

Committee on Intergovernmental Relations on 2024-03-04 3:00 PM - HYBRID MEETING

This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 03-04-24 15:00

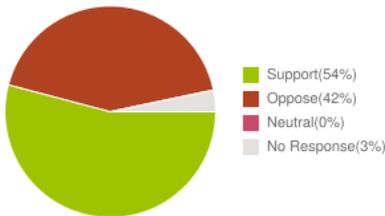
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Intergovernmental Relations on 2024-03-04 3:00 PM - HYBRID MEETING This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx	03-04-24 15:00	19	61	33	26	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



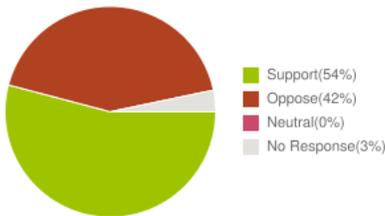
Committee on Intergovernmental Relations on 2024-03-04 3:00 PM - HYBRID MEETING
This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
 03-04-24 15:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
1 24-240 A resolution supporting and urging for a permanent cease-fire in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank	61	33	26	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

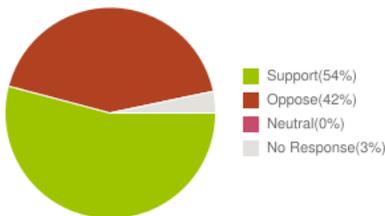
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 1 24-240 A resolution supporting and urging for a permanent cease-fire in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank

Overall Sentiment



Eliot Strickon

Location:
 Submitted At: 4:19am 03-05-24

The resolution is biased and flawed because it:
 Fails to mention the need for Israeli security,
 Fails to mention the genocidal charter that Hamas is founded on,
 Fails to address the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which prompted Israel's war in Gaza in the first place,
 Fails to mention Hamas's use of civilians as human shields and civilian infrastructure for military purposes,
 It fails to mention or demand the immediate release of all Israeli hostages.

Menucha Milchtein

Location:

Submitted At: 10:25pm 03-04-24

This resolution contains rhetoric qualified as antisemitic by state department guidelines. It is not aimed at achieving long lasting peace in the Middle East, but rather to bring unrest and confrontation to Milwaukee community.

As well, this resolution must demand immediate and unconditional release of the hostages and hold Hamas wholly responsible for the atrocities of October 7.

Hayden Marquardt

Location:

Submitted At: 9:42pm 03-04-24

A cease-fire now would just enable Hamas to regroup.

Igor Solunskiy

Location:

Submitted At: 9:38pm 03-04-24

HAMAS is a terrorist organization committing genocidal attacks against civilian population of Israel and oppressing Palestinians way more the Israel ever did.

Ben Sand

Location:

Submitted At: 8:49pm 03-04-24

I stand with Israel's right to defend herself

Barbara Rector

Location:

Submitted At: 8:45pm 03-04-24

The accusations leveled against Israel in this resolution are outlandish, and pure projections, made by people who believe the news outlets which vilify Israel without a comprehensive understanding of the situation. Hamas has shown it devalues all human life. Whereas the Israelis go to all extremes to save lives. There is no genocide by Israel, as seen by increases in population of Palestinians throughout Gaza, Judaea and Samaria. There was an attempted genocide by Hamas of Israelis on 10/7, admitted by their own Jihadi terrorists, according to the Hamas Charter, that all Jews must be killed at all cost. Israel on the other hand is acting against Hamas in self defense so that massacres, rape, beheading and dismemberment of genitals and limbs of babies, elderly, women and men will not happen again as Hamas states it will gladly do at any opportunity. This is the reason a ceasefire cannot occur, unless our hostages are released, the dead returned to Israel, and Hamas surrenders. Hamas must stop sending rockets into civilian territory as it has done for 10 years, so that Israelis can live in peace.

Hamas is the aggressor here. Hamas uses its people as human shields. Hamas takes advantage of hungry, suffering Palestinians, and Hamas does nothing and has done nothing since they were voted into power by their own people in 2006, to improve the living conditions of Gazans. Israel has done more to help them by providing supplies, food, water, electricity and even allowed them to cross the border into Israel to work.

The resolution we can all agree on is that people deserve to live in peace, with dignity and freedom. Hamas offers none of that.

Vera Rubinshteyn

Location:

Submitted At: 8:45pm 03-04-24

Fee hostages

Allie Barry

Location:

Submitted At: 8:30pm 03-04-24

We cannot support a ceasefire without calling for the complete elimination of Hamas and the UNCONDITIONAL and immediate release of the hostages. Those are the urgent and real priorities

Alex Rubinshteyn

Location:

Submitted At: 8:26pm 03-04-24

A demand to free hostages must be added

Kate Schlotman

Location:

Submitted At: 8:25pm 03-04-24

We need to demand the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages and hold Hamas completely completely responsible for the atrocities of October 7

GERALD FELDMAN

Location:

Submitted At: 8:12pm 03-04-24

This resolution calls for a ceasefire between Hamas, a designated terrorist group whose charter calls for genocide against Jews, and Israel, a sovereign, multiethnic, democratic state, which was built by the native Jewish population that has lived there continuously since ancient times.

