

From: [cindy merrick](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:02:54 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Mike Cottle
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ashleigh Manuel](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support from Sister Cities International
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:03:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[Letter from Board Chair and CEO March 2025.docx](#)

Good afternoon,

It is my understand that there is a city council meeting this evening and I'd like to share a recent letter from our Board Chair and President and CEO to address some of the recent questions and concerns we've received regarding sister city partnerships, especially in areas that are currently quite politically charged. We are an apolitical organization and support our members in their efforts to increase the awareness of and practice of citizen diplomacy (person-to-person, no matter the state of government or other affairs). I do hope this letter will be of value and bring insight to the strong mission we work for every day, throughout the world. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there's anything else I can provide.

Best,

Ashleigh Manuel | Membership Manager



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL



2025
U.S.-Japan
Sister Cities
Summit

2025年
日米
姉妹都市
サミット

1012 14th Street NW | Suite 1400 | Washington, DC 20005

(202) 347-8632

www.sistercities.org

amanuel@sistercities.org

[f@SisterCitiesInternational](#)

[@SisterCitiesInt](#)

[@SisterCitiesInt](#)

From: [Elizabeth Bram](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:07:19 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Liz Bram

From: [Z David](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:11:18 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ann Stack](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:11:43 PM

Thank you, Lara.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 18, 2025, at 10:39 AM, Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi,

> Your email will be included in the meeting record.

> Respectfully,

> Lara

>

> Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

> City of Alameda

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ann Stack <annstack@ymail.com>

> Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:46 AM

> To: CityCouncil-List <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
<MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; Michele Pryor <mpryor@alamedaca.gov>; Greg Boller

<gboller@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Tracy Jensen <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>

> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin

>

> Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

>

> Think about long-term ramifications, exclusion of the Jewish community, and history already starting to repeat itself when you read this. I am writing to express my STRONG opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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>

> Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an

environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

>

> As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

>

> I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among ALL members of the community.

>

> Voting for this is a trip Backward Land. It's astonishing how American small towns are allowing themselves to be infiltrated by supporting terrorism in sheep's clothing

>

> You're all bright enough to do the right thing; I voted for most of you. Don't succumb to TikTok induced-leaning-so-far-left-it's-now-right tactics. Thank you for your attention to this important matter; the future of western civilization thanks you. For real.

>

> Respectfully,

>

> Ann Bloxberg

> A 20-year Alameda resident

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

From: [David Marinoff](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:16:38 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

David Marinoff, MD

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Naomi Nemirow](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:20:02 PM

Seecc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

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As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

N.Nemirov

Sent from my Huawei phone

From: [adam seccam](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Sister City Relationship with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:21:23 PM

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal on today's agenda (March 18) to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin. This initiative, backed by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises significant concerns about its broader implications for our city, particularly the risk of using the sister city program as a vehicle for subversive political propaganda.

Historically, sister city relationships have been established to promote cultural and educational exchange. However, in numerous cases, similar initiatives have been leveraged to push politically motivated narratives under the guise of diplomacy. Such relationships can create a façade of neutrality while subtly advancing agendas that deepen social and political divisions rather than fostering genuine dialogue. Given that Wadi Foquin has been identified as a focal point for anti-Israel activism, granting it official recognition through Alameda's sister city program risks legitimizing and amplifying a one-sided perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Furthermore, Wadi Foquin, a village of approximately 1,300 residents with limited infrastructure, does not align with Alameda's sister city guidelines, which emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic development. Beyond this mismatch, the larger concern is that this proposal is not merely about cultural exchange but rather a strategic effort to embed the BDS movement's agenda into local governance, thereby injecting international conflicts into our community discourse.

As noted by Ravit Baer, Deputy Consul General of Israel, Wadi Foquin has been described as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." Establishing a formal sister city relationship would provide an avenue for political activism under the auspices of municipal government, raising both legal and ethical concerns—particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel. Alameda must not allow its official partnerships to be exploited for political maneuvering that fosters division and undermines constructive engagement.

For those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions, there are numerous alternative avenues that do not require municipal endorsement. A sister city designation, however, risks alienating community members who feel targeted by the underlying political motivations of this initiative.

Given the history of antisemitic incidents in our city, it is imperative that we cultivate an environment of safety and mutual respect for all residents. Endorsing a politically charged sister city arrangement not only undermines this goal but could also serve as a precedent for future partnerships that prioritize ideological activism over genuine cultural exchange.

