

COMISSIONERS' RESOLUTUION NO R-XX-23

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF COVINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND ISRAEL

WHEREAS,

the City of Covington recognizes all human life is precious and the targeting of civilians no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law, and

WHEREAS, over 1,200 Israelis, including civilians, children and elderly, lost their lives following the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7,

WHEREAS, since October 7 through December 5, over 20,000 Palestinians, including civilians, children and elderly, have lost their lives due to the current Israeli military response in Gaza,

WHEREAS, the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas on earth, is known as an “open-air prison” due to the ongoing land, air and sea blockades, which create unbearable living conditions affecting everyday Palestinian lives,

WHEREAS, the UN says approximately 2 million people in Gaza are running out of drinking water and all medical care due to the current blockade and siege; and

WHEREAS, over 80% of Gaza's residents have already become refugees since October 7 after being displaced from their homes,

WHEREAS, the continued violence and conflict exacerbate the humanitarian situation and hinder a peaceful two-state solution as the only way forward, respecting the international law and humans are essential in promoting peace, justice and equality, and

WHEREAS, fostering peace and stability requires addressing the root causes of the current conflict and acknowledging the rights and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians,

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a permanent ceasefire is not achieved and humanitarian aid is not delivered without delay, and

WHEREAS, The City of Covington condemns all conflicts causing harm to innocent human beings in Israel, Palestine and many other nations suffering from violent conflicts all across the world, and urges the United States government and our allies to use every diplomatic tool to bring an end to the atrocities and bring about a just and long lasting peace to the people of the region, AND....

WHEREAS....our Palestinian, Muslim, and Jewish communities in The City of Covington are all impacted by the ongoing violence....

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY,

SECTION 1

That the City of Covington takes seriously the entreaty of “Never Again,” and that the historical memory of the Holocaust means combating islamophobia, anti-semitism, and all others forms of ethno-nationalism, and

That the City of Covington condemns acts of aggression around the world and urges the combating parties to come together and utilize every diplomatic tool to bring an end to these inhumane conflicts, bringing peace to the people of Palestine, Israel and other nations.

And, finally, that the City of Covington pledges to support:

- a) An immediate and permanent ceasefire
- b) The release of all captured civilians on both sides
- c) Allowing unrestricted humanitarian aid to enter Gaza
- d) Better living conditions for the Palestinians
- e) Tangible and intangible support for a long-lasting and just peace between Israelis and Palestinians.