
DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:01 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey*, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT AFTER ROLL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Kimberly Smith, Seok Hyun Cho, William Kolschowsky

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:01p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. 12-04-2023 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Introduction of New City Clerk Staff

Interim City Clerk Sandefur welcomed Rafael Cho as the new Executive Assistant and Deputy City Clerk. Shared background experience.

b. Public Input

Stav Ashur recounted previous public input where he had shared his email and requested the public to contact him in order to collaborate on a new ceasefire resolution with the intent of being less inflammatory and one-sided. Stated that several people had approached him already,

but requested public and City Council to participate. Expressed desire for an end to all violence shared by members of the Urbana and Champaign Jewish community, but wanted to ensure that a resolution to be presented to City Council would not be one-sided. Requested City Council and public to contact him at stav.sh1@gmail.com for continued discussion on a ceasefire resolution. **Michael Kilcullen** shared concerns regarding Resolution No. 2024-02-004R, stating that City Council should vote no to the resolution in its current iteration or at least postpone the final action vote for two weeks. Stated that there needs to be further time for the public to discuss this matter and provide public input. Raised concerns regarding the timeline of this matter as the first public notice was made on 02-02-2024 through WCIA and questioned the speed at which this resolution is being passed as it takes other resolutions on transport plans take months to years. Voiced that ultra-low-cost flights represent a race to the bottom and they only serve to divert potential money that would have been spent locally instead to other states. Noted that previous airline subsidy programs have backfired and left the community worse off while paying more. Requested that a more detailed plan needs to be put forward. **Steven McGuire** echoed the concerns and points raised by the previous speaker. Voiced support of low-cost housing initiatives and noted that lessons should be taken from the failures of similar projects in California. Regarding ongoing discussion of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, stated that opinions should be voiced in both City Council meetings and in community-based spaces. **Terri Barnes** spoke in support of the ceasefire resolution that was presented on 01-08-2024 by Ben Joselyn, stating that it was reasonable, factual, compassionate, and even-handed in its call for an end to bloodshed. Addressed statements made by neighbors who opposed the proposed ceasefire resolution, clarifying that she is not anti-Jewish and has had a history of advocating on behalf of Jewish people. Voiced opposition against Zionism and urged City Council to accept and pass the previously presented ceasefire resolution. Stated that what is currently happening is a genocide, all hostages should be returned, and the destruction of Hamas will never ensure safety for Israel if the people who support Israel believe that peace will come from the deaths of over 30,000 Palestinians. Expressed that the best course for Israel would be to immediately end the slaughter of Palestinians, seek peace rooted in justice, and listen to all voices calling for peace. **Matthew** spoke on behalf of the Graduate Employees Organization's Solidarity Committee at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Read a statement passed internally with 83% approval in December speaking in favor of a ceasefire in Gaza. **Allison Kusar** continued reading the statement from the previous speaker. Added that, as a descendent of Holocaust survivors, it is false to frame this issue as a conflict between Jewish people and Muslim people and that framing only serves to hurt Jewish people worldwide. Stated that due to the support that their family had received in the past from Jewish and non-Jewish people as they fled Germany, it is the duty of their family and the people surrounding them to continue supporting people survive this conflict and the best way forward is to support a humanitarian ceasefire. **Mark Ansel** reiterated statements made from his previous appearance at City Council opposing the discussion of international affairs. Expressed that despite weeks of public input, City Council and the public still only have a surface level understanding of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Stated that if City Council were to pass a ceasefire resolution, people would question who City Council actually represents. Questioned worth of City Council speaking on behalf of some of its citizens by adopting a ceasefire resolution as it dismisses the concerns and voices of other citizens who are in opposition. Expressed that the residents of Urbana are evenly split, 50/50, in support and opposition to a ceasefire resolution. Voiced concern with the community level impact of a ceasefire resolution as it would only serve to worsen local conditions without having any change on federal stances regarding Israel and Palestine. Urged City Council to stop delaying making a decision regarding the ceasefire resolution and to either pass it or defeat it. **Chris Zelly** seconded the statements made by Michael Kilcullen regarding Resolution No. 2024-02-004R, stating that low-cost airlines are destructive to economies and not worth putting community money toward. Reached out to Jewish and Zionist members of the community, begging them to grieve alongside Palestinian neighbors as they are obligated to under pikuach nefesh or else