I strongly urge you to vote against the proposed sister city relationship with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, mutual respect, and meaningful engagement for all members of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A

From: [Chen, Serena, BOS Dist3](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Cc: karen.fong@sbcglobal.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] On behalf of AC Sup. Lena Tam
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:32:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Lara,

Supervisor Tam is in a Board meeting currently but she asked me to send this to the Council before tonight's meeting.

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and honorable members of the Alameda City Council,

As a former Alameda City Council member, I was a strong supporter of the Sister City movement which allows residents to become ambassadors of goodwill throughout the world every day.

The Sister Cities program is a worldwide concept that focuses on community values and exchanges to encourage international understanding and appreciation of different nationalities and cultures. The program was created by President Eisenhower in 1956 to promote peace and citizen diplomacy.

The Sister Cities motto is simple, but profound – to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.

Having personally welcomed exchanges from and visited most of Alameda's sister cities, I believe the program is needed now more than ever to build people to people friendships in support of world peace and understanding.

Best Regards,

Lena Tam
AC BOS, District 3

Serena Chen
Senior Policy Advisor
Pronouns: She, her, hers
Alameda County Board of Supervisors | Third District
Office of Supervisor Lena Tam
Oakland Office: 1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 272-6680; Mobile: (510) 457-5429
Email: serena.chen@acgov.org
District Email: bos.district3@acgov.org
Website: <https://district3.acgov.org>



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From: morahchaya@icloud.com
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:35:45 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Eve Baruch

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Chavarro](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:38:44 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Anne Chavarro

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Reyla Graber](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote no on Agenda Item 5J on 3/18 /25
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:40:21 PM

Dear Lara will you kindly please forward to all city council Members Thank you, Reyla Graber

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Reyla Graber <reylagraber@aol.com>
Date: March 18, 2025 at 2:28:26 PM PDT2

Sent from my iPhone

Date: March 17, 20252

for Agenda Item 5J;

Dear Mayor and Honorable Council Members,
Please vote no on Agenda Item 5J regarding adopting a new Sister City of Wadi Fuquan. In 2017 the City Council wisely voted "no" on the same issue an the same village. Nothing has changed since then and, infact, more Jews are more insecure now after all the campus protests, sit-ins, barricading, bridge disruption, etc. in the past year. Anti Zionism and antisemitism is onthe rise. If it is adopted it can only foster more concerns. Do not increase division and angst in our community. We all want to feel safe. There is more than enough political aggravation right now. Please don't add to it. Please be wise leaders and vote no. Thank you, Reyla Graber)

Addresses:

[Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)

(2018-2026)
email: mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov

[Vice Mayor Michele Pryor](#)



(2024-2028)

email: mpryor@alamedaca.gov

Greg-Boller.jpg



[Councilmember Greg Boller](#)

(2024-2028)

email: gboller@alamedaca.gov



[Councilmember Tony Daysog](#)

(2018-2026)

email: tdaysog@alamedaca.gov



[Councilmember Tracy Jensen](#)

(2022-2026)

email: tjensen@alamedaca.gov

Re: Support for the Wadi Foquin Sister City Proposal

Dear Mayor Ashcroft, Vice Mayor Pryor, Councilmember Boller, Councilmember Daysog, and Councilmember Jensen,

I was excited to learn that Alameda is considering becoming a sister city to Wadi Foquin this evening. I am the parent of two middle school children in Alameda who are deeply curious about the world. Partnering with Wadi Foquin would be an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange within our small community and learning.

Thank you for considering the Sister City Proposal. My kids and I are looking forward to attending the City Council meeting this evening,

Emily Sokolski

Alameda Resident

From: [JWS Fam Trust](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:52:25 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

.

R. Weingarten on behalf of JWS Family Trust

From: [Meryl Berger](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 2:58:12 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Meryl B.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Isabel Romay](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:00:09 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Erica Hartono](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Accept the Wadi Foquin Sister City Proposal!
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:33:37 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council Members -

I am so excited that the Wadi Foquin Sister City proposal is included in the consent calendar for Mar. 18th!

I believe that Wadi Foquin enables us to build the very kind of relationships - people to people - that are needed at this critical time, particularly to promote peace and further understanding.

Alameda becoming Wadi Foquin's Sister City would be a powerful statement and action of hope, humanity, and promise during these extremely untenable and disconcerting times. Sister cities have historically shown to be a beautiful way for communities to insist on humanizing people across differences, cultures and countries. During a time where leaders depend on the dehumanization of "others" - in order to justify horrifying policies of destruction, dispossession and death - Alameda has an opportunity to be a beacon of positive cultural, educational, and economic exchange.

