

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEGOTIATED CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council recognizes that its role is generally limited to matters related to the city government of Boston, the Council must come together at this time to call attention to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On October 7, 2023, Israel was attacked by Hamas, a terrorist organization, which resulted in Hamas killing approximately 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, committing acts of sexual violence, as well as taking over 240 hostages, many of which are still held hostage in Gaza; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In response to the attack of Israel on October 7, the Netanyahu Administration sent military forces into Gaza, which the Health Ministry of Gaza reports has resulted in the deaths of over 27,000 Palestinians, the destruction of approximately 350,000 homes and approximately two-thirds of hospitals in Gaza, and that has forced 85 percent of Gazans out of their homes without safe access to food, water, medical care, or shelter; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This conflict has impacted Boston's Jewish and Palestinian residents who have family or other connections to Israel or Gaza, as well many Boston residents who have been justifiably horrified by the October 7 attack and its aftermath, and there are currently immediate relatives of Massachusetts and Boston residents who are trapped in Gaza, including relatives of Massachusetts residents who are currently being held hostage by Hamas, and wish to leave and be reunited with their families; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Both Palestinians and Israelis have the right to live with freedom and security; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston is a city committed to the health, well being, and equality of all people no matter their nationality or their religion; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council stands against all forms of antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any actions intended to dehumanize Palestinians, Jews, Arabs, or Israelis, and calls upon all Boston residents to respect all individuals' First Amendment right to free speech and peaceful protest, and to treat each other with respect and empathy; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council expresses compassion for all Bostonians whose lives have been touched by the Israel-Hamas war and reaffirms its commitment to the safety and equality of all Palestinian, Israeli, Muslim and Jewish Bostonians, and

Calls for a negotiated ceasefire by both the Netanyahu Administration and Hamas, including return of all hostages currently being held by Hamas and immediate distribution of humanitarian aid to people living in Gaza.

The Boston City Council calls on the offices of The President of the United States, Joseph Biden, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Congressman Stephen Lynch, to push for a negotiated ceasefire in Gaza, to work for the release of all hostages, to work to assist immediate relatives of Massachusetts families, including Boston residents, to safely depart Gaza, to condition military aid to all nations on compliance with international and human rights law, to push for free and fair elections for Palestinians, and to work to bring Israelis and Palestinians together to begin a peace process so that the events of October 7 and its aftermath are never repeated.

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