I challenge everyone to answer this question: Do you want Hamas to say in power? Hamas uses violence and deception to advance its agenda. It attacks Israel from civilian areas, hides its arsenal among the population, and exploits the suffering of Gazans for its own benefit, stealing aid money to fund rockets and terror tunnels.

The Jews kicked out the British because that's what native people do, and Israel will free Palestine from Hamas. The fates of both populations are intertwined, and our futures depend on courageous leaders putting a stop to the cycle of violence.

This conflict is driven by powerful foreign interests, including the billionaire leaders of Hamas, the Iranian regime that supports them, and the Russian Dictator Vladimir Putin, who spreads false and inflammatory anti-Israel propaganda, in order to ideologically divide and subvert the United States of America. A former KGB agent described this long-term subversion 40 years ago as "a great brainwashing." October 7 was Khomeini's birthday present to Putin to distract from Ukraine and turn the U.S. against itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are applauding one side and booing the other, you are supporting Russia's 40 year quest to overtake the U.S. as the world's preeminent superpower. Learn all sides of the story, fight against misconceptions and stereotypes, and call for unity and humanity.

Of the roughly 1,500 victims of Hamas' October 7 pogrom, including dozens of Americans, only 176 were active-duty soldiers. The rest were war crimes. How can you think that a criminal terrorist group that murdered or abducted dozens of our fellow Americans would honor a ceasefire? There was already a ceasefire in place on the morning of October 7, which Hamas broke as soon as they were ready to attack. Hamas has already vowed to repeat the October 7 attack at their next opportunity. This resolution, if acted upon, would give them that opportunity. Shame on you for putting American lives and American influence at risk.

Camille Sem

Location:

Submitted At: 7:05pm 03-04-24

I support a permanent ceasefire in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

German Gomez

Location:

Submitted At: 7:00pm 03-04-24

The ongoing slaughter of Palestinians is a crescendo in the decades-long genocidal project perpetrated by Israel and supported by the USA. Support for an immediate and permanent ceasefire is the only morally justifiable stance in the face of the recent violence we are witnessing. Refusing a permanent ceasefire will stoke the flames of violence and continue the horrific loss of life. Aid and hostage release are important and urgent, and it is disingenuous to try to discredit the call for a permanent ceasefire by bringing up those issues. For the sake of our

humanity, we must support a call for permanent and immediate ceasefire.

Brandon Mintern

Location:

Submitted At: 6:55pm 03-04-24

A call for a "permanent cease fire" in Gaza and the West Bank, by a body as distant from the conflict as the Milwaukee County of Supervisors, in a resolution put forward by a body as biased as the Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine,

- with only the most oblique reference to the need for Israeli security,
- and with no mention of the existential, indeed genocidal, threat to Israel represented by definition by Hamas,
- and without mention of the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which prompted Israel's war in Gaza in the first place,
- and without reference to the ongoing actions of Hamas that by deliberate strategy endanger Palestinian civilians and fail to protect them,
- and without even mention of the Israeli hostages whose release by Hamas would immediately enable a pause in fighting --

would represent an injustice to the people of Israel and to the Jewish people of Milwaukee county.

ala shehadeh

Location:

Submitted At: 6:47pm 03-04-24

We can set and watch more and more children's being murdered by Israeli's army that we are funding and supporting the genocide!!! We need to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and stop using our own money to kill children's!!!

Free free Palestine ___

Kaitlynn Johnson

Location:

Submitted At: 6:18pm 03-04-24

I support a permanent ceasefire and an end to all US aid to so-called Israel. Let this resolution reflect the popular demands for peace and justice internationally, as well as locally, here in Milwaukee. Let our city be bold and brave against all forms of oppression and unconditionally on-side with humanity; with life, with love. From the river to the sea! Palestine will be free!

Elyssa Koel

Location:

Submitted At: 5:56pm 03-04-24

What is happening in Palestine is a GENOCIDE plain and simple. The LEAST Milwaukee can do is pass resolution 24-240 as it was originally written.

Christina Stradwick

Location:

Submitted At: 5:32pm 03-04-24

We must support an immediate unconditional ceasefire in accordance with international law. The collective punishment and genocide Palestinians face at the hands of the Israeli state are despicable and a denial of Palestinians' humanity. Treating this as a "both sides" issue is an absolute disgrace.

Free Palestine. Ceasefire now.

Aviva Bergtrom

Location:

Submitted At: 5:30pm 03-04-24

Why are you demanding that a country that was attacked, unprovoked, have a ceasefire? A known terrorist organization, Hamas, killed hundreds of people, raped women and took over 100 hostages. They then continue

to send rockets into Israel while demanding known killers be released in exchanged for the hostages. Why are you not demanding Hamas release all the hostages?! Would you ask Ukraine to have a ceasefire with Russia? No, then don't ask Israel to have one either.