As a very active AUSD parent, a decision to be the Wadi Foquin Sister City would make me very proud of the city I am raising my children in. Our world is very hard, and I am always reminding my children to notice how the Alameda community cares for each other...and how that emanates into the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

I look forward to celebrating our newest Sister City relationship with you on the 18th!

Sincerely,
Erica Hartono
Alameda Resident, Active AUSD Parent

From: [Emily Katz](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A Jewish perspective on sister city
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:41:53 PM

Dear Alameda City Council Members -

I am writing to you as a local Jewish person to emphasize my strongest possible support for the Wadi Foquin Sister City proposal is included in the consent calendar for Mar. 18th!

I believe that Wadi Foquin enables Alameda to build the very kind of relationships - people to people - that are needed at this critical time, particularly to promote peace and further understanding. As a supporter/member of Face-to-Face: Jewish Palestinian Reparations Alliance, at Oakland's Kehilla Community Synagogue, we have first-hand experience building a relationship with a Palestinian village in the West Bank. This relationship has been crucial as we nurture greater understanding of our respective communities. In particular, when there is so much division being fostered by some of our government leaders, it is imperative that local leaders help foster relationships that build peace and understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Katz

--

Emily Katz
415-309-5845

From: [Marc Eisenman](#)
To: [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Marc Eisenman](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sister City Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:51:50 PM

Dear City Leadership,

Please vote NO on the upcoming sister city proposal.

The group that will oversee the sister city relationship has written disparagingly about Israel, claiming that Jews are colonizers and that Palestinians are the indigenous people. One could make the argument that it is Islam, historically, that have been colonizers in the Middle East, parts of Europe, and Indochina.

It is not the idea of citizen diplomacy with Palestinians that I find problematic, but rather it is the clear anti-Israel bias and governmental sanctioning of anti-Zionism that I object to. This proposal is blatantly anti-Semitic.

Hamas, which has been the de facto governing body in Gaza since 2007, has been designated terrorist organization by the United States government since October 1997. Given that, why would our city engage in this ill-advised effort?

Thank you for your consideration,

Marc Eisenman

917 Lincoln Ave
Alameda, CA
94501

From: soulspiritbody@icloud.com
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:05:48 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

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There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Juli Dubitsky, 94706
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeffrey Klores](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:07:03 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Jeff Klores
Sent from my iPhone

From: [dndcohen](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:15:02 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Diane Cohen

From: [Rachelle Sarosi](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:21:12 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Phuong Quach](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Wadi Foquin sister city
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:28:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear City Council members-

I am so excited that the Wadi Foquin Sister City proposal is included in the consent calendar for Mar. 18th!

I believe that Wadi Foquin enables us to build the very kind of relationships - people to people - that are needed at this critical time, particularly to promote peace and further understanding.

I would be so proud to be Sister Cities with Wado Foquin to help foster global understanding and cooperation through people-to-people interactions, promoting cultural, economic, and educational exchanges between communities in different countries.

Thank you for your consideration.

I look forward to celebrating our newest Sister City relationship with you on the 18th.

Sincerely,

Phuong Quach
Alameda Resident



Phuong Quach

She/Her/Hers

Principal

phuong@npag.com | 917.208.8568

www.npag.com

From: [Dina Lissoos](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:33:50 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Dina Lissoos

Sent from my iPhone

From: [kathy Stanley](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:58:04 PM

Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let

us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Kathy Stanley

From: [Nidy Michelle](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Today's Sister City Proposal – Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 5:02:33 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft,

I am truly excited that the Wadi Foquin Sister City proposal is included in the consent calendar for, today March 18th!

As a new resident of Alameda and a Colombian from Florida, I am deeply grateful to be part of a community that values global connection and solidarity. Supporting Palestinian rights is something that is profoundly important to me, and I believe that establishing a sister city relationship with Wadi Foquin is a meaningful and timely step.

At a moment when compassion, understanding, and peace-building are so urgently needed, Wadi Foquin offers us an opportunity to create people-to-people relationships that transcend borders and foster empathy, cooperation, and cultural exchange. This is exactly the kind of global engagement that drew me to Alameda and makes me proud to call it home.

While I am unable to attend the council meeting in person due to observing Ramadan and needing to break my fast during that time, I want to express my full support for this proposal and appreciation for the city's commitment to fostering international solidarity.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to celebrating what I hope will be Alameda's newest Sister City relationship on the 18th.

