has NOTHING to do with what you were elected to do.

Sincerely,

Maya Rath

From: [Joan Borkow](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 2:03:08 PM

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am deeply worried about the proposed resolution that apparently will be on the January 2 City Council meeting.

I have lived in Alameda for almost 9 years. I moved from Martha's Vineyard to be closer to my family...especially my twin baby grandchildren. I know that I have been so lucky to have wound up in this lovely place. I felt welcomed from the moment that I arrived. The community is beautiful, well managed and maintained, and inclusive. People are friendly and have each others' backs. I could go on about the parks at length!

I greatly fear that the proposed ceasefire resolution will do damage to much of what I value about my adopted community. I watched the Oakland meeting, where a similar proposal was on the agenda, with both sadness and horror. The vitriol and hate speech that erupted was chilling. Please don't let that kind of divisiveness take hold in Alameda.

I would be happy to discuss more about this with you if you would like to do that.

Best regards,
Joan Borkow
Fair Oaks Avenue
Alameda
774.563.8616

From: [David Baglen](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] cease fire resolution
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 2:38:02 PM

Please do not vote for a cease fire. I was born in Alameda and will not feel safe as a Jew we will be looked at as the enemies and only cause more antisemitism . Alameda should be a safe place for all.
David Baglein

From: [Noah Rosenthal](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gaza ceasefire letter
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 4:04:12 PM

Dear Alameda City Council,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on authorizing the mayor to send a letter on behalf of the counsel regarding a ceasefire in Gaza. As a Jewish parent of three children who has long been, and continues to be, critical of Israel's policies on Palestine, I care deeply about those who are suffering, and who have suffered devastating atrocities, on both sides of this both long-running and recent war. I am confident the Council and most in Alameda feel a mutual horror at what is occurring in Israel and Gaza.

Nevertheless, we have seen that rhetoric calling for a ceasefire and criticizing Israel has been used as an excuse and motivator for antisemitism in the United States and has largely obfuscated what little criticism there was at the atrocities by Hamas that triggered the current (and horrifying and wrong) war. While I'm sure this is not the intent of the Council, sending this letter will run directly counter to the City's motto "Everyone Belongs Here," because it contributes to an environment that is neither welcoming nor safe for Jews.

If members of the Council wish to make statements in their role as a citizen, it is their prerogative to do that. But the City should not take a stance, outside of its ordinary duties, that will so clearly devalue the belonging of Jewish people in Alameda. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Noah Rosenthal

From: [Alexis Roizen](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Cc: [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on Ceasefire Letter
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 7:06:53 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcroft, Vice Mayor Daysog, Councilmember Spencer, Councilmember Jensen, and Councilmember Vella,

Regarding a letter about a Gaza ceasefire:

I hope we follow the lead of Berkeley's mayor and vote NO on sending a letter about a ceasefire.

"These resolutions will not end the violence abroad, but they do fan the flames of hatred here at home," Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín said in a statement. "That's a threat I cannot ignore."

Your responsibility is to our local citizens and local governance. Please do not fan the flames of hatred in our community. This is a long and complicated history and a letter picking a side will not solve it. It will only encourage anger and division between our neighbors. By voting No, you will demonstrate your focus on ALL of Alameda's citizens and the problems our city council CAN and SHOULD focus on.

Please vote NO.

Sincerely,
Alexis Roizen Harris
Bay Farm Resident with a Kindergartener at Bay Farm Elementary

Sent from my iPad

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Vote No on Authorizing the Ceasefire Letter
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 5:53:59 AM

From: Ellen Lefkowitz <lefkowitz.ellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 2:18:44 PM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote No on Authorizing the Ceasefire Letter

Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Councilmember Jensen, Councilmember Daysog, Councilmember Spencer, and Councilmember Vella,

I am a Jewish resident of Alameda. My daughter attends Otis Elementary school, and I am a member of Otis' equity and inclusion committee, and a member of AUSDs Jewish Roundtable. Alameda has been my home for the last 12 years. **I would like to kindly ask that this council vote no on authorizing the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the council regarding a Gaza Ceasefire.** I appreciate the complex nature of the discussions around a ceasefire and the release of hostages, understanding that opinions on the matter may vary. I feel the suffering in the region deeply. I have friends there, as I know many in Alameda do, and I understand the need for lasting peace and security for everyone involved. These are nuanced and difficult issues of foreign policy that affect residents of Alameda who hold the region in their hearts every day. However, as we engage in these important conversations, I urge you to consider the primary focus of our city's business. The scope of your city responsibilities lies in local governance, community well-being, and the sustainability of our community. In the last few years, our city has adopted the motto "Everyone Belongs Here", it is at the entrance to many of our schools and many local businesses. Voting no on this letter will support everyone in feeling safe and welcome in this community.