William Schroeder

Location:

Submitted At: 5:15pm 03-04-24

I support this resolution as written

Sean Schueler

Location:

Submitted At: 5:08pm 03-04-24

My name is Remi Schueler, I am a resident of Milwaukee County and a member of the Milwaukee Anti-war Committee. I am in full support of the proposed ceasefire resolution. Now more than ever, we need to demonstrate our solidarity with the Palestinian people against the horrific genocide being committed against them by Israel. Over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in the past 5 months and our tax dollars are being used to support this genocide as bills continue to pass through Congress, sending billions to Israel as it continues its slaughter. We must not only end the genocide through a permanent ceasefire, but end all U.S. aid to Israel, and stand with the Palestinian people as they fight for their right to self-determination, which is legal under United Nations International Law. All of the money that is sent to fund this genocide can be used right here in the U.S., funding healthcare access, improving infrastructure, making housing affordable, and so many other ways our tax dollars can be used on the U.S. people itself. In solidarity with all of the Palestinians here in Milwaukee County, in Wisconsin, in the U.S. and all over the world, we should support this resolution and continue to fight until we see an end to the bloodshed, which will happen when Palestine is free from the river to the sea.

Sara Onitsuka

Location:

Submitted At: 5:05pm 03-04-24

I support the original resolution for a permanent ceasefire. I was unable to testify today, but want to show my support.

We are currently watching a genocide live through our phones. I have never before seen such devastation and such horror - it is difficult to even process or put to words. I have seen the dead and mangled bodies of children, NICU babies dead and rotting in the hospital, and a man whose body was bulldozed and torn apart. I have seen an American Air Force active duty member set himself on fire to protest these horrors. It is so obvious that this is a genocide. And we must do whatever we possibly can to end it.

Milwaukee elected officials have a choice today, and a chance to listen to the people of Milwaukee, the people of the US, and the people of the world. Even within the US, a majority now supports a ceasefire to the genocide in Gaza. If this resolution is not adopted, Milwaukee will be horribly, shamefully behind the curve.

- Sara Onitsuka, resident of Milwaukee and member of the Milwaukee Anti-war Committee

Madeleine Haggerty

Location:

Submitted At: 5:03pm 03-04-24

As a member of the Milwaukee Jewish community I am deeply ashamed of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and Hillel related speakers who are opposing the original resolution. I fully support the original resolution and as other have said do not believe it goes far enough. We have seen our own treated like this and vowed never again—what are doing now? Any criticism of Israel is called antisemitism. Any support of Palestinians is faced with “do you denounce Hamas.” This resolution must pass. Free Palestine.

Reema Vrobel

Location:

Submitted At: 5:00pm 03-04-24

As Milwaukee County taxpayers, it is imperative that we support a ceasefire. This is a pivotal moment in our

history and we must choose to do the right thing, which is refusing to play a role in an active genocide. 40,000 Palestinians have been slaughtered and almost 2 million are displaced with the will of our federal government and the funds of our hard earned money. This is our chance to do the right thing and support human rights.

Sabine Wolter

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 03-04-24

Free Palestine!!! No money or votes for genocide supporters or people who introduce weak alternatives. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!!!

Alyssa Alberts

Location:

Submitted At: 4:01pm 03-04-24

I strongly urge for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza to end this truly horrific genocide of the Palestinian people. Over 40,000 Palestinian lives have already been lost and so many more are displaced, disabled, and being forcibly starved. I cannot express my level of sorrow and anger at the actions of the Israeli government and the U.S. support for these deeply inhumane atrocities that are being inflicted upon the Palestinian people. Even if there is a permanent cease-fire today, the Palestinian people will live with this trauma, compounded with the trauma of 75 years of occupation and apartheid, for the rest of their lives and generationally. There is no justification or explanation for the actions taken by the Israeli government. People that are being oppressed or attacked do not have the ability to starve and massacre their oppressor. Israel is the oppressor and that is beyond clear at this point. The highest Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Netanyahu himself, have repeatedly expressed genocidal intent. The U.S. support for these war crimes is beyond horrifying. My tax dollars should not be funding a genocide of innocent people. My tax dollars should not be used to support the massacre and starvation of children. They should not be used to destroy the Earth and its resources for the sake of imperialism and wealth. Cease-fire now!

Julio Gumeta

Location:

Submitted At: 3:49pm 03-04-24

We live in the stolen land, Millioke, different nishinabe speaking groups have inhabited for time thousands of years, in the past hundreds years they have survived genocides and attempted ethnic/cultural cleansing since 1492; sam genocidal acts that the palestinian people face. Stand on the just side of history and call for a ceasefire to end the genocide. Your vote will always be remembered, stand up against genocide. Viva palestina, ceasefire now.

Zainab Sultan

Location:

Submitted At: 3:42pm 03-04-24

In December, the World Health Organization reported that one child was killed in Gaza every 10 minutes. Meaning that in the time it takes for many of us to take a shower, eat breakfast, or scroll on our phones, a child in Gaza is blown up, suffocates, starves, or succumbs to death by severe malnutrition or illness. It apparently needs saying that it should not be necessary for that to happen to any child. Before the assault on Gaza, UNICEF reported over 500,000 children were in need of psychological health support and services from what they had gone through or seen happen. Now, that number has increased to every child in Gaza.

That is not normal. Please understand that is not normal.

Many advocates of mental health know firsthand how trauma impacts a person throughout and beyond their life, passing on to their family. What, then, of a kid born in this destruction? What, then, of the children labelled by healthcare workers only as WCNSF, Wounded Child No Surviving Family?