Sincerely,

Nidy M. Castillo

Alameda Resident

From: [Nidy Michelle](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Today's Sister City Proposal – Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 5:02:33 PM

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Sincerely,

Nidy M. Castillo

Alameda Resident

From: [Leslie Baruch](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 5:30:59 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Leslie Kahn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [P.Spencer](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose March 18, 2025 City Council agenda Item 5-J: MOU to form a sister city with Village of Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian village in the West Bank
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:01:01 PM

Dear Alameda City Council:

I write in opposition to Agenda item 5-J: Memorandum of Understanding to form a sister city with Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian village in the West Bank.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding provides:

"Through a series of ongoing visits, communication and consultation, representatives from the Village of Wadi Foquin, the Palestinian Territories and the Alameda City Council have reached consensus on the establishment of Sister City relations, and hereby sign the following Memorandum of Understanding:

1. Based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit, common development and enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship, both parties will further promote mutual friendly visits between their people, actively carry out in-depth and extensive friendship activities and work towards the goal of establishing formal Sister City relations.
2. Both parties agree to encourage the government, non-governmental organizations and enterprises, and the citizens of their respective village or city to conduct friendly exchanges, especially various exchanges and cooperation in respect to culture, education, and the development of people to-people relationships."

Article I of the Alameda City Charter provides in pertinent part:

Sec. 1-2. The City shall have and exercise the following rights and powers, subject to the express limitations herein expressed:

...

(D) To make and enforce all laws and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, subject only to the restrictions and limitations provided in this charter.

(E) To exercise all rights, powers and privileges heretofore or hereafter granted by the Constitution and general laws of the State of California.

(F) To act pursuant to procedure established by general law unless a different procedure is established by ordinance.

It is outside the scope of the Charter for the City at this time for Alameda City Council to enter into this proposed MOU.

On January 17, 2025 the U.S. Department of State issued the following Travel Advisory to reflect the current security situation in Israel and the West Bank

[.Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Travel Advisory \(state.gov\)](#)

Do Not Travel To:

Gaza due to terrorism and armed conflict

Northern Israel within 4 kilometers/2.4 miles of the Lebanese and Syrian borders due to Israel's continued military presence and activity

Reconsider Travel To:

Israel due to terrorism and civil unrest
West Bank due to terrorism and civil unrest

Country Summary: Terrorist groups, lone-actor terrorists and other violent extremists continue plotting possible attacks in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Terrorists and violent extremists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities. The security environment is complex and can change quickly, and violence can occur in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza without warning. Increased regional tensions can cause airlines to cancel and/or curtail flights into and out of Israel.

As the mayor of Alameda, I have led numerous delegations to Alameda's sister-cities, including Dumaguete, Philippines, Jiangyin and Friendship City Wuxi, China, and Yeongdong-gun, South Korea. However, under the current U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory, it is inappropriate for the City of Alameda to encourage travel to Wadi Foquin at this time.

Sister Cities International provides:

[Guide-to-establishing-a-sister-city-relationship.pdf \(sistercities.org\)](https://www.sistercities.org/files/Guide-to-establishing-a-sister-city-relationship.pdf)

RESEARCH PHASE Sister City relationships are strategic long term partnerships that should be mutually beneficial, and identifying potential partners is the foundation to developing a successful relationship. If you don't already have a potential sister city in mind, below is a list of data points that communities should look for similarities when identifying potential partners.

- Population size Some variance in city sizes is natural, but choosing a sister city of a similar size usually ensures good symmetry between municipal governments, community groups, private organizations, as well as similar challenges/opportunities
- Geography Similar geographic qualities, whether it's ports, deserts, lakes, mountains, climate, etc. often means that cities will be able to share valuable knowledge related to the respective challenge or opportunity associated with each quality
- Industries - Academic institutions High school and university exchanges, which are often a part of any relationship, require similar counterpart institutions that should be identified early in the process - Cultural institutions This may include museums, music venues, community centers
- Preexisting Relationships This may include, but is not limited to: mayoral relationships, trade relationships, expatriate/diaspora communities, faith-based groups, and personal experiences ranging from study/work abroad to marriages
- Historical or ancestral connections

Alameda's population is approximately 75,000. Wadi Foquin's population is approximately 1,300. Thus, they are not of similar population size. Alameda is an island suburban community with a rich maritime history including the former Naval Air Station - Alameda and Coast Guard Island. My understanding is that the village of Wadi Foquin relies on agriculture as its primary source of income, Israel served an eviction order on the village in September 2014, and there are two elementary schools, a mosque, a pharmacy and a health clinic. [Wadi Fukin - Wikipedia](#) Thus, I do not believe that Alameda and Wadi Foquin have similar geography or industries. There is a pre-existing relationship through the Bay Area United Methodist Church.