While global issues are undoubtedly important, I believe your primary duty is to address matters directly impacting our residents and local affairs. As you deliberate on authorizing this letter at the upcoming city council meeting in January, I encourage you to keep our city's core business in mind. ***Choosing not to authorize this letter does not mean you do not care for those suffering in this war.***

Thank you for your time and dedication to the betterment of Alameda. I know you will

do the right thing and choose not to authorize this letter. In voting no you will join like-minded colleagues in cities like Foster City, Pinole, Petaluma, San Jose, and San Leandro who rejected even bringing similar resolutions to their council chambers and stood on the side of local issues. You are not alone, and we support you.

With sincere gratitude for your commitment to public service,

Ellen Lefkowitz

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on Ceasefire Letter
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:34:18 AM

From: Alexis Roizen <alexis.roizen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 7:06:53 PM
To: mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>; CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on Ceasefire Letter

Dear Mayor Ashcroft, Vice Mayor Daysog, Councilmember Spencer, Councilmember Jensen, and Councilmember Vella,

Regarding a letter about a Gaza ceasefire:

I hope we follow the lead of Berkeley's mayor and vote NO on sending a letter about a ceasefire.

"These resolutions will not end the violence abroad, but they do fan the flames of hatred here at home," Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín said in a statement. "That's a threat I cannot ignore."

Your responsibility is to our local citizens and local governance. Please do not fan the flames of hatred in our community. This is a long and complicated history and a letter picking a side will not solve it. It will only encourage anger and division between our neighbors. By voting No, you will demonstrate your focus on ALL of Alameda's citizens and the problems our city council CAN and SHOULD focus on.

Please vote NO.

Sincerely,
Alexis Roizen Harris
Bay Farm Resident with a Kindergartener at Bay Farm Elementary

Sent from my iPad

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] SCARED: Alameda Resolution against Israel
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:34:29 AM

From: Efrat Rafaeli <efratrafaeli@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 5:18:31 PM
To: tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SCARED: Alameda Resolution against Israel

Alameda Trish, City Council Member

My name is Efrat, I was born and raised on a kibbutz near the Gaza strip that was affected by the 10/7 attack, and I have lost many friends in that attack and after.

I am an Alameda County resident who resides and works in the city of Oakland.

I am here to urge you against passing a cease-fire resolution against Israel. The wave of the Anti Israel movement has not only created divisiveness among our communities, it has contributed to the rise of anti semitism in the bay area, and in particular the east bay where I live with my son and husband.

I walk the streets, and see grafittis calling for the Genocide of Jews. What you see at Universities and Schools is all interconnected, and by condemning Israel for its right for self determination and self defense, you are sowing more hate and poison in your local community.

Two weeks ago a student in my class shouted "Heil Hitler" at, because of my background and ethnicity.

My son who goes to an Oakland charter school, with kids from Alameda, has experienced hate words against Israel. Jewish students in his school have been named "Zionists" since the term had become pejorative and racist.

I fear for my safety.

I have a distinct accent that is not American, and for the first time in 30 plus years in America, I lie when people ask me where I'm from.

I lie about my ethnic background.

I lie about my birth place.

And I lie about my name.

Because I am scared.

Because of your condemnation of me, my tribe, and my country.

Efrat Rafaeli

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Gaza ceasefire letter
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:34:45 AM

From: Noah Rosenthal <rosenthal.noah@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 4:03:30 PM
To: CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gaza ceasefire letter

Dear Alameda City Council,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on authorizing the mayor to send a letter on behalf of the counsel regarding a ceasefire in Gaza. As a Jewish parent of three children who has long been, and continues to be, critical of Israel's policies on Palestine, I care deeply about those who are suffering, and who have suffered devastating atrocities, on both sides of this both long-running and recent war. I am confident the Council and most in Alameda feel a mutual horror at what is occurring in Israel and Gaza.

Nevertheless, we have seen that rhetoric calling for a ceasefire and criticizing Israel has been used as an excuse and motivator for antisemitism in the United States and has largely obfuscated what little criticism there was at the atrocities by Hamas that triggered the current (and horrifying and wrong) war. While I'm sure this is not the intent of the Council, sending this letter will run directly counter to the City's motto "Everyone Belongs Here," because it contributes to an environment that is neither welcoming nor safe for Jews.

If members of the Council wish to make statements in their role as a citizen, it is their prerogative to do that. But the City should not take a stance, outside of its ordinary duties, that will so clearly devalue the belonging of Jewish people in Alameda. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Noah Rosenthal

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:35:37 AM

From: Joan Borkow <jborkow@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 2:02:50 PM
To: CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am deeply worried about the proposed resolution that apparently will be on the January 2 City Council meeting.