We would not deem it needed for our children to be forced to survive in such a war. It is cruel to say someone else's are.

Beyond this, all education is closed for children in Gaza right now. There are almost no functioning hospitals.

UNICEF has reported that children who have had to undergo surgery had no anesthesia to be under.

It does not take this much time for a human being to call for a humanitarian ceasefire. It is not a matter of being a complex intellectual to come to the understanding that no child can be given the responsibility by others to suffer.

Call for a ceasefire, now.

Adelana Akindes

Location:

Submitted At: 3:22pm 03-04-24

Hello my name is Adelana Akindes, I am a constituent of Supervisor Wasserman in District 3, and I am in full and unequivocal support of Resolution 24-240. Now over 30,000 Palestinians have been murdered in this genocide, half of which are children, with around 1.4 million Palestinians displaced. They are still being bombed, massacred, and starved to death in Gaza, and Palestinians are being killed and targeted in the West Bank. This resolution, which clearly calls for immediate and permanent ceasefire, is the very least we can do here in Milwaukee to help bring an end to this horrific genocide.

Gretchen Baria

Location:

Submitted At: 3:12pm 03-04-24

I support this resolution for a cease-fire.

Donna Kleiner

Location:

Submitted At: 3:05pm 03-04-24

I speak out against the irresponsible resolution (#24-240) being debated at 3pm today in the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Intergovernmental Relations Committee calling for a "permanent cease-fire in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank."

Humanitarian aid is most urgently needed in Gaza, as Israel's efforts to deliver such aid have - and continue to - demonstrate, even in the face of disastrous outcomes like the one this past Thursday.

Any resolution regarding this situation MUST ACKNOWLEDGE the need for Israeli security, the existential, indeed genocidal, threat to Israel represented by definition by Hamas, the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which forced Israel into this war in the first place, the ongoing actions of Hamas that by deliberate strategy endanger Palestinian civilians and fail to protect them, the status of the remaining 130 Israeli hostages, mostly civilians who were violently abducted from their homes, whose release by Hamas would immediately enable a pause in fighting.

Meghan Dincler

Location:

Submitted At: 3:05pm 03-04-24

I signed up too late to testify, but I would like to make clear my VERY strong support for this resolution. Thousands of innocent people are dying. We need to work towards a cease-fire NOW.

Abeer Ayesh

Location:

Submitted At: 3:04pm 03-04-24

I support and urge an immediate resolution for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank. Our tax dollars cannot support and aide in this genocide.

Sarah Farhan

Location:

Submitted At: 3:01pm 03-04-24

This is the first time in our collective lives an atrocity to such a degree is being live-streamed daily to us, and yet it is somehow not enough for us to do the bare minimum and NOT support it. The lives lost today could've been prevented by yesterday's ceasefire. If we allow this genocide to keep happening, we don't deserve to defend

anyone or anything anymore because we have collectively accepted this reality for Palestinians, and the reality you accept for others is the reality you make possible, and thus the reality you deserve.

Diana Kahn

Location:

Submitted At: 2:57pm 03-04-24

It is inappropriate for a Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to vote in support of a resolution put forward by Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine. The resolution is unilateral in its condemnation of Israel and ignores the root cause of the current war in Gaza.

The resolution is biased and flawed because it:

Fails to mention the need for Israeli security,

Fails to mention the genocidal charter that Hamas is founded on,

Fails to address the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which prompted Israel's war in Gaza in the first place,

Fails to mention Hamas's use of civilians as human shields and civilian infrastructure for military purposes,

It fails to mention or demand the immediate release of all Israeli hostages.

Hamza Zuberi

Location:

Submitted At: 2:51pm 03-04-24

I fully support a resolution. Please stop this genocide on the Palestinian people.

Jalal Ali

Location:

Submitted At: 2:33pm 03-04-24

Dear Members of the County Board,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen, urging you to support and advocate for a resolution that calls for a permanent ceasefire in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. The ongoing conflict has led to the tragic loss of over 30,000 lives, with an alarming 70% being children. This is not just a statistic but a stark reminder of the human cost of war, impacting over 2,000,000 Palestinians living in Gaza. These deaths are only possible with America's weapon supplies to Israel, this pipeline of death must stop now.

The consequences of this conflict are dire, with countless children and families facing the threat of famine and the constant fear of missile strikes. Such circumstances demand immediate action and compassion, transcending political affiliations and beliefs. Our shared humanity compels us to stand in solidarity with those who are suffering, especially the innocent children who are caught in the crossfire of a conflict they played no part in creating.

Supporting a resolution that urges for a permanent ceasefire is a step towards alleviating this humanitarian crisis. It is a call for peace, stability, and the protection of innocent lives. I believe that it should not be controversial to advocate for the cessation of violence and to support measures that lead to a lasting peace in the region.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea with the seriousness it warrants. Our collective voice can make a difference in supporting the innocent and vulnerable affected by this conflict. I implore you to act with compassion and leadership by supporting this crucial resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jalal Ali

Josh Kramer

Location:

Submitted At: 2:33pm 03-04-24

This resolution does not take into account the many hostages whom HAMAS will not even verify whether they are alive or not, nor does it address the need for Israeli security.