Friends of Wadi Foquin describe themselves as, "A partnership of Bay Area United Methodist

churches working with the Palestinian village of Wadi Foquin for economic sustainability and justice." Thus, a religious organization leads the effort with Wadi Foquin.

In 2024, the United Methodist Church General Conference voted to approve a resolution not to invest in Israel bonds [Resolution opposes investment in Israeli bonds | UMNews.org](#) and "opposes Israeli settlements in Palestinian land." [Book of Resolutions: Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land | UMC.org](#) At the 2016 session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, they adopted Item 11 – Protecting the Rights of Americans to Peacefully Address Injustice Through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 California Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment and sanctions, and joins the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council in calling on our elected officials “to resist efforts to stifle the movement toward justice for Palestinians through the current wave of ‘anti-BDS’ legislation.” Thus, the United Methodist Church has taken political positions in regards to the Israel-Palestinian conflict that the City of Alameda has not supported.

There is a history of anti-semitism in the City of Alameda and Oakland. "Alameda High School students have spread distressing antisemitic and racist images through social media platforms like Instagram and Twitter. The images involved students acting out Nazi salutes, usage of the N-word and praising Hitler." [Alameda High School students spread distressing antisemitic images over social media \(antisemitism.org\)](#). The Temple of Israel on Bay Farm was vandalized and many saw that as a hate crime even though it was not investigated as such. [Alameda synagogue vandalized by rock-thrower \(sfgate.com\)](#) Residents are saying enough is enough after the discovery of antisemitic graffiti at Lake Merritt in Oakland. It comes a year after a massive menorah was destroyed there. [Residents fed up with ongoing antisemitic graffiti at Oakland's Lake Merritt - ABC7 San Francisco \(abc7news.com\)](#) Thus, it is critical that the City of Alameda not take action that may lead to an increase in anti-semitism in the City of Alameda, Oakland, etc.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, I believe it is more appropriate for the City of Alameda to remain neutral in regards to the Israel-Palestinian Conflict and honor "everyone belongs here." Elected officials and Alamedans may always take action in their individual capacities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Trish Herrera Spencer
Former Mayor of the City of Alameda (2014-2018)

From: [Nadja Eulee Battersby](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the Sister City
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:05:12 PM
Attachments: [Sister city.docx](#)

Please read the attached letter as I cannot make it in person to the meeting tonight.

Thank you,
Alameda Resident

From: [Home Email](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:09:03 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Mina Friedler
Bring Them Home

From: [Nancy Lopez Schreiber](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Mario Gonzalez Memorial on Oak Street or adjacent park
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:10:56 PM

Esteemed Alameda City Council,

I am a citizen of Alameda and concerned about the possibility of a “memorial” established for Mario Gonzalez.

First, he committed a crime prior to his detainment. Secondly, he was under the influence of alcohol and an illegal substance(s). He then tragically resisted when confronted by officers. This is all factual. I will not celebrate or memorialize a criminal in my neighborhood.

If the family and their supporters would like to raise funds and purchase a bench or table at a park as others have done around the Island to honor the memory of their loved ones, than so be it. I do not condone honoring a criminal or their actions. We have one felon in the highest office of the U.S. Government, and that is one too many.

Neighbors and I have been patient and supportive of events in that small patch of land since the death. It has seen protests, hateful speech, anti-police rhetoric, and anti-community sentiments. As a Chicana, I have also seen our beautiful Mexican and Indigenous traditions used to sanctify a tragedy so that the family and so-called activists can blame others for this individual’s death. It is clear this person needed help long before he set foot here or sat on the wooden pillar where officers first made contact with him or where he perished in our neighbor's driveway.

The area has been surprisingly silent since the whopping \$11 million settlement. Why a memorial now?

I would rather our city continue reinforcing deescalation tactics and build up our CARE resources so that people in need of medical or psychological services can be identified and helped straight away; and so that a tragedy like that of Mr. Gonzalez or the suicide of another person on this island can be prevented.

Lastly, I ask that this correspondence remain anonymous. Jenice Anderson, CURYJ, and other organizations and people that are involved with this family are known to be retaliatory online via Alameda Peeps and use other intimidation tactics. I do not want to put my family or myself in danger, and yet, I felt compelled to speak up.