they would be abandoning Judaism. Stated that there is a distinct difference between Judaism and Zionism. Expressed disgust for the hate speech and bigotry that has been recently platformed locally from Zionist neighbors. Pointed out imbalance of discussion regarding “fair rhetoric” and “balanced terms” while children are being detained without bail or proper trial for minor offenses and while Israel operates as a segregationist and white supremacist state. Questioned why calling for the dismantling of a hateful government is seen as a threat of destruction against the state of Israel. **Don Owen** read a section of Public Act 94478 from the Illinois collected statutes 1055/27-20.3 regarding lessons learned from the Holocaust and why curriculum exists on it. Requested City Council to not be indifferent in the face of genocide and thanked City Council for providing the space for public input. Asked City Council to put a ceasefire resolution onto the agenda and vote on it for the sake of the public. **Maxwell Rizzo** spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution and voiced befuddlement of how high turnout for this specific issue has not yet resulted in a ceasefire resolution becoming an agenda item. Stated the importance of a ceasefire resolution to the local community, reciting words from the International Court of Justice stating the complicity of the United States in the plausible case of genocide being conducted by Israel. Spoke in opposition to community members stating that the community is divided, stating that the community is actually rallied against war, the sending of money overseas to fund wars, and the export of weapons to be used in war. Stated wealth disparity between the United States and the countries that the United States funds conflicts in, obfuscates importance and necessity of actively speaking out against war. **Caite Kruiswyk** expressed frustration with inaction from City Council despite being told figures and statistics week after week on ongoing deaths in Gaza and Palestine. Stated that City Council has had 4 months since the beginning of the conflict to educate themselves on the reality of what is happening and take action regarding it. Voiced that inaction from City Council is unacceptable both as elected officials and as human beings. Stated that City Council still has the opportunity to use their voice and speak out against the ongoing violence in Palestine. Urged City Council to take any action on this matter. **Ben Theobald** stated that the ongoing situation in Gaza is one of the worst atrocities to be witnessed by his generation. Stated that Holocaust denialism is antisemitic and sometimes unlawful in certain countries. Stated that Jewish organizations such as If Not Now and Jewish Voice for Peace have been actively advocating and protesting in support for a ceasefire to be adopted because of their understanding that genocide should never be allowed to happen to any group of people. **Ben Joselyn** stated that every week more people continue to recognize the fundamental wrongfulness of what is happening in Gaza while the United States federal government continues to facilitate genocide. Stated that the local government and Mayor Marlin have failed to respond to genocide being conducted with the local community’s tax dollars. Read aloud legal definition of genocide as per the U.N. Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Act. Addressed challenge from previous week regarding the 15-2 ruling of plausible genocide from the International Court of Justice by reading aloud the summary from the ICJ’s website. Stated that the issue of genocide is not up for debate and it must be stopped. **Mohammad** urged City Council to consider and support a ceasefire resolution regarding the ongoing humanitarian crisis faced by the people of Palestine, particularly those in Gaza. Shared statistics of daily life in Gaza before 10-07-2023, illustrating poverty and reliance on humanitarian aid for survival. Urged City Council to empathize with the people of Gaza and affirm the community’s commitment to peace, justice, and human rights by supporting a ceasefire resolution. **Amy O’Dell** expressed confusion of accusations of fascism and Nazism toward Zionists and refuted it by reading aloud the definition of Zionism. Stated that comments from public speakers dehumanized and ostracized supporters of Israel and its defense forces. Voiced feeling hurt when people accused supporters of Israel of being fascists and Nazis. Stated that being labelled a Nazi is not new to Jewish people as they have previously been labelled capitalists and communists in history and are frequently scapegoated for society’s ills. Stated that anti-Zionists are advocating for Jewish people to have no protected area to live, for them to be a minority hunted worldwide, and to not have the ability to protect themselves as Jewish people. Questioned double standard of Americans referring to Israelis as colonial

settlers while America is also a colonial settler country. Stated that the phrase, “From the river to the sea” is a genocidal calling that states Jewish people should be killed worldwide. Questioned how the hate and pain voiced during public input could be stopped. Urged City Council to instead call for a ceasefire worldwide. **Talia Bendov** stated that a ceasefire existed before 10-07-2023 and the current debate on a ceasefire is not fully comprehending the context of the situation, stating that the Middle East contains 22 Arab nations while only having 1 that she can call home. Stated that the United States should support Israel on the basis of being the only democratic state in the region. Urged City Council to consider whether or not they are able to handle a ceasefire resolution before putting it onto the agenda. Thanked City Council for considering the voices of Jewish people and the Urbana community. **Rosa Druker** voiced, as member of the Jewish community, support for City Council to put forward a ceasefire resolution and approve it. Stated that although it may not be typical City business, it is an opportunity for the City of Urbana to stand in solidarity with human rights and demonstrate its position as a welcoming community. Expressed belief that the majority of the Urbana community stands in support of a ceasefire resolution. **Azil** addressed statements made by a previous speaker regarding Gaza being an open-air prison, stating that for the previous 16 years of Hamas control in Gaza, Hamas was building tunnels underneath Gaza in preparation for a war for Israel with \$1,000,000,000 in funding from UNRWA sourced from funding from the United States and Germany. Stated that Hamas leadership have a combined net-worth of \$10,000,000,000 that has been sourced from divert aid funding intended for Gaza. Stated that piping meant for irrigation is being used to create rockets, concrete meant for housing is used for tunnels and jails. Stated that previous speakers have failed to mention this context. Stated a previous speaker who mentioned dead children was most likely unable to verify the dead in real life and that statistics published by Hamas are incorrect. **Bara** pleaded to City Council to use their own time to research statistics regarding Gaza from reputable sources. Stated that this issue is City Council business although it may be divisive, citing previous divisive issues that City Council had to deliberate on such as slavery and discrimination. Stated that the public is speaking out in public input specifically for this issue because of the tax dollars being used by the United States to fund military aid for Israel that have been used to kill members of his family in Palestine. Shared anecdote of a teacher in the Champaign school district directing bullying to a Palestinian student after showing a video about Hamas. Shared personal experience as a youth worker having Muslim youth coming to him asking how to hide being Muslim in schools, stating that the conflict between Israel and Palestine has become a local issue. **Robert Silverman** shared personal experience from working as a behavioral health counselor. Spoke on freedom of speech and it being protected by law. Expressed gladness felt from being a Jewish person with the freedom to defend Israel’s right to self-defense. **Dua Aldasouqi** shared news story of United States servicemember self-immolating in an act of protest against the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Thanked all who showed up to discuss putting a ceasefire resolution onto the City Council agenda. Stated language in opposition to a ceasefire resolution mirrors that which has been seen nationwide in other cities that have passed ceasefire resolutions. Noted that many opposed the ceasefire resolution presented on 01-08-2024 without having read through it, stating that criticisms of Israel are never taken with reflection or thoughtfulness. Stated that criticisms of Israel are immediately seen as hateful and connected that with the way people view her existence as a Palestinian. **Anonymous** shared personal family history of being survivors of the Nakba. Requested that everyone considers the gravity of the statistics being presented as each number represents lives that were taken and potential lives at risk. Shared conditions currently being faced by those in Gaza and risks for further deaths. Stated that this is relevant to City business due to principles of humanity and compassion. Stated that if a similar tragedy occurred locally, the solidarity and aid of the international community would be expected and that expectation should be reciprocated. Urged City Council to support a ceasefire resolution. **Lilah Leopold** stated that testimonies from tonight display a need for action to be taken locally to grieve as a community and build a better future together. Stated that City Council needs to display leadership to local community

members instead of staying silent on this issue. Voiced that everyone does have the capacity to understand the issues ongoing between Israel and Palestine in the face of living in a country that has been built on slave labor and colonialism. Stated that the work creating a ceasefire resolution that pleases the whole community should not be shifted onto the community itself. **Yusuf Soab** expressed deep disappointment with the previous few weeks of City Council being silent regarding a ceasefire resolution. Shared request from friend, who is an E.R. doctor in Gaza, calling on people to help restore the flow of supplies and aid to Gaza. Requested City Council to pass a ceasefire resolution. **Jake McGinty** stated that there is a feeling that City Council will not be voting on a ceasefire resolution and that the people of the City of Urbana deserve better. Stated that despite trying to contact the Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation regarding supporting the proposed ceasefire resolution, he has not yet heard back. Stated that the current ceasefire resolution is sufficient to be voted upon by City Council. Expressed offense felt from the silence of City Council on the issue of a ceasefire resolution and that people are losing faith in local government due to the inaction. **Camille Cobb** expressed concerns about the proposal to subsidize airline companies. Encouraged the Council to take action to prevent further loss of life in Gaza and ensure humanitarian aid can be properly delivered. **Yasmine** expressed that it is shameful that a ceasefire is even up for debate and highlighted the comfort and privilege that we experience here in comparison to Palestinians. Encouraged the Council to pass a ceasefire. **Herman Alazar** shared information about the authority of the ICJ, expressed concern about the casualties. Stressed the importance about releasing the hostages as part of a ceasefire. **Sam Sabwala** expressed frustration that a ceasefire requires debate before Council because of the dire conditions and the urgent need for humanitarian aid in Gaza. Shared information from their academic research on Hamas. **Elizabeth Sotoropolis** expressed that the enforcement of public input has been hypocritical, shared support for a ceasefire resolution and encouraged the Council to put it to a vote. **Maxwell Hanes** shared historical and present day information about the conflict between Israel and Palestine including casualty statistics. Shared information about other municipalities who have considered and passed a ceasefire resolution and encouraged the Council to pass one. **Anonymous** expressed frustration that other speakers have misrepresented information and that action has not been taken to prevent the spread of misinformation. **Tim Obercote** encouraged Council to oppose a ceasefire resolution because they believe that it will not bring lasting peace.

Public Input was received from the following 6 individuals who were in support of a ceasefire resolution, and were read by CM Hursey: Julia Boldrick, Berry Zhang, Kendra Calhoun, Nick Abboud, Hend Abdelfattah. Public Input was received from the following individual who was in support of a ceasefire resolution, but was not read: Allan. Public Input was received from the following 3 individuals who were in opposition to a ceasefire resolution, but were not read: Ruth Kantorovitz, Inna Zharnitsky, Inbal Elazar. Public Input was received from the following individual who wrote in support of Hotel Royer: Dennis Roberts.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans thanked Angel's Youth Center for hosting an MLK celebration at the Phillips Recreation Center. **CM Quisenberry** reminded the public about the upcoming Read Across America event. **CM Wilken** thanked the public for their continued input and agreed that it needs to be addressed by the Council but encouraged a formal discussion occur outside of City Council. **CM Hursey** shared information about an upcoming Sanitary Sewer Lining project meeting to provide public information. **Mayor Marlin** expressed it is time to address this topic and shared that the City will work with Stav and the community on this and more information will be forthcoming.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Shirese Hursey, Ward 3*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-010:** An Ordinance Approving a Major Variance (Bobat Duplex at 408 West Main Street / Case No. ZBA-2023-MAJ-05) - CD
- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-009:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District / Plan Case No. 2482-M-23, Two Lots North of East Park Street Along North Cottage Grove Avenue) - CD
- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-005:** An Ordinance Repealing Urbana City Code Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 5, Section 2-95 (Market at the Square Advisory Board) - CD
- d. **Resolution No. 2024-02-010R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Community Housing Development Organization Agreement (FirstFollowers CHDO Developer PY 2023) - CD
- e. **Resolution No. 2024-02-006R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Community Housing Development Organization Agreement (FirstFollowers CHDO Operating PY 2023) - CD
- f. **Resolution No. 2024-02-007R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Community Housing Development Organization Agreement (Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County CHDO Developer PY 2023) - CD
- g. **Resolution No. 2024-02-008R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Community Housing Development Organization Agreement (Habitat for Humanity for Champaign County CHDO Operating PY 2023) - CD
- h. **Resolution No. 2024-02-009R:** A Resolution Certifying a Community Housing Development Organization for the Urbana HOME Consortium (FirstFollowers CHDO Certification 2023) - CD
- i. **Resolution No. 2024-02-011R:** A Resolution Certifying a Community Housing Development Organization for the Urbana HOME Consortium (Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County CHDO Certification PY 2023) - CD
- j. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-02-004R:** A Resolution Authorizing Contribution to a Community Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG) for Leisure Air Service at Willard Airport - Exec~~

Presented by CM Hursey.

CM Wilken pulled Item j, Resolution No. 2024-02-004R, to the regular agenda.

Motion to recess for 5 minutes by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Evans.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Wu, Hursey

Recess was called at 8:40PM and CM Hursey resumed the meeting of the Urbana City Council at 8:45PM.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution No. 2024-02-005:** An Ordinance Approving an Amendment to a Redevelopment Agreement (Icon Hospitality, LLC - Urbana Landmark Hotel) - HRF

Presented by CM Hursey with Will Kolschowsky present for questions. Ordinance approves an Amendment that would extend the deadline for the Redevelopment Agreement with Icon Hospitality for the Hotel Royer, and reduce the amount of the incentive in the event that the revised deadline is not met. Forwarded to City Council by Committee of the Whole with a new penalty cost of \$150,000 instead of the originally recommended \$500,000. Mayor Marlin noted that the additional information requested by City Council regarding the Hotel Royer financing was sent out to City Council by email on Friday, February 23rd and physical copies were given to City Council tonight. Mayor Marlin clarified that this Resolution seeks to extend the deadline for the Redevelopment Agreement with Icon Hospitality for the Hotel Royer, and that the transferring of funds will be a different conversation with more information to come. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-02-004R:** A Resolution Authorizing Contribution to a Community Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG) for Leisure Air Service at Willard Airport - Exec

Presented by CM Hursey. Resolution seeks to authorize \$50,000 as the City of Urbana's contribution to a Minimum Revenue Guarantee to attract leisure air service to Willard Airport. Mayor Marlin noted that additional information requested by City Council regarding the economic impact of Willard Airport was provided by both Volaire Aviation Consulting and the Willard Airport Advisory Committee on the morning of the 26th with a physical copy provided to City Council at the meeting. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Quisenberry

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Quisenberry

NAY: Wilken

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

None.

10. Closed Session: Collective Bargaining Negotiations, Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2)

Motion to enter closed session at 9:09 p.m. by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Quisenberry

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Motion to exit closed session at 9:51 p.m. by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

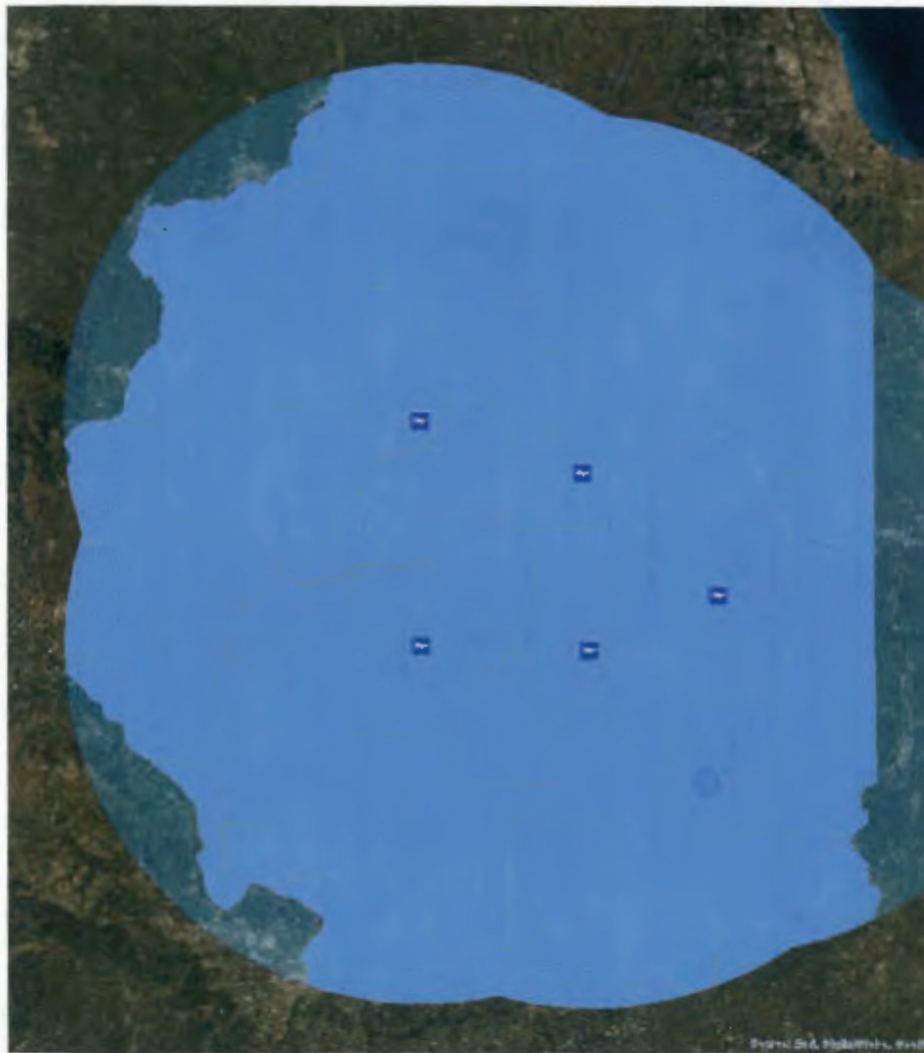
Minutes approved: 04-15-2024

2021-08

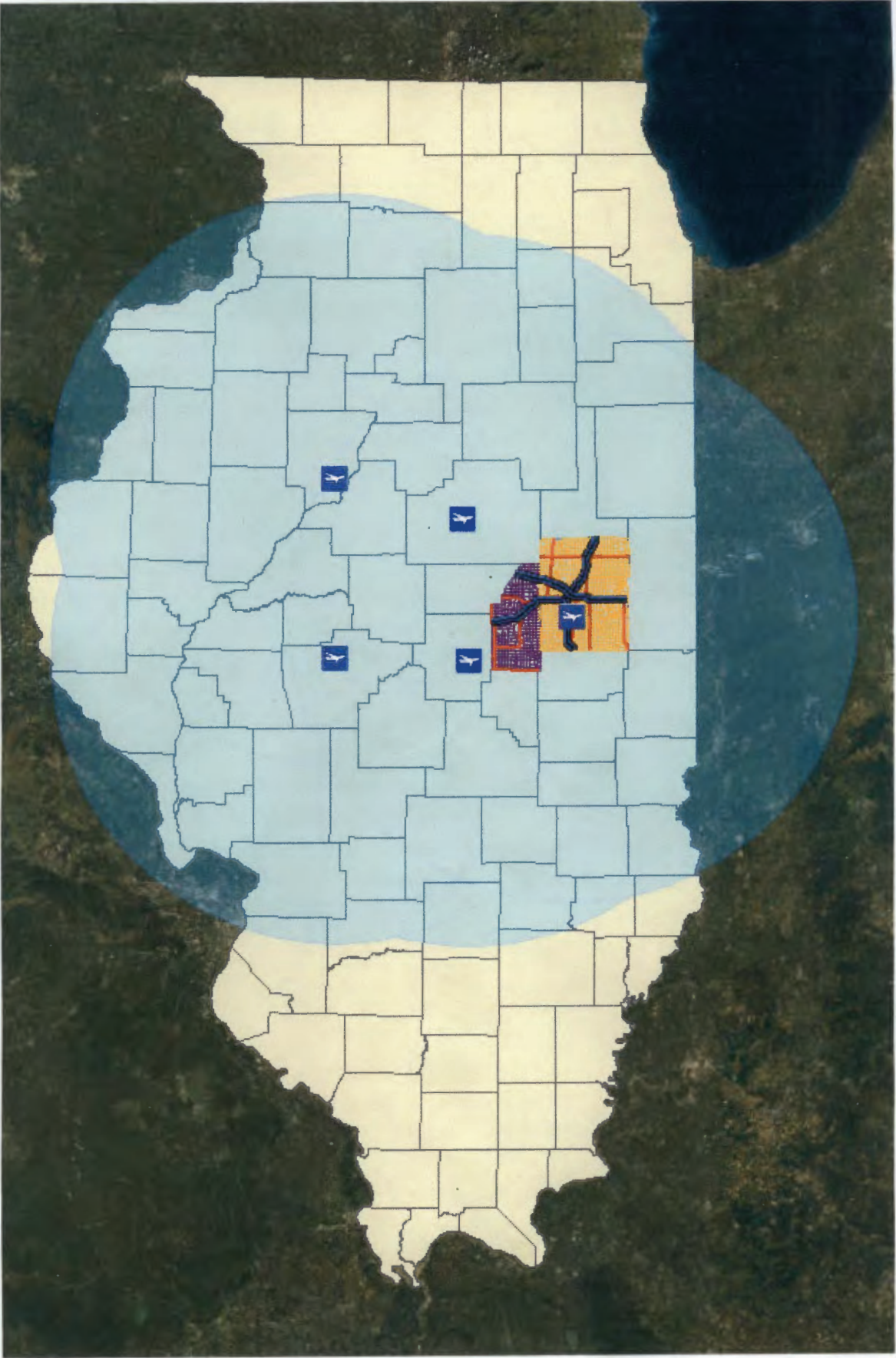
CIRE: *Central Illinois Regional Economy*

Michael Kilcullen - kilculln@illinois.edu

72 Counties of Illinois = 4.2 million population



ADAMS	21,395
BOND	16,520
BROWN	6,446
BUREAU	32,643
CALHOUN	4,724
CARROLL	13,974
CASS	11,690
CHAMPAIGN	209,746
CHRISTIAN	31,868
CLARK	15,170
CLAY	37,703
CLINTON	37,703
COLES	48,999
CRAWFORD	18,511
CUMBERLAND	15,896
DEKALB	104,127
DEVITT	15,488
DOUGLAS	19,153
EDGAR	17,288
EFFINGHAM	34,330
FAYETTE	21,178
FORD	13,160
FULTON	34,342
GREENE	12,796
GRUNDY	61,690
HANCOCK	17,504
HENDERSON	6,488
HENRY	48,778
HOLOGUIS	27,852
JASPER	5,752
JERSEY	21,738
KANKAKEE	108,984
KENDALL	19,200
KNOX	49,080
LASALLE	108,928
LAVRENCE	15,295
LEE	33,647
LIVINGSTON	15,053
LOGAN	28,745
MACON	101,070
MADISON	44,908
MADISON	262,441
MARSHALL	37,288
MARSHALL	11,232
MASON	13,388
MCDONOUGH	29,219
MCLEAN	172,794
MENARD	12,292
MERCER	15,857
MONTGOMERY	29,293
MORGAN	33,570
MULLTRE	14,745
OLJE	50,785
PEORIA	176,707
PIATT	16,276
PIKE	15,415
PUTNAM	5,784
RICHLAND	15,513
ROCK ISLAND	111,846
SANGAMON	192,564
SCHUYLER	6,788
SCOTT	4,822
SHELBY	21,788
ST CLAIR	268,325
STARK	5,387
TAZEWELL	130,202
VERMILION	74,866
VARRIN	16,754
WAYNE	16,182
WHITESIDE	54,984
WILL	694,896
WOODFORD	37,559



University of Illinois – Willard Airport Economic Impact and Tax Summary

Based on 2019 Economic Impact Study

University of Illinois – Willard Airport (CMI) is a significant economic engine for Champaign County and the surrounding region. CMI has a regional economic output of \$99.8 million dollars. There are 423 jobs on the field as of the latest count, with labor income of \$20 million in Champaign County, making the Airport the 15th largest regional employer and a large source of local taxes.

An estimated 42,400 annual inbound visitors (2019) used CMI as their regional gateway. Those visitors spent an estimated \$10 million dollars during their visits. Combined visitor and airline crew overnight spending creates an estimated 190 jobs. Visitor spending resulted in \$19.6 million dollars of annual regional economic output.

Employees who work at Willard Airport, along with visitors who fly into the Airport, generate a total of \$14.5 million in tax revenue, with \$3.6 million of those taxes going to local jurisdictions in Champaign County.

The 2019 study showed that employees who work at Willard Airport, along with visitors who fly into CMI, generate almost \$857,000 in tax revenue to the City of Champaign, almost \$408,000 to Champaign County, and more than \$397,000 in tax revenue to the City of Urbana. These taxes come to the jurisdictions from property taxes paid by employees, sales taxes, and hotel taxes.

City of Champaign	\$856,547	5.9%
Champaign County	\$407,907	2.8%
City of Urbana	\$397,433	2.7%
Champaign Schools	\$718,677	4.9%
Urbana Schools	\$753,111	5.2%
Village of Savoy	\$13,321	0.1%
Others	\$476,427	3.3%

Potential new service would generate an additional 20 on-airport jobs with almost \$827,000 in payroll. The potential new service would bring an estimated 11,583 net new visitors to the County and those visitors would spend an estimated \$3 million dollars annually in the County.

Potential new airline service would generate almost \$1.7 million in total new tax revenue. Of that total, \$834,000 would go to the State of Illinois and local jurisdictions. If new taxes go to the local jurisdictions similarly to current taxes generated on field, a total of \$422,571 in new taxes would be generated each year the service operates.

City of Champaign	\$99,892	5.9%
Champaign County	\$47,571	2.8%
City of Urbana	\$46,349	2.7%
Champaign Schools	\$83,814	4.9%
Urbana Schools	\$87,829	5.2%
Village of Savoy	\$1,554	0.1%
Others	\$55,562	3.3%

New service has the potential to generate almost \$100,000 in new annual tax revenue for the City of Champaign, almost \$48,000 in new tax revenue for Champaign County, and more than \$46,000 for the City of Urbana. This tax impact would be multiplied over each year that the service operates, with significant long term impact to the greater community.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Inbal Elazar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:14 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT: 2/26. Please read aloud

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

After watching the recording from previous Urbana's city meetings and hearing how people are blaming Israel for attacking innocent civilians, I would like to make sure everyone knows and are aware on what Hamas did on 10/7 to Israeli civilians (including kids and even animals) and how they broke the ceasefire again!!!

Please go to <https://www.hamas.com> website and look at the pictures/videos that were shot by Hamas (with Hamas logos on them).

I repeat: **HAMAS.com**

No one has the right to blame Israel or to call for one side ceasefire without watching these pictures/videos.

I'm asking Urbana council **not** to pass the resolution. Israel has the right to defend itself and bring safety to its citizens. Hamas is a terror organization (declared by US, EU and others) that is bad for Gaza civilians and should be dismantled. All the hostages should be released.

Thanks,
Inbal Elazar

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Ruth Kantorovitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:17 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT; City Council Regular Meeting; 2/26/2024; Topic: resolving the Ceasefire Resolution

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

[Requesting that email will be read during Public Input, if there is time.]

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

As we have seen in the past several weeks, the Public Input time of the City Council meetings is not an appropriate place to discuss the war in Gaza. Many residents feel that these sessions have become toxic.

I propose to end these unproductive toxic sessions by passing a global resolution for ceasefire everywhere in the world where there is a violent conflict (such as the war in Ukraine, the civil wars in Sudan, Myanmar, Yamen, etc.).

According to the [UN](#), nearly 90% of war-time casualties are civilians. This is a high price to pay even for a just war.

To show Urbana's commitment to non-violent solutions of conflicts, I propose that the City Council include in the ceasefire resolution all future wars as well.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kantorovitz
Urbana

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Inna Zharnitsky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 6:06 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT February 26, 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Inna Zharnitsky, I have lived in Champaign-Urbana for 20 years.

This letter is against the ceasefire resolution, as it's currently formulated.

The war in Gaza is horrible for Gaza civilians. Unfortunately, Hamas made sure it would be so.

It is well documented that Hamas built hundreds of miles of tunnels, under Gaza, where now it's hiding most of its militants and munitions. The total length of the tunnels under the tiny Gaza strip is more than all of the the London metro. As a reminder, at its longest point, Gaza is only 25 miles long!

In order to fight Hamas, the tunnels have to be destroyed. But they run under city centers and under civilian buildings.

The entrances - thousands of them - are often near or inside hospitals, schools, mosques, and private homes. Consequently, civilian infrastructure becomes military targets and gets destroyed.

Hamas hides underneath and between civilians, using them as human shields. As the result, casualties to civilians and the civilian infrastructure are horrific.

Not because Israel wants it so - but because by building the tunnels, Hamas made sure it would be so.

Hamas could end the war any moment, by releasing the hostages and surrendering their military leaders. The moment Hamas stops fighting, Gaza civilians stop dying. The moment IDF stops fighting - Israeli civilians WILL START dying.

Gaza civilians suffer under the rule of Hamas, that steals international aid in order to build tunnels and procure munitions, and made hundreds of people toil in tunnel building, instead of doing productive work and improving living conditions in Gaza. Hamas has to go, so the people in Gaza could have a chance at normal, productive lives.

I call for the ceasefire, which starts with release of the Israeli hostages.

I oppose the ceasefire resolution the way it's formulated right now.

Sincerely,

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Bollinger, Wes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:52 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 2.26.24 MEETING

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comments out loud during public input

My Name is Wes Bollinger, I am a Champaign County citizen and UI graduate student. I am also a Jewish man and a direct victim of violent antisemitism on multiple occasions including having had a knife held to my throat as a child because I was Jewish.

As such, I hope my statement carries weight when I say the following to members of the council and citizens in the audience: It is not antisemitic to criticize the fascist far-right Netanyahu administration for their role in exacerbating and accelerating this humanitarian crisis.

The Israeli Government's true Iron Dome defense is the propaganda they curate. The main goal of which is to conflate criticism of the Netanyahu government with genuine antisemitic sentiments, keeping the administration insulated from backlash for their violent policies. Do not listen to voices that paint the conflict as 'too complicated to have an opinion about.'

You do not have to be Jewish or Muslim to call for a ceasefire and the return of all hostages on both sides. To demand the international community strive for the removal of the terrorist group Hamas and the violent, colonizing, extractionist Netanyahu administration.

I ask the Urbana Council, those that brought the ceasefire resolution to this meeting, and the concerned citizens in this room to work together to draft a ceasefire resolution that prioritizes human life, calls out aggressors on both sides, and is written so all voices are heard in the call for peace.

Wes Bollinger

Masters Candidate
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
[REDACTED]

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Berry Zhang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 5:03 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 02.26.24 Meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment aloud during public input.

My name is Berry Zhang and I am a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. We cannot afford silence, we must do everything within our capacity to end this rampage and it starts with a ceasefire. Civilians are being intentionally starved to death in the Gaza Strip, which is not only extremely asinine and inhumane, it is also against humanitarian law and therefore a war crime. I will not stand for my leaders enabling this genocide, and it is beyond urgent that the Urbana city pass a ceasefire resolution immediately.

Sincerely,
Berry Zhang

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Lillian Wright <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 5:00 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 02.26.24 Meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Lilly Wright and I am an Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. We cannot afford silence, we must do everything within our capacity to end this rampage and it starts with a ceasefire.

Thank you.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Nick Abboud <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:30 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 02.26.24 Meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Nick Abboud, and I am an Urbana community member. I urge the Council to adopt the ceasefire resolution introduced on January 8th. We cannot afford to be silent. While it might not have control over war decisions, the City of Urbana has a voice that is more influential than any of our voices individually. We must use that voice to call for an immediate end to unconscionable violence, genocide, and ethnic cleansing. Please adopt the resolution.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Ammar Bhutta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:29 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input city council meeting 2/26/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Ammar Bhutta and I am an Urbana Business owner and I support a ceasefire now, not tomorrow not the day after. The Gaza Strip has been under seige by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, just like the rest of mankind deserve human rights and self-determination. How long will it take our city council to stand up and do the right thing. It's beyond human comprehension that the council wants to brush this aside stating as a "complex issue with two sides". There are no two sides in a genocide

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Erdem Yelmenoglu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:13 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: input

*** Email From An External Source ***

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Please read this out loud during your meeting.

As a resident of CU, I wish that the city government loudly announces their support for a ceasefire in Gaza. Our taxes are complicit in genocide. How many have to die before you take action is 30 thousand not enough?

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Maya <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 2:38 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 02.26.24 Meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Maya Faaborg and I am an Urbana resident. I support a ceasefire because there is NO justification for bombing over 10,000 civilian children, ever, for any reason, and yet that is exactly what our government has enabled and continues to enable in Gaza. Peace begins with ceasefire, not with continuing to fund the mass killing of innocents. Like many others, I will not rest until my representatives call for a ceasefire, and do everything in their power to end the ethnic cleansing in Gaza. I do not want my government supporting ANY group that uses lethal violence against civilians to further its goals.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Luis Alcantara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 2:48 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: 02.26.2024 Council meeting public input

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Please read my comment out loud during public input, thank you.

My name is Luis Alcantara, I am an Urbana resident, and I support a ceasefire resolution regarding the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. Justice and equality are always city business. Because of this, I ask that the drafting and passing of a ceasefire resolution be added to the council's agenda for March.

When we are ignored by our state representatives, one of the ways we can make our voices heard is to petition on local levels, as is our right as constituents, a right also noted in "The Resolution Opposing War Against Iraq" in 2003.

When the larger bodies of government fail to represent the will of the people, we the people have the right and responsibility to call on our local governments to recognize the needs of the majority.

We call on you now. The City of Urbana might not have control over federal policy or actions, but the council has complete control over whether they recognize the voices of the people they've been elected to represent.

Thank you for your time,

Luis Alcantara

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Sunny Urquhart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 2:28 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 02.26.24 Meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Alexa Urquhart, pronounced Er-kart. I am an Urbana resident, a local barista, and graduate student at UIUC. I support a ceasefire. Like many Americans, I draw a hardline at hostages. Prior to 10/7 there were 5,000 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, primarily from the West Bank. More than 1,200 of these are hostages being detained without being charged or allowed to stand trial. These numbers are up to >7,500 detained and more than 2,000 held without charge or trial. These Palestinians are often abducted from their homes by Israeli forces during night raids where they terrorize not only the abductees but also their families and sometimes entire neighborhoods.

According to Human Rights Watch, Palestinians held in Israeli prisons are held under inhumane conditions, often with restrictions to food, medicines, and basic hygiene. Palestinians who are returned to their families report physical and mental abuse and often sexual assault. They are put in solitary confinement for months on end. This has been occurring since 1967 and the number of illegally detained hostages has been steadily increasing.

This is not including the greuson details on the 1,000 Palestinian children who go through military courts every year. "Palestinian children in the military detention system face physical and emotiaonal abuse, with 4 out of 5 (86%) of them being beaten, and 69% of them strip searched according to new research by "Save the Children".

I am using my civic power to urge a ceasefire resolution be adopted by Urbana city council.

Thank you,
Alexa M. Urquhart

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Barbara kessel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:11 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Participation on 2/26/24

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear City Council,

I urge you to allow a vote on the resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza. By not allowing a vote, you prolong the discussion and the agitation and the division you decry.

I personally favor a Ceasefire in Gaza, to curtail an obvious genocide. Genocide is never justified, no matter the prequal.

However, not allowing a vote of the council is counter productive, whatever your position.

Barbara Kessel
resident of Urbana,
Quisenberry's district

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Laura PenseL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:06 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input comment

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Laura PenseL and I am an Urbana resident and local healthcare worker. I support a ceasefire and end to aid to Israel. We cannot afford to be silent during this genocide. We must do everything within our power and hearts to end this rampage and it starts with a ceasefire.

Laura PenseL MS, RD, LDN, CNSC
Clinical Dietitian

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Dennis Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 5:09 PM
To: !City Council
Cc: Marlin, Diane; ! Wu, Maryalice; ! Evans, Christopher; ! Hursey, Shirese; ! Kolisetty, Jaya; ! Bishop, Chaundra; ! Wilken, Grace; ! Quisenberry James; Joseph Prior
Subject: Support for Hotel Royer - Public Input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Greetings, Members of the Urbana City Council.

This evening you will be considering a motion forwarded from the Committee of the Whole to assess a penalty on Icon Hospitality/ Marquis Ventures if it fails in the future to meet an expected opening date for *Hotel Royer*—a penalty based on previous delays in meeting past deadlines to their redevelopment agreement with the City.

Certainly, we all are eager to see this project come to a successful conclusion. The renovation of the Hotel is one of the most important goals cited in city studies relating to downtown revitalization. This property is both an historic landmark prominently located in the center of our downtown and a redevelopment project believed to be a vital key in reviving the general economic health of Urbana's downtown business district.

The scope of renovations required to bring the old Hotel into modern compliance and to gain "boutique hotel" status should not be disregarded. I am sure the difficulties in doing so it has surpassed the initial expectations of the developers.

I encourage the Council to be patient and focus on the long-term expectations for this project. For this Hotel to be saved from deterioration and reopen as a boutique hotel under the Hilton Tapestry designation is going to be a huge win for the community. Anyone passing the project in the last year has watched the incredible work being done on the exterior of the building. Council has been updated on the repairs required throughout the hotel.

I do not believe we will gain anything by establishing penalties now for investing the necessary time required for this enormous project to reach its successful completion. Every week the Hotel is not in operation is also a financial loss of business to the developer. I encourage to Council to continue to exercise its patience and support for this important redevelopment project. Ultimately, we will all be celebrating the opening of a wonderful New Hotel in Urbana's downtown.

Yours,
Dennis Roberts
Urbana resident and Member of Urbana's Historic Preservation Commission
2/26/2024