Carrie Barbakoff

Location:

Submitted At: 2:32pm 03-04-24

On behalf of the survivors of October 7 and the people being held hostage currently I oppose

Rabbi Wes Kalmar

Location:

Submitted At: 2:31pm 03-04-24

I apologize if my earlier comment was already recorded. It was unclear to me from the website.

I believe that the best thing for both the Palestinian people and the people of Israel would be for Hamas control of Gaza to be completely removed. When one group wants to wipe out the other side - there is absolutely no path for peace. Unfortunately that is Hamas' stated wish and they have acted upon it time and time again and that is what they say they will do going forward. The best thing for the region would be for Israel to allow other leadership voices to be heard by removing the evil that is Hamas.

That would require not a permanent cease fire, but for Israel to finish the job. May peace come to the land and may all sides find a way to live in peace.

Rabbi Wes Kalmar
rabbi of ASKT in Glendale

Elise Hayden

Location:

Submitted At: 2:28pm 03-04-24

End the genocide, support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza!

Fauzia Qureshi

Location:

Submitted At: 2:28pm 03-04-24

I fully support this resolution and for an immediate ceasefire. Over 30,000 Palestinians have been murdered by Israel in just 4 months. Israel has just carried its genocidal campaign into Rafah where 1.5 million Palestinians are taking refuge.

Rebecca Guralnick

Location:

Submitted At: 2:22pm 03-04-24

We all know that the war in Gaza is at a critical stage. 150 days since Hamas' massacres, more than 100 hostages remain in Hamas' hands. As Israel continues - at enormous cost in every sense - its campaign to take down the leadership and murderous capacity of Hamas, the situation of the people of Gaza is perilous, to say the very least. It seems that something has to give. The primary and secondary parties to the conflict are intensely debating how to move the situation forward with integrity, humanity, and effectiveness. The choices that have to be made by the parties are devastatingly difficult.

With this awareness, I speak out against the irresponsible resolution (#24-240) being debated at 3pm TODAY in the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Intergovernmental Relations Committee calling for a "permanent cease-fire in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank."

That now is the time for a pause in the fighting is a position reasonable people may debate, and there are many voices, including among Israeli citizens and leaders, calling for such a move. Others argue, also with merit, that the fighting must continue. Regardless, there is broad agreement that humanitarian aid is most urgently needed in Gaza, as Israel's efforts to deliver such aid have - and continue to - demonstrate, even in the face of disastrous outcomes like the one this past Thursday.

But a call for a "permanent cease fire" in Gaza and the West Bank, by a body as distant from the conflict as the Milwaukee County of Supervisors, in a resolution put forward by a body as biased as the Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine,

- with only the most oblique reference to the need for Israeli security,
 - and with no mention of the existential, indeed genocidal, threat to Israel represented by definition by Hamas,
 - and without mention of the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which prompted Israel's war in Gaza in the first place,
 - and without reference to the ongoing actions of Hamas that by deliberate strategy endanger Palestinian civilians and fail to protect them,
 - and without even mention of the Israeli hostages whose release by Hamas would immediately enable a pause in fighting --
- all this and more belies the mutual, humanitarian concern ostensibly motivating today's resolution.

If the people of Milwaukee County are to advocate for particular outcomes in the conflict between Israel and Hamas, a questionable proposition to be sure, let us speak with wisdom, honesty, true humanity and mutual concern. If there is to be a permanent cease fire, such can exist only when Hamas, whose very existence is predicated on the total destruction of Israel, is dismantled or stands down. Until such time, let all urgent action be taken to secure the wellbeing of innocent civilians in Gaza. Agreed. But those innocents must include the 130 Israeli hostages, whose violent and vicious abduction five months ago remains an unresolved assault on humanity.

Rebecca Guralnick 414-559-2972

Noah Chertkoff

Location:

Submitted At: 2:21pm 03-04-24

On behalf of the Wisconsin Council of Rabbis please see this balanced statement: The Wisconsin Council of Rabbis, representing Jewish congregations, organizations and institutions throughout the state and across the religious spectrum, grieves the many lives lost and many more injured in the war in Israel and Gaza. The scale of human tragedy is immense and we join the greater Milwaukee community is hoping for a path of actions leading to a total cessation of violence.

- We express heartbreak over the suffering and mounting loss of life of innocent people in Israel and Gaza.
- We pray for the return of the hostages and the bodies of those killed in captivity.
- We affirm the inherent human dignity of both Palestinians and Israelis. Every life is of infinite value. As Judaism and Islam teach: to end a life is to destroy an entire world; to save a life is to save an entire world.
- We decry attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel and to dismiss the historical Jewish connection to the land of Israel, the Jewish ancestral homeland.
- We recognize Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Houthis in Yemen and Hizb'Allah in Lebanon as Iranian sponsored terrorist organizations singularly dedicated to the destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic caliphate across the Middle East. A modern Palestinian state is not their goal.
- We understand that those terror groups are not synonymous with the Palestinian people.
- We call on the international community to demand that Hamas retract and renounce its stated commitment to repeat the atrocities of October 7th against Israelis as well as to hold Hamas responsible for their active part in perpetuating this war.
- We demand the cessation of the deliberate targeting of civilians as a precondition of any ceasefire. We denounce narratives that seem calibrated to create the outrageous impression that Israeli soldiers deliberately kill Palestinian children.
- We insist that international bodies and non-governmental organizations acknowledge and take a stand against the use of rape, torture and kidnapping for political aims.
- We understand that Israel's military response to the October 7th attacks was taken in self-defense and not as retaliation. For Israel, Hamas and its allies are an existential threat.
- We expect Israel to ensure the rights and safety of Palestinians on the West Bank are protected and that violence perpetrated by settlers will be punished according to Israeli law to which they are subject.
- We ask the Israeli Prime Minister to disavow racist and genocidal statements made by his ministers as well as

those calling for the displacement of Gazan civilians.

We recognize that the destinies of Israelis and Palestinians are inextricably bound up together. We desire an outcome that allows both Palestinians and Israelis to achieve self-determination, safety and peace, and we pray for leaders on both sides committed to realizing this outcome.

Last, we call upon people of good faith to demand a cease-fire predicated on the dismantling of the multiple terrorist organizations in Gaza working toward Israel's destruction and the return of every hostage and every deceased hostage's body. We pray, ultimately, for the realization of the prophet Micah's vision: "And all shall sit under their vines, and under their fig trees, and there shall be none to make them afraid."

Stephanie Kershek

Location:

Submitted At: 2:08pm 03-04-24

I am a resident of Milwaukee County, and I support of Resolution 24-240, which calls for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine by Israeli occupation forces. Our government has given billions of dollars to Israel. This money could be used to improve our parks, healthcare and schools, but instead, it goes to bombs and bullets that have killed over 30,000 Palestinians and displace 1.8 million more.

The values and principles of Milwaukee County residents are NOT compatible with genocide in Gaza, and that is why you MUST support this Resolution. The choice is clear: either stand against genocide or support it. Do the right thing and send Resolution 24-240, as submitted, to the full board with the recommendation of the committee.

Nate Thorngate-Rein

Location:

Submitted At: 2:05pm 03-04-24

With scores of protests, hundreds of grassroots organizers, and thousands of people raising their voices in support of Palestine, Milwaukee County has made it clear that they support an immediate ceasefire. It is my hope that the County Board will do the same. I have spent months imagining my child dead, my family's home destroyed, and myself forced to flee. This horrible scene plays out every day across the Gaza Strip and it is our government that makes it possible. The Democratic Party in particular is positioning itself as the defender of American democracy while ignoring the majority of its constituents on Palestine (and myriad other issues but this is not the time for that). It's insulting to be treated that way by people who feign concern for your vote. As the world watches the genocide in Palestine, we in Milwaukee are also watching the County Board and expect that they will make the moral and just decision to call for a ceasefire.

Cassandra Gillen

Location:

Submitted At: 2:02pm 03-04-24

My name is Cassandra and I am a resident of Milwaukee County. This resolution calls for an immediate, permanent ceasefire and an end to the genocide of Palestinians. This is a cause that many individuals in Milwaukee County care about, as seen by the sheer numbers participating in marches, including just this last Saturday. Calling for an end to genocide is the morally correct stance to take. Any other stance is devoid of humanity. If you cannot find the humanity to call for a ceasefire, look towards the numbers. 61% of voters support a ceasefire. 80% of democrats support a ceasefire and Milwaukee County had a majority vote for democrats last election. Milwaukee County residents want to see their tax dollars spent here in their communities. We want to see improvements to education, housing, health, and infrastructure. We want to see the removal of lead pipes in our communities. Do not take our tax dollars away from our communities to fund a genocide that we oppose. I also strongly oppose the substitute resolution introduced by Supervisors Rolland, Summer, and Wasserman. This resolution preaches "peace" without calling for a ceasefire. It calls for "humanitarian aid" without calling for an end to genocide. Peace and humanitarian aid are not compatible with genocide and ethnic cleansing. Air dropped aid is useless while bombs rain from the sky. This substitute resolution is a sham masquerading as a call for peace. I urged the committee to adopt the original Resolution 24-240 as written with no amendments. Send Resolution 24-240 to the full board with the recommendation of the committee and reject the substitute introduced by

Supervisors Rolland, Summer, and Wasserman. Thank you and Free Palestine!

Matt Kleiman

Location:

Submitted At: 2:01pm 03-04-24

The situation in Israel and Gaza and is complex and it is inappropriate for the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to vote in support of a resolution put forward by the Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine. The resolution is unilateral in its condemnation of Israel and ignores the root cause of the current war in Gaza. The resolution is biased and flawed of the following material facts which provide context to the current situation.

The resolution fails to mention the need for Israeli security.

The resolution fails to mention the genocidal charter that Hamas is founded on which calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

The resolution fails to address the unprecedented brutality and inhumanity of Hamas' attacks on October 7 (which violated a then-extant cease fire), and which prompted Israel's war in Gaza in the first place.

The resolution fails to mention Hamas's use of civilians as human shields and civilian infrastructure for military purposes, both of which have resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians.

Perhaps most egregiously, the resolution fails to mention or demand the immediate release of all Israeli hostages.

The release of all hostages is a mostly universally agreed upon condition for a ceasefire, as mentioned by the European Parliament.

I am sensitive to the plight of innocent civilians in Gaza. However, I will not compromise on my belief that a ceasefire must be conditioned upon the release of all hostages, the complete dismantling of Hamas, and the arrest and prosecution of the leadership responsible for the planning and execution of the October 7th massacre.

The current resolution does not reflect the current situation in Israel and Gaza and fails to address the cause for the current war. Passing a unilaterally biased and unethical resolution will not help bring about a lasting peace or bring peace and mutual understanding to our community.

I oppose the resolution.

Natalia Espina

Location:

Submitted At: 1:49pm 03-04-24

My name is Natalia Espina Talamilla. I am a resident of Milwaukee County and I'm stating my support for Resolution 24-240.

This resolution calls for a permanent ceasefire by Israeli occupation forces in Palestine. Our government has given away BILLIONS of our tax dollars to Israel; over \$8 million comes from the city of Milwaukee alone. That money could be used to improve our schools, parks, and healthcare in Milwaukee County, but it goes to bombs and bullets that have killed over 30,000 Palestinians and displaced 1.8 million more. There is an imminent threat of a ground invasion in Rafah by Israeli occupation forces. Rafah is the Palestinian town Israel forced Palestinians into under the false promise of safety - when Rafah is invaded, thousands of Palestinians will be indiscriminately murdered with weapons and funding provided by our tax dollars.

It is already clear a majority of Americans demand a ceasefire: two-thirds of the general American public, and 80% of Democrats in particular, want a ceasefire. Those Democrats include the Democratic Party of Milwaukee County, which passed a ceasefire resolution on February 18 in a near-unanimous vote, reflecting the will of voters in this Democratic stronghold.

The values and principles of Milwaukee County residents are not compatible with genocide in Gaza, and that is why you must support this resolution.

The choice is clear: stand against genocide or support it. There is no in-between. Do the right thing and send

Resolution 24-240, as submitted, to the full Board with the recommendation of the Committee.

Ana Mintern

Location:

Submitted At: 1:39pm 03-04-24

We have real problems in Milwaukee, but we're spending valuable time debating international politics that most of us know almost nothing about. No resolution passed by the city of Milwaukee has any chance whatsoever of changing the actions of governments abroad, and it is doubtful that it would impact the federal government's actions at all. So, why are we creating division within our community, instead of, say, brainstorming solutions to fix roads or reduce crime or help the indigent? Is any sort of outcome reached today going to improve the lives of Milwaukee residents, even ones with family in the affected areas? No. Moreover, would we listen if a city in Bhutan issued a resolution telling us how to run our city? Absolutely not.

Lisa Breclaw-Barnett

Location:

Submitted At: 1:34pm 03-04-24

NO PERMANENT CEASEFIRE!

Rebecca Guralnick

Location:

Submitted At: 1:28pm 03-04-24

We all know that the war in Gaza is at a critical stage. 150 days since Hamas' massacres, more than 100 hostages remain in Hamas' hands. As Israel continues - at enormous cost in every sense - its campaign to take down the leadership and murderous capacity of Hamas, the situation of the people of Gaza is perilous, to say the very least. It seems that something has to give. The primary and secondary parties to the conflict are intensely debating how to move the situation forward with integrity, humanity, and effectiveness. The choices that have to be made by the parties are devastatingly difficult.

Steven Adams

Location:

Submitted At: 1:20pm 03-04-24

I, Rabbi Adams, share this comment as President of the Wisconsin Council of Rabbis. I will also share in a separate comment, the statement we as a group have written that is much more balanced and fair.

As religious leaders and people of faith we place a high value on all life and support the pursuit of peace and cooperation between peoples. Such cooperation requires a recognition of an empathy for the suffering of all people and parties in a conflict. It also requires a cessation of hateful and biased statements and pronouncements which only serve to perpetuate conflict rather than resolve it.

The resolution under consideration is a biased, one-sided statement that removes any onus on the party that began the most recent conflict on October 7 with a brutal, barbaric, and hateful attack on innocent people. It ignores or at most minimizes the suffering of the initial victims, suggesting that the perpetrators somehow are the victims. In doing so it has fostered incidents of antisemitism. This is contrary to anything we want in our community.

Both Islamophobia and antisemitism are wrong and must be countered by acts of cooperation, understanding and dialogue. As Martin Luther King once stated, "Darkness cannot conquer darkness only light can. And hate cannot counter hate, only love can."

I would hope this body would choose statements reflecting love and understanding rather than statements that foster more hate and resentment. The resolution before is unfortunately the latter, which is why it must not be accepted and supported.