Thank you for your consideration and for making this city a dream come true for

our family.

Respectfully,

Anonymous Citizen

From: [ALAN LEAVITT](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:14:27 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Alan Leavitt
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karen Fiss](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:17:43 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

This proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Ren Fiss, PhD
Alameda

From: [Ashraf El-Nakhal](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Adopt Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:45:40 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Ashraf, and I am a homeowner in Alameda with children attending school here. As an Arab American, I take great pride in Alameda's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and global citizenship. I am here today to support the proposal to adopt Wadi Foquin as a Sister City and to address concerns raised by those opposing this initiative.

Wadi Foquin presents a unique and very meaningful opportunity for Alameda residents to make a direct through educational, cultural, and service exchange.

Economic or infrastructural are not defining factors on successful sister city relationship.

Many sister cities involve partnerships between communities of different scale, focusing instead on shared values of cooperation, cultural heritage, and solidarity.

Adopting Wadi Foquin would reflect **our town's values of embracing underrepresented communities and standing in solidarity with global neighbors facing challenges.**

While it is true that individual organizations already engage with Wadi Foquin, those efforts **do not replace the unique value of a Sister City designation.** A Sister City provides an **official framework for sustained, long-term cultural and educational exchanges** that extend beyond the work of independent organizations.

Far from dividing our community, this partnership **can serve as a unifying force** by creating opportunities for residents of all backgrounds to participate in cultural programs, student exchanges, and humanitarian projects. By opposing this initiative on the basis of political disagreements, the opposition itself is injecting politics into what should be a **humanitarian and educational initiative.**

I wish that organizations that nitpick on reasons why we should discriminate from adopting a town like Wadi Foquin would take that same energy to focus on reaching out to the other side, and encouraging others to do the same. Who knows, maybe one day they can be a part of the solution to lasting peace instead of being a roadblock.

Thanks,
Ashraf

From: [Adina Cimet](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sister City Program -- Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 7:03:00 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Members of the Alameda City Council,

The sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18, is the result of proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. They lack moral clarity and manipulate their political agenda of racism, antisemitism and anti-israelism; what positivity does this provide for Alameda?

This proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. The intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions to either help that community or learn about it. There is no need to attach this to BDS movement of hatred and prejudice.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents.

I suggest you rethink this proposals. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Respectfully,
Dr Adina Cimet

From: [sharon.rubin](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 7:12:43 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

Firstly, Wadi Foquin is a village with approximately 1,300 residents and limited infrastructure, which starkly contrasts with Alameda's sister city guidelines that emphasize compatibility in population size, geography, and civic goals.

Moreover, this proposal is not simply about cultural exchange. It is evident that the intent behind this initiative is to promote a one-sided narrative regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement's agenda to isolate Israel politically and economically threatens to exacerbate tensions within this community, diverting us from fostering genuine dialogue and understanding.

As noted by Ravit Baer, deputy consul-general, Wadi Foquin has been characterized as a "poster village of anti-Israeli propaganda." The potential for this sister city designation to be leveraged for political activism under municipal auspices raises significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in light of California Assembly Bill 2844, which prohibits state engagement with organizations that boycott Israel.

There are numerous existing avenues for those in our community who wish to engage with Wadi Foquin or similar regions without utilizing the sister city framework. Establishing such a relationship does not align with our city's values of inclusivity and community building. Instead, it risks alienating members of our community who feel targeted by the political motivations behind this proposal.

Furthermore, the history of antisemitic incidents in our city underscores the importance of fostering an environment of safety and respect for all residents. Embracing a politically charged sister city relationship undermines that effort and can lead to increased division and hostility.

As an alternative, I urge you to consider seeking simultaneous sister city agreements with both Israeli and Palestinian compatible communities. This approach would demonstrate that Alameda values inclusivity and aims to promote peace and understanding among diverse cultures.

I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Rubin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Janet Lichter](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Michele Pryor](#); [Greg Boller](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Tracy Jensen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sister City Proposal with Wadi Foquin
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 7:49:10 PM

cc: Christians United for Israel, Press, Elected Officials

Dear Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to establish a sister city relationship between Alameda and Wadi Foquin that is on the City Council agenda today, March 18. This initiative, driven by proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, raises profound concerns about its implications for the Alameda community.

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I implore you to vote against the sister city proposal with Wadi Foquin today. Let us stand together in promoting unity, dialogue, and respect among all members of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPhone