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**DATE:** Monday, March 18, 2024  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:52 p.m.

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

**\*CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Kimberly Smith, Seok Hyun Cho, Demond Dade, Breaden Belcher

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michele Weinzetl, Senior Manager at BerryDunn; Andrew Valentine, Positive Push; Brian Dunn, Positive Push; Jonathon Robinson, Positive Push; Tanner Coleman, Positive Push

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6:52p.m.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- a. 01-02-24 City Council Minutes
- b. 01-02-24 Committee of the Whole Minutes
- c. 01-08-24 City Council Minutes
- d. 01-16-24 Committee of the Whole Minutes
- e. 02-05-24 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion to approve 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. Presentation: Skaters for a Skate Space - Andrew Valentine & Brian Dunn, CMs Evans & Wilken**

Presented by Andrew Valentine, Brian Dunn, Jonathon Robinson, and Tanner Coleman from Positive Push; introduction by CM Evans. Begun with Brian Dunn calling for a ceasefire in Palestine and for the liberation of Gaza. Thanked City Council for providing time for presenting on why it is a good idea to turn an empty parking lot into a space for skateboarding. Requested a space in a central location, preferably closer to downtown so that skating can be better conveniently accessed by the community, a space where skaters will not face harassment, a legal space where people can skateboard without the worry of facing legal ramifications, a space where obstacles can be built and maintained by the skaters themselves to reflect the changing needs of the skateboarding community, and a space that will not be later torn down by the City of Urbana. Andrew Valentine spoke on the merits of the parking lots at 304 Central Avenue and lot 24 (south of Lincoln Square Mall at 40.1088329, -88.2059465). Described the plan to utilize a space provided for a skatepark for the benefit of the community. Jonathon Robinson provided examples of community engagement from local spaces that are trying to be replicated at the future skatepark, promoting the free expression of local artists. Thanked CM Evans for providing the idea in light of the Sipyard being closed. Cited Spalding skatepark as an inspiration for what a skatepark in the City of Urbana has to offer for local community expression. Described the barriers and obstacles to skateboarding in the City of Urbana. Stated that having a space dedicated for skateboarders where they could not be forcibly removed and be able to freely skate would greatly improve the accessibility to skateboarding in the City of Urbana, stating that currently all skateboarding has to be done in the City of Champaign. Andrew Valentine described the benefits skateboarding has to the local community and beyond as skaters have been noted to travel from across central Illinois travel to the skate shop, skeuwep for supplies. Shared accounts of how skateboarders enrich the experiences of those around them by being able to teach one another how to perform tricks. Thanked CM Evans, CM Kolisetty, CM Wilken, and Mayor Marlin for their continued support. Brian Dunn explained the benefits of having a skatepark would provide to the local community and the downtown economy. Tanner Coleman stated the benefits of skating for the youth and how it can build community between them. Andrew Valentine posited that a skatepark would have little to no overhead costs for the City of Urbana to allow skaters to maintain their own skatepark, a skatepark would lower crime in the local area, and drive further business downtown as more people are enticed to visit downtown Urbana for the DIY skate space. Explained that a DIY skate space has the potential to draw high level skaters, upcoming artists for their music videos, and a great backdrop for pictures. Brian Dunn stated that this space would be supplemental to the Urbana Park District and would not take the place of an Urbana Park District park, meeting the unmet needs of a traditional Urbana Park District park. Presentation slides are attached to minutes.

**b. Presentation: City of Urbana & Urbana HOME Consortium Annual Action Plan FT 2024-2025 - CD**

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Manager. Provided an overview of the annual action plan and its purpose. Also provided information on the HOME and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs, covered under the annual action plan. Spoke on resources expected to be received from HUD, the public input process for the annual action plan, as well as the timeline and implementation process for the plan. Highlighted sections AP-15 (pg. 11-15), AP-20 (pg. 16-21), and AP-35 (pg. 22-32) within the annual action plan as sections of interest for public review. Provided context of demographics being served through the programs funded through HOME and CDBG, identified primary households being served as those that fall under 50% median family income for the area as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Stated that CDBG is estimated to receive

\$498,343 for FY2024-2025 and HOME Consortium for Urbana, Champaign, and Champaign County is expected to receive \$779,013 for FY2024-2025, these estimations were based on the amounts received for FY2023-2024. Clarified that the final action plan with the finalized grant amounts received will be returning to City Council for approval in the future. Shared differences between CDBG and HOME. Clarified that CDBG is exclusively for providing services to City of Urbana residents. Shared CDBG's accomplishments for FY2023-2024. Noted that applications for the Youth Services Grant, provided through the CDBG, for FY2024-2025 are currently open through 04-01-2024. Shared information on the CDBG funded Neighborhood Cleanup program that takes place during Spring and will be occurring on 05-18-2024, with further information to come closer to that date. Shared accomplishments of targeted infrastructure improvements completed in conjunction with the Public Works Department, funded through the CDBG. Explained that HOME is meant for the retention or creation of affordable housing units and listed purposes such as: providing Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), assistance with down-payments on homes, and funding for the construction of affordable housing. Shared the accomplishments of TBRA working in conjunction with the Regional Planning Committee as well as Courage Connection. Stated that a portion of HOME funds were allocated toward the affordable housing at Bristol Place in the City of Champaign. Explained public input process for the annual action plan and noted that two public hearings have been held so far, with the comment period open between 02-23-2024 and 03-25-2024, and that a community needs survey has been distributed with great feedback received. Shared timeline for the approval of the annual action plan. Directed people to provide their input and thoughts to [grants@urbanaininois.us](mailto:grants@urbanaininois.us), [bjbelcher@urbanaininois.us](mailto:bjbelcher@urbanaininois.us), [njolsen@urbanaininois.us](mailto:njolsen@urbanaininois.us), (217) 384-2306. Shared that the annual action plan is available to physically review at the Community Development Department, City Clerk's Office, and at The Urbana Free Library.

Motion to extend presentation by 5 minutes by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

#### a. Public Input

*Itai Sagath* thanked City Council for Resolution No. 2024-03-013R and for listening to all opinions voiced from the community through the community. Reflected on process of participating in the drafting of the peace resolution. Urged City Council to pass the peace resolution as it is. *Derek Briles* commented on the peace resolution, acknowledging that City Council has taken the steps to listen to community input and thanking CM Evans and CM Wilken for their leadership. Urged City Council to consider including language regarding the United States ending its support toward Israel before passing. Stated that City Council should properly reflect the will of the majority by supporting local Palestinian residents and by calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. *Sam Froiland* stated that for there to be an end to the war in Gaza and for there to be a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, that there needs to be an end to the United States providing Israel military aid. Expressed that this action would not be performative as tax money that is being spent on military aid for Israel would be better off spent toward local issues. Called on CM Kolisetty to amend the peace resolution to add language reflecting these statements. *Stav Ashur* addressed CM Wilken's statement from 03-04-2024 regarding not receiving a response back for an inquiry on the peace resolution drafting meeting. Apologized, stating that there was a misunderstanding regarding the email received. Expressed that the drafting process was not done in bad faith, all emails regarding the drafting meeting were responded to, and that he personally approached people in person to participate in the drafting of the peace resolution. Stated that the previous speakers' requests to add in a resolve calling for the end of United States military aid toward Israel was a topic that was discussed during the

resolution drafting meeting, and that he personally opposed it during those meetings because Israel has the most countries dedicated to its destruction and it seems antisemitic. **Arthur Paganini** stated that the Graduate Employees' Organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign voted 80% in favor of a ceasefire in Gaza. Urged City Council to amend the peace resolution to call for the end of United States providing military aid toward Israel. Voiced that local graduate employees and participants in democracy stand in support of a ceasefire resolution for Gaza. **Alice Smith** stated that the United States is complicit in the deaths of tens of thousands of Gazans, genocide, and creating the conditions for famine in Gaza due to the United States' support for the current Israeli administration. Expressed that City Council is displaying cowardice by not including the term "ceasefire" in the peace resolution and that the only way forward is to add language calling for the end of the United States providing military aid to Israel. **Isabel Scott** requested City Council to act in support of Palestinian community members by passing an explicit ceasefire resolution that also calls for the end of United States providing military aid for Israel. Stated that peace cannot be achieved without a ceasefire. **Catherine Consul** called for a ceasefire and an end of United States military aid toward Israel so that City Council can continue addressing local matters. **Katherine Popetz** urged City Council to be brave and to make the peace resolution a ceasefire resolution that also calls for the end of United States military aid being provided to Israel. **Chibu Asonye** spoke on behalf of Bisan Owda from Gaza, urging City Council to pass the peace resolution, amend it to call for the end of all military aid to Israel from the United States, and also amend it to include the term "ceasefire". Voiced thankfulness toward the work of CM Evans and CM Wilken and requested the rest of City Council to follow their actions by amending the peace resolution with the previously mentioned requests. **Dana** thanked members of City Council who were receptive and supportive of the ceasefire resolution process. Stated that the resolution presented on 01-08-2024 is the only ceasefire resolution brought to City Council and that it was not released for public viewing earlier due to external pressure to not present the resolution at all, citing Mayor Marlin's request toward CM Evans and CM Wilken to strike the presentation from the agenda on 01-08-2024. Voiced that as a co-author of the resolution, there has not been any concrete feedback regarding the content of the ceasefire resolution and why it was deemed harmful. Stated that the ceasefire resolution was written with deep care, language used in the 2003 resolution against the Iraq War, and language used in other ceasefire resolutions passed within the United States. Hoped that the peace resolution being passed tonight will call for a ceasefire and an end to the United States providing military aid to Israel. Stated that despite being a small facet of the United States government, City Council is the most accessible line for constituents to speak against a genocide. Shared personal family history of being victims of genocide. **Brad Allen** spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution and an end to the United States providing military aid to Israel. Echoed statements regarding this matter being business relevant to City Council by reiterating that military aid to Israel is funded by American tax money. Stated that people speaking out against genocide are having to deal with violence from Zionists during peaceful demonstrations, citing an incident after 03-04-2024's meeting where a demonstrator was almost hit by a car that purposefully sped up and an incident where an elderly protestor was cut and concussed by a Zionist during a peaceful protest. Called upon City Council to pass a ceasefire resolution. **Malika** appeared in support of the originally proposed ceasefire resolution on 01-08-2024 and in support of the cessation of United States military aid towards Israel. Questioned how City Council could listen to the stories of atrocities from Gaza and act annoyed in response. Appealed to City Council's potential care of property, sharing how universities in Gaza have been completely destroyed alongside scholars in Gaza. **Ben Joselyn** spoke in support of the skateboarders and expressed wishes for them to have their skatepark realized. Stated that the inherent presence of the peace resolution on the agenda is a victory for the people and that it is a message of love from the City of Urbana's community. Expressed that over the past few weeks of public input, one side has shown to have an understanding that the United States has been participating in an ongoing genocide and that they must call for an end to needless death; while the other side calls for silence on the topic.

Recounted how City Council did not take on the originally proposed ceasefire resolution, but Mayor Marlin opted to work with an opponent of the ceasefire resolution in drafting a new resolution and was pleased with the process, stating that it represented diverse viewpoints despite not knowing who participated and being told that there were no Muslim or Palestinian participants. Urged City Council to add language to the resolution that acknowledges the complicity of the United States in the genocide, language that calls for the cessation of military funds being sent to Israel by the United States, and suggested that, if possible, to strike out the entire resolution and replace it with the originally proposed ceasefire resolution that has the broad support of the community. **Timothy Chen** spoke in favor of City Council supporting a ceasefire resolution and in support of the recommended amendments made by previous speakers. Quoted the Zapatistas of Chiapas, Mexico stating, “Here the people rule and the government obeys.” Called for City Council to obey to the demands made by its constituents. Also highlighted a message from Skate Pal, an organization that volunteers to build skate parks in Palestine reading a quote that expresses the freedom skating provides to Palestinian people despite the limitations put on them by militarism in the area. Reminded City Council that it is not patriotic to support Israel while it has killed American citizens. **Sarah Blanco** stated that everybody likes peace. Called for specific actions to be taken that will lead to actual peace and an end to the genocide in Gaza. Urged City Council to amend the peace resolution to include language calling for a ceasefire and an end to military aid being provided by the United States to Israel. **Bari** demanded City Council call for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine and an end to United States military funding being provided to Israel. Shared the killing of Hind Rajab and the Flour Massacre, providing examples of numerous atrocities and mass killings being committed by Israeli Occupation Forces, demonstrating the need for an immediate ceasefire to be called. **Luke Leigh** thanked CM Evans and CM Wilken for their initial support in providing the space for the original ceasefire resolution to be presented. Stated that many people, disproportionately black people, in the area struggle financially, as reported on in the ALICE presentation by United Way of Champaign County. Called for the end of the United States providing aid to Israel, and for those funds to be diverted toward creating a more just and equitable society in the United States and the City of Urbana. **Jasper Nord** spoke in support of the skatepark presentation and the original ceasefire resolution that was presented on 01-08-2024. Expressed frustration with the amount of money being spent toward supporting Israel while they commit atrocities against the Palestinian people. Voiced offense taken, as an ethnically Jewish person, at the assertions that calls for a ceasefire are antisemitic and the erasure of the voices from the wider, Jewish community. Supported calls for an amendment to the current peace resolution to include language that demands the end of military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. **Vadim Jarnitsky** spoke in support of the peace resolution despite there being opposition to it as it lacks ceasefire language. Expressed that all cities who have passed a ceasefire resolution and all ivy-league universities supporting a ceasefire are wrong in his opinion, explaining that these resolutions are pro-Hamas and extends their rule. Denounced the phrase “From the River to the Sea” as an antisemitic phrase, connecting it to phrases used in pogroms, and that Hamas interprets it to mean that Israel will be annihilated. Voiced that without Israel, Hamas would spread across the region and that the fastest route to a two-state solution would be to eradicate Hamas. **Chris Zelly** voiced support for a skatepark. Reminded City Council that in 2023, before the events of 10-07-2023 it was the deadliest year for youth in the West Bank and that Israel is currently holding over 9,000 hostages, mainly comprised of children, kept in inhumane conditions. Called upon City Council to call for a ceasefire, a release of all the hostages held by Israel, and for the cessation of military funding for Israel from the United States. Described conditions qualifying Israel as an apartheid state, citing its persecution of non-white Jewish communities and outlawed interracial marriage. Read quote from Paulo Freire stating, “Washing one’s hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral.” **Mick Woolf** encouraged City Council to approve the peace resolution, despite the imperfect process behind its formation. Hoped that the resolution would pass as it currently is, but if there are to be amendments that they would stay on a path toward

peace to a “peacefire”. **David** asked City Council to include language accurately reflecting the suffering of the people in Gaza and Palestine, and the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people. Shared family background of having historically supported Nazi Germany, requesting that everyone learn from their mistakes and accurately acknowledge what is happening in Gaza as a genocide. **Dua Aldasouqi** shared rage felt at hearing news of attacks on al-Shifa hospital and accounts from friends having to relocate 5-10 times since the beginning of the conflict due to the evacuation orders from Israel that shifts them around in circles. Stated that a strong intercommunity movement has been created locally to take measures to protest genocide and that work will continue outside of City Council to demand for a ceasefire, Palestinian liberation, and freedom for all. **Bara** thanked City Council for supporting the peace resolution, but noted that there is still room for improvement with the potential for amending the resolution to include language calling for a permanent and immediate ceasefire as well as a call for the United States to stop funding military aid for Israel. Stated that Israel is actively preventing the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza, as they cited safety scissors and tent rods as contraband items. Stated that al-Shifa hospital is being sieged by Israel for the fourth time despite having been shown by the World Health Organization, on behalf of the United Nations, that there was no conclusive evidence present to indicate the presence of Hamas. **Gwyneth Krepsio** voiced, as a member of the local Jewish community, feelings of unsafety from Israel having turned Jewish trauma against themselves and the communities they are meant to be in harmony with. Stated that the Zionist movement is political and more supported by radical Christians than any Jewish community. Urged City Council to pass a ceasefire resolution with the intent of showing care for the local community and to reject the Israeli war machine to prevent the spread of tactics used in Israel to communities in the United States. **Grace McCork** asked City Council to amend the peace resolution to include ceasefire language and to call for the end of United States military aid for Israel. Stated that City Council has the ability to amplify the voices of their constituents and that they should listen to their communities and echo their demands. Highlighted significant amount of children deaths at the hands of the Israeli military using American made weaponry. **Romi Shen** stated that tax money from working people in the City of Urbana should not be going toward funding military aid for Israel as they are living through an ongoing financial crisis. Questioned why tax funds from the City of Urbana are being sent to Israel as military aid when so many families are struggling financially. Demanded City Council to stop the funding of United States military aid for Israel and to support the liberation of the Palestinian people. **Aly** stated that State Representation Carol Ammons supports a ceasefire resolution and that City Council should follow suit. Cited Amnesty International’s report from 2022 titled, “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity,” illustrating Israel’s history of undeniable apartheid. Shared family history of being Jewish, stating that Judaism far predates Zionism and it is the least antisemitic action to oppose genocide. Stated that until a ceasefire resolution is passed by the United States, it will remain complicit in Israel’s genocide. **Sana Sabowala** echoed reasons stated for City Council to stand up against the federal government, why the issues are wrongly framed about terrorism when they are actually about ethnic cleansing, why tax money should not be spent toward genocide, and why a ceasefire resolution should be passed. Expressed frustration of having to compromise on language on the topic of genocide. Stated that the stories from Gaza and Palestine should be sufficient for City Council to have taken action to push for a permanent end to the violence in Israel and the military aid being sent to Israel. **Benjamin Theobald** urged City Council to amend the peace resolution to include the term “ceasefire”, stating that the majority of Americans and Democrats support a ceasefire resolution. Stated that the events of Palestine affect everyone as shown by the murder of Wadea Al-Fayoume in Plainfield, Illinois and in the 2018 Tree of Life shooting. Recounted story from a Jewish family friend who was in Israel during the 1967 war, stating that human life should be held sacred and this violence needs to cease. **George** demanded City Council passes a ceasefire resolution which also calls for the end of United States military aid for Israel. Stated that police have not protected protestors, citing incidents where Zionists have attacked protestors without police

intervention and where a car intentionally sped toward a crowd of protestors and subsequently returned to harass protestors gathered outside of City Hall. Expressed that more people are losing trust in City Council and that tonight is an opportunity to restore that trust by passing a stronger peace resolution that calls for an end to military aid being sent to Israel by the United States and a ceasefire. **Addison Gray** expressed hope for City Council to vote affirmative on the peace resolution and that future votes in elections hinges on the decision made tonight. Voiced disappointment in decision by City Council to not accept the amendment proposed in the previous meeting to add ceasefire to the peace resolution. Suggested City Council amend the resolution to call for an end to United States military aid Israel, call upon Israel for the return of Palestinian hostages, and that humanitarian aid be allowed to enter by land through the Rafah border crossing. Recognized the recent anniversary of the death of Rachel Corrie on 03-16 where she was murdered by a Caterpillar bulldozer in Palestine used by the Israeli military, noting that Caterpillar has an office in the local area. **Skylar Ristec** expressed strong support for an explicit ceasefire resolution that cannot be misinterpreted to allow further military aid toward Israel. Shared pride felt at shared values within the community. Stated that a ceasefire resolution would amplify the voices of the City Council's constituents and local Palestinian families to a level where they normally could not reach. **Avil** shared quote from Nazi propagandist, Joseph Gobbels stating, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it", connecting it to the anti-genocide messages spoken by people during public input and calling statements of Israel perpetrating genocide lies. Shared quote from American military academic, John Spencer praising Israel's accomplishments and stating that Israel is setting the gold standard for avoiding civilian casualties in urban warfare. Quoted retired British officer, Richard Kemp stating that Israel is successfully killing Hamas combatants with a good ratio to civilian deaths in Gaza. Questioned how United States military aid being used to support defense systems in Israel can be used to kill people, and questioned the logic behind calling for the end of military aid to Israel from the United States. Stated that UNRWA funds terrorism in Gaza. **Andra Haman** urged City Council to support an explicit ceasefire resolution. Refuted statements made by previous speaker, stating that sources from West Point should not be wholly trusted as they have a history of lying as seen in their statements on the Iraq War and that a 93% civilian casualty rate in a war is not what should be considered a gold standard. Addressed statement of being called liars, stating that the Zionist government implements the tactic of calling opponents to Zionism liars worldwide. Stated that statements made by Israel regarding UNRWA supporting terrorism are not backed with any evidence. Stated that the previous speaker, as indicated by his outbursts during this public input, has a history of being violent at protests with his family, citing an incident where his wife had assaulted a 17-year-old. Put forward a hypothetical situation illustrating the inherent hostile action behind military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. Expressed that if City Council does not support a ceasefire resolution, that they should kill him as it would be equally dehumanizing. **Hiba Udeya** stated that people in Gaza are forced to break their fasts with eating grass, parents are returning from searching for food to find dead children, and that people search for food without knowing if they will survive. Stated that President Joe Biden has enabled the starvation of the people in Gaza. Questioned how supporting Palestine has been deemed offensive while children continue to be mutilated in Gaza and atrocities continue to be broadcasted through social media. **Salman** voiced that the people of Gaza are forced to unintentionally fast every day for Ramadan and starve to death due to Israelis protesting the entrance of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Shared the death of 10-year-old Yazan al-Kafarneh from malnutrition as an example of deaths caused by the prevention of the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Questioned why the deaths of Palestinian children in Gaza are less valued than children in the United States. Called for a ceasefire. **Rallah** stated that Israel's goal of being a democratic state comes at the cost of the eradication of Palestine and Palestinian people. Stated that not passing a ceasefire resolution means to be complicit in allowing the genocide to continue. Rhetorically asked if the passing of a ceasefire resolution might have helped contribute to prevent the killings of her aunt's brother and his friend in her home village in the

West Bank by Israeli soldiers. Stated that these events in Palestine impact Palestinian people in the United States, as seen in the murder of Wadea Al-Fayoume in Plainfield, Illinois. **Firdaus** stated that the language of the peace resolution is reminiscent of the passive language used by the New York Times in reporting on the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli Defense Forces and news outlets purposefully erasing the ages of Palestinian children who have been imprisoned by Israel without due process. Voiced that the language used in the peace resolution is indicative of the bias held in favor of the colonial state of Israel. Emphasized necessity of the use of accurate language that does not diminish the lived experiences of Palestinians, similarly to how the Holocaust is not sugarcoated. Called for the end of the United States providing military aid to Israel, stating that it could be put to better use internally. Echoed previous calls for amendments to the peace resolution. **Amy** relayed her child's wishes for a ceasefire to be called. Questioned how people could look at the deaths of children in Gaza and not want to call for a ceasefire. Requested City Council to amend the peace resolution to call for an end to military aid being sent to Israel from the United States. **Anonymous** addressed public, stating that the issue of a ceasefire and genocide should appeal to everyone's shared humanity and that people should empathize with it by imagining your own family members being placed in that situation. **Isabel Lusorio** spoke to City Council, as an Irish and Taino Puerto Rican person, appealing to the common humanity of City Council, calling for a ceasefire and an end to military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. Urged City Council to use their power to call for a ceasefire. **Matt Soyland** echoed calls for City Council to add language to the peace resolution calling for an explicit ceasefire in Palestine and an end to all aid sent to Israel by the United States. Stated that the consistent public input calling for a ceasefire, shows community passion and engagement. Expressed disrespect felt from City Council's indifference toward input regarding a ceasefire. **Ahmed** stated the United States and its governmental systems are at war with the Palestinian people, not Hamas, as the Palestinian people predate Hamas by thousands of years and the United States has supported Israel's actions for the past 75 years. Called for City Council to represent the interests of the local community rather than Israel's interests. Questioned why tax money collected goes to funding military aid for Israel rather than supporting local communities. Stated that the conflict is severely one sided as Israel is far more militarily equipped than Palestine. **Mars Grahamly** urged City Council, as a member of the Choctaw Nation, to call for a ceasefire and call for the cessation of military aid to Israel from the United States. Requested City Council to stand on the right side of history by calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. **Anonymous** expressed shame felt to be an American as the United States government deliberates on its response to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Urged City Council to call for a ceasefire before Israel enacts its planned ground invasion of the Palestinian City of Rafah. Stated that the military aid to Israel must be ceased as they are either too inept to prevent the deaths of civilians or they are operating with the intent to kill civilians. **Hilda Hardichten** addressed concerns of a ceasefire resolution being passed by City Council, stating that it is better to make an effort to speak out against a genocide than making none at all and that many eyes are looking at Urbana-Champaign's local efforts for a ceasefire. Called for a ceasefire and an end to military aid being provided to Israel by the United States. **Don Owen** stated that Zionism connects to American history through Manifest Destiny, which was used to exterminate indigenous people. Stated that the inaction from City Council on a ceasefire resolution displays a failure in leadership. Expressed that worries on divisiveness from Mayor Marlin were manifested and exacerbated through the City Council's inaction and by putting forward the current peace resolution. Demanded the inclusion of language calling for a ceasefire, the return of all hostages held by Israel, and the immediate end of military aid provided to Israel by the United States. **Carmel Elazar** stated that all ceasefires in Gaza for the previous 20 years have been broken by escalating violence. Voiced that a ceasefire only extends war, and that he instead supports the current resolution calling for an end to the war and a lasting peace. Stated that compromise and sacrifice can lead to peace through a two-state solution where Israel and Palestine can coexist. Quoted former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin reading, "No more war, no more



bloodshed, no more bereavement. Peace unto you, shalom, salaam- peace forever.” **Robert Silverman** stated that Zionists and Jewish may be few and far between, and that Zionism began in the late 1700s through a group of Jewish leaders recognizing hatred toward Jewish people growing for the previous 1000 years. Stated that the United Nations, through resolution 181, partitioned land for Israel and Palestine and was accepted by Jewish leaders while being rejected by the Arab League. Stated that Israel has been in continuous war with its surrounding countries since its inception. Stated that the First Amendment also protects lies, referring to the statements calling Israel’s actions in Palestine genocide, the statement regarding the vehicular harassment of protestors outside of City Hall, and the statement of Israel holding 9,000 hostages. Stated that Gaza represents the worst of humanity’s brutality. **Josh** expressed confusion regarding the concept of ending military aid to Israel in order to divert those funds toward addressing local issues. Stated that the amount of money being sent to Israel can only cover partial portions to address issues such as homelessness, providing national free healthcare, and free college tuition. Stated that military aid to Israel only represents a small percentage of the United States’ annual expenditures. Thanked CM Quisenberry for his amendment calling for a cessation of violence between Israel and Hamas. Requested City Council to pass the resolution as it is currently amended. **Caite** vocalized support for a skatepark. Clarified that the call to cease military aid for Israel is to prevent the further deaths of children and people in Gaza rather than attempting to solve all of America’s internal issues at once. Objected to, as a queer person, insinuations made to Palestinian communities being wholly homophobic, citing the existence of LGBTQ Palestinians in Gaza and in every community. Stated that Israel is repeating the same mistakes made in America during its colonialization and its expansion through genocide. Thanked CM Wilken and CM Evans for their leadership and listening to the community’s demands. **Maxwell Haynes** spoke in support of the peace resolution, and amendments that should be made to it with the purpose of strengthening the rhetoric used to call for an end to the genocide in Gaza. Stated that since the Nakhsba in 1948, Israel has killed 800 Palestinians per year according to conservative estimates. Advocated for an amendment adding language to the resolution calling for an end to any and all military aid to Israel. Stated that Israel is unlawfully detaining over 10,000 people and called for the amendment to include language calling for the release of all non-combatants held without charge by the Israeli Defense Forces. Echoed support for amendments previously mentioned by other speakers. **Iman** requested City Council adjust the language of the resolution, changing the use of “war” with the more accurate term of “genocide”. Stated that if this conflict is to be deemed a war, language reflecting that should be used by calling for a ceasefire rather than a cessation of violence as it overlooks the context of the history in Gaza. Voiced that if left unrecognized, Israel will continue its violence against the Palestinian people until they are wholly eradicated. Expressed that language used in the resolution should be more direct to reflect the current conditions in Gaza. Called for the end of military aid to Israel, a ceasefire, and the end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. **Lexi Vogel** spoke in support of the peace resolution, also stating that it should include language calling for the end of military aid being sent to Israel and the term “ceasefire” as it is what the community has consistently requested. Voiced support for skateboarders and the skatepark efforts as it would be a step in addressing the involuntary celibate epidemic among young men. Expressed concern for ecological ramifications of the ongoing genocide; citing accounts of native olive trees being uprooted by the Israeli military, animals being displaced by the conflict, and the deaths of the indigenous people who have stewarded the land. **Malik Judah** expressed that the atrocities taking place in Gaza cannot be ignored. Voiced moral obligation to stand in solidarity and advocate on behalf of the Palestinian people for their rights for self-determination and health. Stated that Israel’s bombing campaign exceeds the explosive payload used in the bombing of Hiroshima. Called for the restoration of the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza through a ceasefire. **Jane McClintock** voiced support for a skatepark and spoke on the subjective language of the peace resolution which lacks substance. Called for the end of military aid being sent to Israel by the United States and an immediate ceasefire. Quoted food security study by

the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, outlining immediate risks of famine and for exponential growth of deaths in Gaza. Stated that the only way to avoid exponential death is to call for an explicit and immediate ceasefire. Thanked City Council for their leadership. **Camille Cobb** spoke in support of a ceasefire to be called in Gaza and a skatepark to be built in Urbana. Expressed that City Council should strengthen the language used in the peace resolution before voting it through, stating that the language calling for a ceasefire is equally as important as the language calling for lasting peace. Stated that the peace resolution needs to be amended to include a call for the cessation of military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. **Lian** requested that City Council extend public input to account for the volume of people currently waiting in line to speak. Stated that business should not continue regularly as a genocide is ongoing. Stated that City Council emboldened people to engage in genocide denial and also engaged in compromise with people who are publicly in defense of a genocide. Requested City Council listen to the demands of the community, to take meaningful action towards ending the genocide in Gaza, and reflect on their morals.

Motion to extend public input by 30 minutes by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Evans

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

**NAY:** None.

**Bav Nabim** expressed shock and confusion felt from City Council's inaction in the face of weeks of consistent public input informing City Council of the atrocities ongoing in Gaza and calling for a ceasefire resolution to be passed. Questioned why City Council, despite having taken the position to represent their communities, does not represent the demands made by the majority of the community they are meant to represent. Stated that silence from City Council indicates their dehumanization of Palestinian people and the people during public input who advocate on their behalf. Rhetorically asked City Council why they do not recognize the humanity of Palestinians and why the diverse coalition calling for a ceasefire has not been recognized. **Auburn Celtin** thanked CM Kolisetty for motioning for the extension of public input by 30 minutes. Voiced support for a skatepark, sharing personal relationship with a presenter and their merits. Thanked members of the community who continue to wear masks during the ongoing COVID pandemic. Stated that American liberation is intertwined with Palestinian liberation, presenting information on Israel commissioning Gaza to create cloth facemasks in 2020 while also preventing the entry of COVID vaccines into Gaza in 2021 and a story from a Gazan journalist reflecting on the current widespread flu. Urged City Council to add language to the peace resolution calling for a ceasefire and an end to military aid being provided to Israel by the United States. **Frederick Hancock** shared story from childhood about learning of apartheid in South Africa for the first time, directly comparing actions taken then by parents to actions being taken now to protest Israel's actions. Questioned what City Council will tell their grandchildren in regards to their actions taken during the genocide in Gaza. Stated that all should be in favor of an explicit ceasefire and the calling for the United States to cease providing military aid to Israel. **Unique Marie-Aquilis** stood in solidarity with fellow struggling Puerto Rican, Black, Queer women. Stated that anti-Palestinian people do not understand that Palestinian struggles and American struggles are interconnected, sharing story of the murder of 15-year-old Ryan Gainer in California by a police officer as an example of police ineptitude due to the lack of funding caused by the United States funding foreign military aid. Stated that public education is failing similarly due to lack of funding, sharing story of the murder of 16-year-old Nex Benedict in Oklahoma as an example. Shared shame and astonishment felt for Mayor Marlin's behavior and body language toward public input. **Paul Weichsell** expressed that reflection should be taken regarding the slogans and words used during the discussion of the peace resolution, referred to the term "ceasefire" specifically. Stated that the consequences of a ceasefire are apparent through the stated intent of Hamas to regroup, rearm, and prepare for another attack similar to that on 10-07-2023. Pointed to the

Hamas charter as ideological basis for the actions they take. Requested City Council not align themselves with Hamas or any actions that endanger Jewish people worldwide. *Lily* stated that peace cannot exist while a genocide is being funded. Echoed demands from community for a ceasefire and an end to military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. Questioned the purpose of debate when people are dying. Stated that if a ceasefire and an end to military aid for Israel is not supported, City Council is standing in support of a genocide. *Matthew Heinrichs* requested City Council remembers that the majority of the community is requesting for an explicit ceasefire resolution and an end to United States providing military aid to Israel. Stated that lessons must be learned from ancestors so that genocide may never happen anywhere again and that peace cannot be made with bombs. Stated that nobody is free until Palestine is free. *Catherine Silors-Nihol* thanked City Council for extending the public input time by 30 minutes. Stated that there is no debate over the use of the word “genocide”. Shared population statistics in Gaza and the imminent risk they all face for starvation and violence. Added that Gaza does not have access to potable water and diseases are being proliferated as a result. Pointed out that Anne Frank most likely died in a concentration camp due to disease and that her death is rightfully considered part of the genocide committed by Nazi Germany. Stated that the United States has provided Israel the weaponry to prevent basic functions from being present in Gaza and for the prevention of the entry of necessary humanitarian aid to Gaza. Expressed that the funds from the United States make all residents who contributed complicit in the genocide being committed in Gaza, stating that is one of the reasons that motivate people to speak on behalf of Palestine. *Elizabeth Sotiropoulos* thanked the public for appearing before City Council, pointing to the difficulty of speaking into a microphone; and thanked those in the audience who have fasted all day. Thanked City Council and Mayor Marlin for contributing to the building of community, coalition, and friendships as a result of the trying to dismiss the presentation on the ceasefire resolution. Thanked CM Evans and CM Wilken for their support and attendance in events regarding Palestine. Thanked CM Kolisetty for motioning to extend public input. Invited the public to view the diversity of speakers, the diversity present at rallies, and the diversity of those who have committed acts of violence against pro-Palestinian activists. Shared account of watching a video of a mother returning home from searching for flour to find that her children and home have been annihilated, connecting that to personal experiences of running to the store to restock on milk while her children played Roblox and how mothers in Palestine are left without that privilege. Stated that further comments will be emailed. *Ma’ayan Weinberg* thanked community members who drafted the peace resolution on the current agenda. Communicated to City Council that weeks have been spent on the phone with community members who are unable to attend City Council due to fear. Stated that community members also include Israelis, Jewish people who have deep ties to Israel, and Jewish people who have spent considerable time advocating for a two-state solution and a more progressive Israel. Stated that all people who have spoken on the peace resolution are not anti-Palestinian and are wrongfully labelled as such. *Anonymous* spoke in favor of a ceasefire and an immediate end to military aid being sent to Israel by the United States. Shared Mexican heritage and family experience of crossing the US-Mexico border and seeing drones patrolling the border that were developed, by their former alma-mater, University of California, San Diego and were field-tested by Israel in Gaza and Palestine. Guaranteed that weapons being used by Israel against Palestinians and Gazans will be continue to be used against other people, citing a deployment by the Los Angeles Police Department in the City of Los Angeles using the same drone technology. Quoted Martin Luther King Jr. saying, “True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice,” and stated that Martin Luther King Jr. died the most hated man in America because he opposed the Vietnam War and supported striking workers.

***Public Input was received from 69 individuals who wrote in support of the amended Resolution No. 2024-03-013R, wrote in emphasizing the importance of using the term “ceasefire” in Resolution No. 2024-03-013R, wrote in support of a skatepark, wrote in***

*requesting the inclusion of language calling for the end of provision of military aid to Israel by the United States, wrote in support of a ceasefire resolution, wrote in opposition to casualty data from Gaza, wrote in regarding a question on the Annual Town Meeting on fossil fuel divestment, but were not read: Lilah Leopold, Tegan Doherty, Firdaus Umutoniwase, Matt Soener, Nick Abboud, Melissa Lyke, Ali Zaidi, Kai Hanley, Allison Funneman, Aly Cigelnik, Rei Hanley, Tegan Doherty, Kelly Kwok, Sara Berthier, Rachel Perkins, Talha, Sana Saboowala, Alexandria, Jo, Hedaya Hassanein, Laura Goffman, Laura Pensel, Kendra Calhoun, Yuliy Baryshnikov, Florence Caplow, Lois Kain, Tania Ionin, Paola Munoz, Marc Snir, Don Owen, Peter Titus, Ruth Kantorovitz, Alan Cook, Sarah Unruh, Lee DeVille, Naina Balepur, Trevor Benos, Berry Zhang, Allison TR Casar, Grace McCourt, Timur Oikhberg, Jada Fulcher, Alexandra Chapman, Lane To, Inbal Elazar, Lesley Owens, Isabel Scott, Bram Osterhout, Dilan Kurukulasuriya, Reut Berkson, Chibu Asonye, Hildegard Luijten, Frances Harris, Sarah, Maxwell Haynes, Miguel Castaneda, Inna Zharnitsky, Dua Aldasouqi, Josh, Mick Woolf, Lauren, Amy Byrum, Korinta Maldonado, Adam Nichols, Timothy Chen, and 4 anonymous individuals.*

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** thanked the members of the public who continued to attend City Council meetings to share their thoughts through verbal and written public input. Encouraged the public to follow other City Council business, welcoming the public to provide input on and observe the progressions about policing as well as other local issues. **CM Kolisetty** thanked the public for continuing their engagement with City Council and providing their input. Requested an update from City Staff regarding finding a parking lot for skateboarders, noting that it has been known that City Staff has actively been looking into selecting a parking lot. Acknowledged the pain in the room, stating that the conversations are important, painful, and hard. Also acknowledged the difficulty in voicing input to a silent City Council, but noted that the purpose of public input is for City Council to listen to the public. Voiced appreciation for the public's continued presence and participation, noting that over 2,000 emails, from multiple perspectives, have been received and read. Stated that the length of time taken on passing the peace resolution was due it being a global issue that City Council is trying to navigate at a community level to find what healing could look like for the community when so much pain is held by the community with a diverse range of opinions, also stated that City Council was trying to provide further attention to the topic beyond lip service and hollow stances. Stated that the community has much healing to do and City Council does have a role in healing, but also that dialogue needs to take place outside of City Council chambers and outside of public input. **CM Evans** acknowledged Don Owen's statement on City Council's poor leadership for taking 3 months to vote on a ceasefire resolution, and pled guilty. Explained that proper procedures to put an item onto the agenda were not known to him, until recently confirmed by the City Clerk that he did have the ability to put the ceasefire resolution presented on by Ben Joselyn onto the agenda by himself without another Councilmember to second the addition. Apologized to the public for that mistake on his part. **Mayor Marlin** announced that the City of Urbana will be joining other local governments in protest of the proposed rate hike by Illinois American Water that was proposed a few weeks before. Stated that the City of Champaign will take the lead in this protest as historically done and that outside attorney will be engaged to put the case together. Noted that there will eventually be an Intergovernmental Agreement brought forward to City Council to approve the arrangement with the attorneys and the City of Urbana is sharing the costs of the protests alongside other local governments. Stated that the first official meeting with the Chicago Office of the Census Bureau was held last week and planning for the partial special census for Fall 2024 has begun. Noted that the City of Urbana will be soon recruiting people to work for the census throughout the next 2 to 3 months, using local funds. Shared that the Legal Department has finished review of proposed Ward Maps and future discussion on the public review process will begin soon with the goal of having a map approved by May. Voiced appreciation for the skatepark presentation shared tonight and stated that the first parking lot choice of Positive Push is the same lot as the one being deliberated on internally and with the Urbana Park

District. Asked City Administrator Mitten if there was anything else she would like to add. **City Administrator Mitten** noted that after the previous time the request for a skatepark had been brought to City Council, City Staff met with the Urbana Park District to understand their perspective as they have the staffing to fulfill the needs of the requested skatepark. Stated that the Urbana Park District does not currently have the capacity to operate a parking lot as a skatepark and that they struggle with staffing, similarly to the staffing issues internally at the City of Urbana. Drew attention to the plan to include a skatepark at the Health and Wellness Center currently under construction, stating that a skatepark will follow the first exterior project of constructing a playground/sprayground. Stated that the Health and Wellness Center does not currently have the funding for exterior projects and that concerns were shared by Urbana Park District staff regarding managing another skating facility in Urbana having the potential to harm their grant eligibility for having a permanent skatepark constructed at the Health and Wellness Center. Shared that the Urbana Park District stated that they do have limited staff capacity to hold pop-ups over the Summer for skating, also noted that there is TIF funding available to help support those efforts and the City of Urbana will continue collaborating with the Urbana Park District regarding that. **CM Evans** asked City Administrator Mitten why the Urbana Park District is able to have legal liability for their parks, but the City of Urbana cannot. **City Administrator Mitten** stated that it is possible, but it does not fall under the business that the City of Urbana is currently engaged in, stating it opens a new sector of responsibility that the City of Urbana is not staffed for. Stated that turning over the space itself to someone is not in the best interests of everyone involved, citing a need for programming and control. **Mayor Marlin** reiterated that pop-ups over the Summer will be explored with the Urbana Park District in the parking lot at 304 Central Avenue.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-012:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Three, Section 3-43 (Maintaining the Number of Class GC Liquor Licenses for Troon Beverages, Inc. d/b/a Atkins Golf Club at University of Illinois, 2600 Stone Creek Boulevard, Urbana, Ill.) - Exec
- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-013:** An Ordinance Vacating a Street and Alley (North Cottage Grove Avenue and East/West Alley Between Hickory Street and North Cottage Grove Avenue, Both North of East Park Street) - PW
- c. **Resolution No. 2024-03-012R:** A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Residential Electronics Waste Collection - PW