Brad and Sharon Fedderly

Location:

Submitted At: 1:08pm 03-04-24

We are deeply opposed to this resolution because it neglects to acknowledge important aspects of this tragic war, such as (1) Hamas is a terrorist organization that conducted a brutal killing rampage on Israeli civilians on October 7, that resulted in over 1200 deaths and the taking of nearly 250 hostages. (2) Hamas has repeatedly expressed its goal of destroying the State of Israel, and this war is a threat to its very existence. (3) Over 100 hostages are still being held by Hamas, and Hamas has repeatedly refused to participate reasonably in cease-fire talks. (4) Hamas has spent years building a huge terrorist infrastructure underground, while depriving the Palestinian people of desperately needed services and infrastructure ABOVE THE GROUND. (5) Hamas is responsible for placing the Palestinian people in the extremely vulnerable and devastating situation they are in right now. Placing ammunition and weapons under and inside schools and hospitals does not suggest that they have their people's safety or best interests at heart.

We are not turning a blind eye to the dire plight of the Palestinian people at this time. We do not wish for the loss and devastation they are experiencing; this is a tragedy of humanity. We believe that this conflict must come to an end, sooner rather than later. But Resolution 24-240 ignores the broader context of the conflict, its complexities, and does not even mention what transpired on October 7. That is an affront to Israel, the Jewish world, and the Jewish citizens of Milwaukee County.

Jonah Levenberg

Location:

Submitted At: 12:56pm 03-04-24

As a resident of Milwaukee county, I strongly oppose in the most vehement way. If there is to be a permanent cease fire, such can exist only when Hamas, whose very existence is predicated on the total destruction of Israel, is dismantled or stands down. Until such time, let all urgent action be taken to secure the wellbeing of innocent civilians in Gaza. Agreed. But those innocents must include the 130 Israeli hostages, whose violent and vicious abduction five months ago remains an unresolved assault on humanity.

Hamas MUST be dismantled before a discussion is had as to the permanent ceasefire. And, to be frank, the Milwaukee County Legislature has no standing in this matter and should not even be bringing this resolution to a vote. I am embarrassed to be a part of a county that is considering this.

Hayden Harwood

Location:

Submitted At: 11:56am 03-04-24

This is not a war, this is a genocide of the Palestinian people funded by the US war machine. We have seen images of children covered in dust, blood, and injuries, people eating animal feed because there is no food, numerous reports from Israel of how they are starving, butchering and torturing Palestinians, parents carrying their children's body parts in plastic bags after being bombed. We must urge for a permanent ceasefire and end all funding to Israel!

Thomas Bragg

Location:

Submitted At: 11:11am 03-04-24

Resolution 24-240 has my full support! I hope committee leaders will use their positions of power to send this resolution to the full board with the recommendation of the committee. Please represent your constituents accordingly.

Trenton Houck

Location:

Submitted At: 10:51am 03-04-24

I unfortunately cannot attend to testify in support of the resolution today, but all I can say is please do the right thing and stand against this genocide. Palestinians are being starved, mutilated, and massacred by Israel every day and it is being broadcasted every day over social media. No good person can see the images and videos being posted of what is happening and not want to make it stop. If you vote no on this resolution you are voting against ending genocide. Permanent ceasefire now.

Rachel S.

Location:

Submitted At: 10:47am 03-04-24

First, I want to thank you for considering this resolution. I know that many people will argue that it is not the job or role of a city to involve itself in international affairs, but it is important to remember that we have created a global economy. We cannot escape or ignore the effects of globalization that we have created. With all the benefits and conveniences of living in a world with instant global access, we must also acknowledge the harms. Whether we like it or not, every person living in the city of Milwaukee and beyond is complicit both knowingly and unknowingly of global harm through participation in global capitalism, and only by publicly making our voices and stances clear, can we begin to unravel the threads of how our daily choices- from where we get our coffee, to which email server our employers use- impact the death and destruction that we are bearing witness to on an international scale.

I understand that many people will believe this resolution is a waste of time, and time is better spent serving the people of Milwaukee. But the people of Milwaukee are comprised of people of the global majority, many of whom have friends, family and loved ones in the Gaza and the West Bank. They are just as deserving of having the peace of knowing their daily dollars spent are not contributing to a massacre. As Americans and Milwaukeeans, they deserve to live in a city that supports them and bears witness to their pain.

It is important to remember that hardly anyone wants or chooses to be an activist. Most people simply want to live a life where they are kind, just and joyful, and living in community with others. It is also important to remember that we would not be here today if we had a federal government or state government that was listening. Putting pressure on city governances (that are already underfunded and over-committed) to adopt resolutions impacting global outcomes should not have to be in the cards, and yet here we are. That being said, I urge you to please adopt this local resolution to serve as a collective voice for those who have found that our individual voices are falling upon deaf ears at an international level.

Ax DeLessio-Parson

Location:

Submitted At: 10:15pm 03-03-24

The horrors of this war exist alongside far too many spaces on this planet where we could and should be doing much better. May this resolution achieve unanimous support, and may future resolutions help push us all to see how we may divest from war as quickly as possible.

Clarence Kinnard

Location:

Submitted At: 10:29am 03-03-24

(1) There is no such thing as a "permanent cease-fire." The word you're searching for is "armistice," "truce," or "peace agreement." A ceasefire is, by its very nature, temporary.

(2) The U.S. Department of State is already pushing to achieve a cessation of hostilities, and neither they, nor Israel, nor Hamas are waiting around to hear what the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors thinks before progressing with their work.