I have lived in Alameda for almost 9 years. I moved from Martha's Vineyard to be closer to my family...especially my twin baby grandchildren. I know that I have been so lucky to have wound up in this lovely place. I felt welcomed from the moment that I arrived. The community is beautiful, well managed and maintained, and inclusive. People are friendly and have each others' backs. I could go on about the parks at length!

I greatly fear that the proposed ceasefire resolution will do damage to much of what I value about my adopted community. I watched the Oakland meeting, where a similar proposal was on the agenda, with both sadness and horror. The vitriol and hate speech that erupted was chilling. Please don't let that kind of divisiveness take hold in Alameda.

I would be happy to discuss more about this with you if you would like to do that.

Best regards,
Joan Borkow
Fair Oaks Avenue
Alameda
774.563.8616

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Two points to consider regarding your proposed cease-fire letter
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:50:40 AM

From: Yoni Glaser <glaserjonathan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 7:06:59 AM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Two points to consider regarding your proposed cease-fire letter

Dear Mayor -

I received a copy of your ceasefire letter and wanted to share my views with you as an Alameda resident, a person who through action have promoted cross-cultural cooperation between Muslims and Jews and a father of two small children.

1. You seek to amplify the voices of constituents that have repeatedly joined meetings. I commend that, but many voices that have voiced their support in these meetings, vigils and across the Bay Area are either intentionally or unintentionally promoting hatred towards Jews through antisemitic rhetoric.

Antisemitism is a virus. Your amplification of their voices is analogous to a sick person coughing. There may be momentary relief for the person, but it does nothing to improve the person's health, and it almost certainly guarantees someone else will get sick. I urge you to exhibit ethical leadership and strength and fight the urge to cough!

2. Hamas is an altruistically evil organization. It prefers to sacrifice its own people (those who are supportive of them and those who just happen to live above of the tunnels where their leaders hide) to achieve its goal which is the maximization of deaths to Jewish people. A cease-fire arrangement now will ensure Hamas maintains its political power and enable it to sacrifice Palestinians at a later date (there was a cease-fire on October 6 and Hamas has trained for the October 7 attack for years). As such, I generally disagree with your opinion that a ceasefire without mentioning their removal from power will increase the long-term conditions of the Palestinians in Gaza or Israelis.

I'd like you to reconsider the letter you intend to send on behalf of the City of Alameda.

Best,
Jonathan Glaser
Park Street, Alameda

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:59:08 AM

From: Rabbi Mark Bloom <rabbibloom@tbaoakland.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 5:04:18 PM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

Mayor Ashcroft, Vice Mayor Daysog, Council Member Spencer, Council Member Jensen, and Council Member Vella,

I am the Rabbi of Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland, where many of the residents of Alameda choose to attend synagogue. Most of them are terrified of the rising antisemitism in the East Bay, and that includes Alameda. I have had to counsel dozens of people over the last two months regarding their fears, and beyond listening, I have few words of comfort to offer them.

More of them will be coming to me in January should you go through with putting any kind of ceasefire resolution on your agenda. You will unleash a kind of vitriol you can't really even imagine, though if you watched any part of the Oakland City Council meeting, you may indeed understand. People will use "Zionist" as a codeword, but the rhetoric will be the same.

Please, please, please, resist the temptation to give in to the considerable pressure I know you face regarding sponsoring such a resolution. It will make no difference Internationally, but it is guaranteed to cause pain to your Jewish residents as well as divide your city.

I hope and pray that you will take what is truly the right stand--the stand of bringing your residents together rather than tearing them further apart.

Shalom,

Rabbi Mark Bloom

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] From a concerned Jewish Alameda Resident - Please Refrain from Issuing Resolution
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:01:48 AM

From: Ilana Kohn <kohnilana@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:51:03 AM
To: tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From a concerned Jewish Alameda Resident - Please Refrain from Issuing Resolution

Dear Esteemed Council Member Spencer:

I write in response to learning that Mayor Ashcraft is considering putting a resolution on the January 2nd City Council agenda calling for a cease-fire with respect to the Israel-Hamas war.

I am an Alameda resident of nearly 15 years. My children attended preschool, elementary, and middle school and are now in high school here in Alameda. I returned home yesterday from a 10-day trip to Israel, where my mother lives and whom I visited during this difficult time because she has just been released from the hospital. I have sisters, aunt, uncle and cousins living in Israel as well. This past Monday, on my last day there – I experienced what Israelis face daily: sirens warning of incoming rockets launched by Hamas from Gaza – a barrage of rockets launched toward civilians in Tel Aviv.

A non-binding, performative resolution calling for a “cease-fire” will not bring about peace in the region. The opposite is true – such a resolution based on misinformation and anti-semitic rhetoric will only serve to tear our community apart. At Alameda High School on “Unity” day – no Jewish student wanted to have the Israeli flag displayed when all other countries’ flags were part of a “Unity” procession. They didn’t want to get “booed” by 1400 classmates. Imagine what is like for a teenager – in 2023 – to feel scared and ashamed of displaying their heritage.

Alameda has critical local concerns that need addressing. Persons afflicted with homelessness, mental illness, and substance addiction and lacking any support services or safety net can be seen wandering on Park Street daily. Local elected officials were elected to address the issues that affect our city – not “weigh in” on global issues that are complicated and nuanced. What exactly is the “purpose” of a resolution that will have no impact or influence on a conflict thousands of miles away?

If the City Council decides to enter into a discussion on foreign affairs

completely unrelated to the City of Alameda, which I strongly request the Council refrain from doing, I urge you to include in any resolution an **unequivocal condemnation of Hamas** and the atrocities committed on October 7th against 1200 innocent people, including the rape, butchering, and mutilation, of women, children, disabled, and elderly, and **a call for Hamas to immediately put down their weapons and release the remaining hostages.**

-Ilana Kohn

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:02:11 AM

From: Eden Moore <edenmoore007@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:12:50 AM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

As the whole country witnessed in Oakland and Richmond, the consideration of these divisive resolutions results in hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and hateful conspiracy theories, as well as general confusion and lack of decorum.

During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Eden Moore
1016 island dr
Alameda, CA 94502

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire NOW: Alameda Community Stands with Gaza
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:02:20 AM

From: belinda gonzalez <belinda.gonzalez493@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:26:55 AM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire NOW: Alameda Community Stands with Gaza

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to call upon the rich history of resistance, activism, and diversity that our beloved city of Alameda proudly embodies, and urge you to 1) draft and pass a formal resolution in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, who are being subject to ethnic cleansing and genocide by the Israeli state backed by the United States, and to 2) demand a CEASEFIRE NOW. Already, over 8000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli airstrikes, with more than half of these being women and children. I also find hope in the calls to action from Jewish allies when they say: “‘Never Again’, means never again for anyone”, and this heartwarming solidarity they have displayed with pro-Palestinian voices.

As you may have heard, on Tuesday, October 24, Richmond City Council boldly passed a resolution standing against genocide in Gaza, making it the first U.S. city to stand on the right side of history on this critical issue. We are now calling upon the City of Alameda to take a firm stance against a genocidal apartheid regime. We can set a powerful precedent to hopefully lead a wave of solidarity across the nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Belinda Hernandez

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] A request from the Jewish community in Alameda
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:03:15 AM

From: raviv moore <raviv.moore@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 6:01:11 PM
To: Marilyn Ezy-Ashcraft <mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; Trish Herrera-Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A request from the Jewish community in Alameda

Dear Mayor and Council members,

We recently learned there is an intent to bring up a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

I am urging you to NOT bring this resolution up as an agenda item and for a vote during the next council meeting for several important reasons:

As a result of resolutions in other cities, many in the Jewish community in Alameda and the East Bay are living in fear of violence and antisemitic acts, verbal or physical. I know that many of my Jewish friends now feel unwelcomed and uncomfortable in our town, especially considering previous antisemitic incidents in AHS and Temple Israel. They also witness incidents in other cities, such as the Menorah vandalism in Oakland. These incidents are not happening in a vacuum and are driven at least partially by city resolutions.

We also see the antisemitic messages and calls for the destruction of Israel as part of the language and messages used during the discussion. This is NOT only about ceasefire (see attached).

This resolution, if accepted, will achieve nothing except for driving friction and conflict between residents of our city.

It will bring uncalled for national attention and media to Alameda, and further alienate the Alameda Jewish community.

I would also remind you of the principals our city likes to promote: Everyone is welcomed here, and everyone should feel safe here?

Unfortunately, we already do not feel safe and with this resolution we will not feel welcomed in our city.

Our beloved city has enough challenges on its table and opportunities to bring our fellow residents together rather than drive them apart.

I hope you will not bring this resolution to the city council.

Respectfully,
Raviv Moore
1016 Island dr.
510-435-2727

<https://twitter.com/SFJCRC/status/1729621345699516519?s=20>

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:04:38 AM

From: John Barsoti <johnbarsoti@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 2:44:21 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

As the whole country witnessed in Oakland and Richmond, the consideration of these divisive resolutions results in hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and hateful conspiracy theories, as well as general confusion and lack of decorum.

During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
John Barsoti
238 Beach Road
Alameda, CA 94502

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:05:42 AM

From: Gonen Shoham <gonensh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 2:32:27 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

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Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Gonen Shoham
3437 Capella Ln
Alameda, CA 94502

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:06:40 AM

From: Janelle Ruiz <janelle.ruiz.ca@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:40:35 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

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Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Janelle Ruiz
473 buena vista ave
alameda, CA 94501

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:07:23 AM

From: Jacqueline Palchik <jacqueline.palchik@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:25:45 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

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During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Palchik
1017 Pearl St
Alameda, CA 94501

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:07:38 AM

From: Zipora David <zipora.d.david@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:15:46 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

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Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Zipora David
324 Channing Way
Alameda, CA 94502

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:07:57 AM

From: Jonathan Glaser <glasjo1953@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:53:56 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

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During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Glaser
927 Park St
Alameda, CA 94501

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:08:17 AM

From: Monica Moore <monicamoore97@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:43:49 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

As the whole country witnessed in Oakland and Richmond, the consideration of these divisive resolutions results in hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and hateful conspiracy theories, as well as general confusion and lack of decorum.

During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
Monica Moore
1016 Island Dr
Alameda, CA 94502

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Two points to consider regarding your proposed cease-fire letter
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:34:11 AM

From: Yoni Glaser <glaserjonathan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 7:06:59 AM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Two points to consider regarding your proposed cease-fire letter

Dear Mayor -

I received a copy of your ceasefire letter and wanted to share my views with you as an Alameda resident, a person who through action have promoted cross-cultural cooperation between Muslims and Jews and a father of two small children.

1. You seek to amplify the voices of constituents that have repeatedly joined meetings. I commend that, but many voices that have voiced their support in these meetings, vigils and across the Bay Area are either intentionally or unintentionally promoting hatred towards Jews through antisemitic rhetoric.

Antisemitism is a virus. Your amplification of their voices is analogous to a sick person coughing. There may be momentary relief for the person, but it does nothing to improve the person's health, and it almost certainly guarantees someone else will get sick. I urge you to exhibit ethical leadership and strength and fight the urge to cough!

2. Hamas is an altruistically evil organization. It prefers to sacrifice its own people (those who are supportive of them and those who just happen to live above of the tunnels where their leaders hide) to achieve its goal which is the maximization of deaths to Jewish people. A cease-fire arrangement now will ensure Hamas maintains its political power and enable it to sacrifice Palestinians at a later date (there was a cease-fire on October 6 and Hamas has trained for the October 7 attack for years). As such, I generally disagree with your opinion that a ceasefire without mentioning their removal from power will increase the long-term conditions of the Palestinians in Gaza or Israelis.

I'd like you to reconsider the letter you intend to send on behalf of the City of Alameda.

Best,
Jonathan Glaser
Park Street, Alameda

From: [liz fleischman](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Letter
Date: Sunday, December 24, 2023 4:08:58 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am incredibly disappointed to learn that Alameda is planning to go the same route as Oakland and Richmond to pass a ceasefire resolution. I am a Jewish Oakland resident, and I am writing in support of the Jewish community living in Alameda. I am attempting to save them from the shock that I felt after watching the comments made when Oakland passed its resolution.

Ultimately, this resolution will do nothing to affect change in the current war between Israel and Palestine. Because of this, you need to heavily consider the impact this resolution will have on the community in Alameda. Your duty is first to your constituents, not to the global community.

The Oakland resolution opened up the floor and gave voice to many impassioned people who spoke hate and lies under the guise of fighting for peace. I do not know how to solve the war, or the greater conflict that gave rise to the war, but I do know it will not be solved with hate. When you give a stage to people who claim that either:

1. 10/7 did not happen,
2. 10/7 was deserved, or
3. 10/7 was perpetrated by the Israeli government,

you give legitimacy to these voices. We should not be feeding oxygen to the fire that spreads Jew hatred.

I am deeply concerned for my Jewish neighbors in Alameda. I fear that if you pass this resolution, you will encourage Jew haters to become more confident in their speech and actions. Just as we have seen in Oakland, where the Chabad's Channukiah was destroyed on the 6th night of Channukah.

In addition to the very real fear of a rise in anti-Jew hate crimes, Oakland made international news after their ceasefire resolution, and not for any good reason. The international community saw a video of a hysterical mob talking from halfway around the world from the actual war. Make no mistake, the same things will be said at your meeting, and you will be seen in the same light as Oakland.

You say you want to "set an example of ethical leadership." You should do that by protecting the community you serve. If you pass this resolution, you will be inviting hate and violence into your community. Ethical leadership should seek to minimize pain and suffering in their own communities before casting aspersions to the wider community. In other words, fix your own house before judging others'. You were not elected to fix the crisis in the Middle East, you were elected to make your community a better and safer place for its citizens.

Please reconsider this resolution. It will cause more harm than good, and I do not think you are prepared to deal with the consequences.

Respectfully,
-Liz Fleischman
(201) 953-0040

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: In opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 4:51:09 PM

From: David Mendelsohn <dmendelsohn510@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 10:49:55 AM
To: mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; tdaysog@alamedaca.gov <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; tjensen@alamedaca.gov <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; tspencer@alamedaca.gov <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaca.gov <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in opposition to the City of Alameda approving a ceasefire resolution. I will not address the Israel - Hamas war specifically as it is quite nuanced and cannot be adequately addressed in a one-page letter. Instead, I want to focus on whether the City Council is the appropriate forum for the sponsor's resolution and its effects on our community. I submit that the resolution is misplaced as it has nothing to do with the business of Alameda and is actually counter to its values of inclusivity and safety for all.

The author of the resolution claims that the City of Alameda should take up the resolution because it supports enhanced livability and quality of life, including the housing crisis and homelessness. However, what does a ceasefire resolution over a war in the Middle East have to do with the livability and quality of life on the island of Alameda? It certainly has nothing to do with the housing crisis or homelessness.

Moreover, other cities have passed similar resolutions. Ask yourself, is the quality of life now better in those cities? Are those cities now more livable? Did it effect the war in any meaningful way? Unfortunately, *the only thing enhanced is antisemitism and Islamophobia*. I can tell you that entertaining the resolution is making Jews in Alameda feel scared and unsafe.

Please note that there was a ceasefire in effect prior to October 7, 2023. Hamas intentionally broke that ceasefire and purposely chose to invade and kill, rape, and maim Israelis and non-Israelis, Jews and non-Jews. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is real and tragic and is the proper domain of the US government not local government. Over the weekend, Egypt proposed a plan for a ceasefire. It was quickly and summarily rejected by Hamas. Hamas as government of Gaza should put the well-being of its citizens ahead of their goal of destroying Israel but alas it does not. Instead, Hamas hides under the ground and strategically leaves its citizens to

suffer. The war could end tomorrow if Hamas wanted it to.

By way of background, I am a property owner and 25-year resident in Alameda and a business owner. My children have attended Edison Elementary and graduated from Alameda High School. I have been a youth sports coach for the Alameda Soccer Club, Alameda Girls Softball Association and Alameda Youth Basketball. I also am a second generation Holocaust Survivor.

I would like to meet with you to discuss the appropriateness of this resolution as a city matter.

Sincerely,

David Mendelsohn

From: [Zoë Ayoubi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire resolution
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 9:41:26 AM

Dear fellow Alamedans and Council Members,

My name is Zoe Noor and I'm writing to urge you to draft and pass a resolution to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. I grew up hearing stories from my family about the Holocaust and the stories coming from people in Gaza are disturbingly similar. Israel is not protecting its people by waging war on the people of Gaza. They are risking a broader war that could lead to the deaths of more Israelis. On the Palestinian side, there is ample evidence of Israel's goal to ethnically cleanse the people of Gaza. To sit by and watch this unfold without taking a stand is a disgrace.

Despite all the destruction and devastation, we cannot lose hope. There are still so many lives that can be saved. President Bill Clinton said one of his biggest regrets was not doing enough to stop the genocide in Rwanda. He said if we had gone in sooner, 300,000 lives could have been saved.

collectively raising our voices against such crimes against humanity. One day, God willing, this will end. How will we be able to look in the mirror or in the faces of our children when the question is asked: what did you do to stop the genocide in Gaza?

With hope,

Zoe Noor

Alameda Resident
Mother of 3

From: [Hilda Poulson](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Ceasefire Letter
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1:51:45 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a Jewish mother and a homeowner here in Alameda. I have lived here since 2017 and my kids go to My Escuela and Paden Elementary School.

I am writing as a concerned member of our community to urge you to support Mayor Ashcraft's letter calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The recent escalation of violence has resulted in tragic loss of life and widespread suffering for innocent Palestinian civilians, and it is imperative that our city council takes a stand for peace and humanitarian values.

Ceasefire is a safety issue. The ongoing war in Palestine makes many of our community members less safe, including Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Jews. In Alameda, our unofficial motto is "Everyone belongs here," yet we are hearing that Palestinian, Arab and Muslim community members are afraid of being doxxed or losing their jobs for attending events or speaking out in solidarity with Palestinians. During a recent walkout, students at Encinal High School reported feeling unsafe demonstrating solidarity with Palestine. The conflation of Zionism with Judaism has also led to Jewish community members feeling unsafe and targeted. Mayor Ashcraft's letter sends a message to impacted community members that their representatives hear their safety concerns.

Ceasefire is a moral issue. As a resident of Alameda, I believe that our community has a role to play in advocating for a peace in Gaza. The images and reports of civilian casualties, including children, are deeply distressing. It is clear that a lasting solution can only be achieved through diplomatic efforts and a commitment to dialogue. Our Congresswoman Barbara Lee has signed on to the congressional ceasefire resolution and was courageous in her disavowal of the war in Iraq. Endorsing a ceasefire in Alameda not only follows her leadership, but adds constituent weight to her position and adds our city to the growing list of municipalities taking a moral stand.

Ceasefire is a local issue. [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) estimates that Alameda taxpayers give \$1,115,883 to fund Israel's violence against Palestinian people. Those tax dollars could be coming back into our community for needed services. Additionally, Alameda is home to hundreds of union members and community members whose unions and community organizations have endorsed an

immediate ceasefire.

I understand that international conflicts are complex, and our local government may have limited influence on global affairs. However, by taking a principled stand, Alameda can contribute to the collective voice advocating for peace and the protection of civilian lives.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the urgency of the situation. As a constituent, I believe that our elected representatives have the power to influence positive change, and I urge you to use your platform to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing about any actions our city council may take to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

--

Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

From: [Hilda Poulson](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Support for Ceasefire Letter
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 2:00:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hilda Poulson** <hpoulson4@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 1:51 PM
Subject: Support for Ceasefire Letter
To: <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a Jewish mother and a homeowner here in Alameda. I have lived here since 2017 and my kids go to My Escuela and Paden Elementary School.

I am writing as a concerned member of our community to urge you to support Mayor Ashcraft's letter calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The recent escalation of violence has resulted in tragic loss of life and widespread suffering for innocent Palestinian civilians, and it is imperative that our city council takes a stand for peace and humanitarian values.

Ceasefire is a safety issue. The ongoing war in Palestine makes many of our community members less safe, including Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Jews. In Alameda, our unofficial motto is "Everyone belongs here," yet we are hearing that Palestinian, Arab and Muslim community members are afraid of being doxxed or losing their jobs for attending events or speaking out in solidarity with Palestinians. During a recent walkout, students at Encinal High School reported feeling unsafe demonstrating solidarity with Palestine. The conflation of Zionism with Judaism has also led to Jewish community members feeling unsafe and targeted. Mayor Ashcraft's letter sends a message to impacted community members that their representatives hear their safety concerns.

Ceasefire is a moral issue. As a resident of Alameda, I believe that our community has a role to play in advocating for a peace in Gaza. The images and reports of civilian casualties, including children, are deeply distressing. It is clear that a lasting solution can only be achieved through diplomatic efforts and a commitment to dialogue. Our Congresswoman Barbara Lee has signed on to the congressional ceasefire resolution and was courageous in her disavowal of the war in Iraq. Endorsing a ceasefire in Alameda not only follows her leadership, but adds

constituent weight to her position and adds our city to the growing list of municipalities taking a moral stand.

Ceasefire is a local issue. [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) estimates that Alameda taxpayers give \$1,115,883 to fund Israel's violence against Palestinian people. Those tax dollars could be coming back into our community for needed services. Additionally, Alameda is home to hundreds of union members and community members whose unions and community organizations have endorsed an immediate ceasefire.

I understand that international conflicts are complex, and our local government may have limited influence on global affairs. However, by taking a principled stand, Alameda can contribute to the collective voice advocating for peace and the protection of civilian lives.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the urgency of the situation. As a constituent, I believe that our elected representatives have the power to influence positive change, and I urge you to use your platform to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing about any actions our city council may take to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

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Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

From: [Maxim Gurevich](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns over proposed ceasefire resolution
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 2:17:15 PM

Dear Council Members,

My name is Maxim Gurevich and I have been a resident of Alameda for more than 6 years.

I am writing to you regarding the proposed agenda item about the Middle East conflict and the call for a ceasefire, scheduled for discussion in the upcoming meeting. As a concerned member of our community, I appreciate the Council's willingness to engage with significant global issues. However, I wish to express my reservations about the appropriateness and potential impact of bringing this specific topic to our local government forum.

The Middle East conflict, with its deep historical roots and complex geopolitical implications, poses a challenge to even the most seasoned diplomats and experts. The recent refusal of Hamas to consider a permanent ceasefire, as detailed in a [Reuters report](#), underscores the intricate nature of these issues. Furthermore, influential figures like Senator Bernie Sanders have [publicly questioned the practicality of a ceasefire](#), highlighting the complexity of finding a solution that accommodates all parties.

My concern is that addressing such a contentious and multifaceted topic in our local council could inadvertently lead to division within our community. This is not a theoretical risk but one grounded in real examples. In other cities, such as [Ottawa](#), [Brooklin](#), and [Oakland](#), it has been linked to increased antisemitism and community discord. Additionally, the recent [vandalism of a menorah in Oakland](#) serves as a stark reminder of how local actions can unintentionally contribute to a rise in hate crimes.

Furthermore, I believe our local government, [like the City of San Jose](#), should focus on issues where we can have a direct and meaningful impact. The complexities of international conflicts like the one in the Middle East often exceed the purview and expertise of city governments, which are better suited to addressing immediate local civic matters.

The recent congressional hearing on antisemitism involving the presidents of Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT highlights the challenges of addressing complex and sensitive issues like the Middle East conflict. This hearing, intended to address rising antisemitism on college campuses, resulted in a [significant controversy](#), with the House of Representatives condemning the presidents'

responses as evasive and dismissive, and leading to at least one resignation. The incident underscores how even well-intentioned discussions on such topics can lead to misunderstandings, divisiveness, and unintended consequences, even among seasoned leaders and experts.

In addition to the points raised, I wish to highlight the impact of our actions and discussions on the younger generation. Our community's youth are not only observant of our actions but also form their understanding of complex global issues based on the examples we set. It is crucial, therefore, that we approach topics like the Middle East conflict with a sense of responsibility, aiming to educate rather than polarize.

I urge the Council to reconsider the inclusion of this item on the agenda. Our community's strength lies in our unity, respect for diversity, and the ability to address local challenges effectively. Engaging in a discussion that may not only polarize our community but also distract from pressing local issues could be counterproductive to these goals.

In no way do I diminish the significance or the humanitarian aspects of the conflict. Like many in our community, I am deeply moved by the plight of all affected. However, I believe that our efforts to foster peace and understanding are best directed within the scope of our local community, where we can make the most significant and positive impact.

I am open to and respectful of different viewpoints and welcome further dialogue on how our community can constructively contribute to global peace and understanding, within the appropriate context.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I trust in the Council's wisdom to lead our community with a focus on inclusivity, respect, and constructive engagement.

Sincerely, Maxim

From: [Maia Wiitala](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Agenda item 10D
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 12:30:00 PM

Hello there! Thank you so much for your service! I just wanted to email my support for agenda item 10 D and thank you for the time and energy put on this. It's a symbolic opportunity for the city of Alameda to officially speak out against the genocide in Gaza. Thank you again!

Maia

From: [Hilda Poulson](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Support for Ceasefire Letter
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 2:00:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hilda Poulson** <hpoulson4@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 27, 2023 at 1:51 PM
Subject: Support for Ceasefire Letter
To: <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>

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Sincerely,

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Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

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Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:06:58 AM

From: ARKADI KUSHNER <arkadikhra@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:25:46 PM
To: Ms. Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Divisive Israel-Hamas Resolutions

Dear Ms. Herrera Spencer,

I am a resident urging you to reject outside attempts to adopt divisive resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War.

As antisemitism and Islamophobia continue to escalate in the Bay Area, the introduction of one-sided resolutions about the Israel-Hamas War will only further inflame tensions between already traumatized Muslim and Jewish communities and create a forum for hate.

As the whole country witnessed in Oakland and Richmond, the consideration of these divisive resolutions results in hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and hateful conspiracy theories, as well as general confusion and lack of decorum.

During this time of rising hate and antisemitism, I'm asking you to lead with empathy and ensure all local residents feel supported and welcomed. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has deeply impacted many members of our community. Many of us are in mourning. Inaccurate and one-sided resolutions will not solve the conflict or bring us any closer to peace. We must bring our community together – not pull ourselves apart.

Thanks for your compassion and understanding.

With gratitude.

Sincerely,
ARKADI KUSHNER
501 Buena Vista Ave
Alameda, CA 94501

Honorable *CITY* of Alameda Council,

You were elected to attend to City of Alameda business. A city on two sandbars in the San Francisco Bay. Alameda has dozens of Boards & Commissions, & City-Wide Projects. Your plate is Full. Some voices would seek to steal local government business time, to push you to the International Stage.

There are wars in Yemen, Afghanistan, Iran, Ethiopia, Darfur, Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar, Iran. All international wars where innocents are being killed. There are no signs for any of those innocent lives.

Why is it that the Israeli - Hamas war has brought us here? Because it's about the Jews who Hamas wants to kill, all of them, performing cesarians and burning people alive.

I agree, Free Palestine but FROM HAMAS. In 1948. When I was 3-1/2, the radio broadcast the UN vote to create the two States of Palestine and Israel. However, in 1948 when the UN vote took effect, Israel's and Palestine's surrounding Arab Monarchies combined to try to wipe Israel off the map.

Afraid of the Educated Palestinians, Monarchies kept them in refugee camps, preventing the building of schools, hospitals, businesses and to generally thrive.

Gaza was a lush agricultural community when Israel turned it over to the Palestinians. Hamas bullied into control and turned it into a military factory w/billions of dollars.

The GRIP OF HAMAS on the Palestinians is an international issue.

ALAMEDA GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS: a police department free of bigotry. Students safe from nooses and Nazi signs. Safe streets. Thriving Businesses. We are a city of "others" getting along. We need to continue to build a Safe Alameda = not distracted by International Issues.

Protect Our government business boundaries. Vote against any issue that would steal Alameda government time.

Thank you