Presented by CM Bishop.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-012:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #7 - Omnibus) - HRF

Presented by CM Bishop. Ordinance seeks to amend the FY2024 Annual Budget. The proposed adjustments include a \$149,000 increase to Equipment Services for repairs to the Fire Department's tower ladder truck; \$135,000 additional funding for the Main Street Brick Arch Storm Sewer Project; a sewer funds reallocation of \$50,000 from the sanitary sewer televising project to provide a \$35,000 increase in the Sanitary Sewer Lining Program and a \$15,000 increase to repair the pavement within the right-of-way that was damaged during lateral repairs and replacements during the Sanitary Sewer Lining Program; and a \$190,000 increase in the budget for sidewalk and street light repairs that are part of the Equity and Quality of Life project from the Community Development Block Grant Fund where \$120,000 will be allocated for sidewalks and \$70,000 will be put toward street lights.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-03-013R:** A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace - Exec

Presented by CM Bishop. The resolution calls for an end to the war in Gaza and promotion of steps toward a just and lasting peace. For several weeks, members of the local community have expressed deep concern regarding the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel which has resulted in devastating loss of life and destruction of public infrastructure. This conflict impacts the wellbeing of the local Muslim, Jewish, Palestinian, and Israeli communities as well as other Urbana residents.

Motion to approve, as amended, by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Quisenberry. Mayor Marlin read the amendment made in the previous Committee of the Whole on 03-04-2024, clarifying that the amendment to resolve 2 reads as follows: "2. Call for just and last peace between Israel and Palestine, starting with an immediate and permanent cessation of violence by both Israel and Hamas, along with delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Gaza as a necessary step in that process." Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

- i. **Amendment to change the 6th resolve to read as: "6. Call the United States government and international community to stop funding weapons of war to Israel so as to create conditions for reconciliation between Israel and Palestine, which is the foundation for a just, secure, and lasting peace."**

Motion to amend by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wilken. When asked for comments on the amendment by Mayor Marlin, CM Evans noted that the previous hours of public input stood as sufficient discussion on the matter.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

**8. Reports of Special Committees**

None.

**9. Reports of Officers**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 04-29-2024**

# Why Urbana Should Dedicate A Parking Lot To Skateboarding





## We request a space that...

- Is safe and anyone can skate without encountering any issues.
- We can build skate obstacles for all to use that can remain in the space.
- A space we can build to reflect the scene. We can change it to fit what skaters in the community are working on.
- Is paved and safe to skate.
- Urbana does not spend resources to tear the space down.

Our Favorite Option: 304 Central Ave, Urbana, IL 61801,  
northwest of boneyard.



Our Next Choice: (40.1088329, -88.2059465) lot 24 south of Lincoln Square mall (But we'll take anything!)



## How we plan to use the space

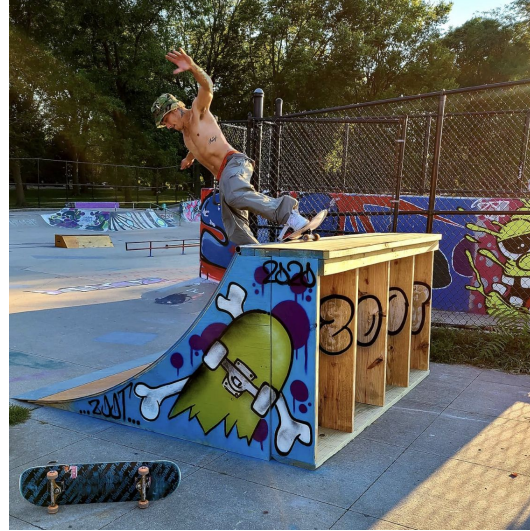
- Skating! All wheels: skateboarding, roller blading, etc.
- Host community skate events and skate lessons.
- Mural location, a new opportunity for local artists.
- A space for people to find community.
- A place to create our own skate obstacles and improve the lot.



# Examples around the community we are aiming to replicate



Sipyard



Spalding



Local artist acme

# Barriers and obstacles to skateboarding in Urbana

- Not having a designated skate spot.
- The Civic Center used to be a good spot, but it is under construction and we've felt the loss of that spot. Since then, we've skated more in Champaign.
- Access to travel. Not everyone has a car. Transportation for Urbana residents and U of I students to the skateparks in Champaign is difficult.
- Fear of being kicked out by authorities.

# Skateboarding in our community

- Skateboarding brings people together and builds community.
- It's a positive hobby and healthy outlet.
- We have a vibrant skateboarding scene in Urbana. As seen by the turnout at the last city council meeting we showed up at.
- People from all across central IL get together to skate.
- Without any planning, a day with nice weather, we can almost be bumping shoulders at the skatepark with how busy it is.
- We are diverse. Skateboarding brings people of all ages, religions, races, genders, abilities, sexual orientations and identities together.
  - Skaters in our community range from 2 years old to 65.

# Benefits of skateboarding and skateparks

- Therapeutic benefits to repetitive movements.
- Physical activity and exercise.
- Benefit of a “third space” - locations that facilitate social interaction outside of the people you live or work with.
- Uplifts the community and improves the mental health and substance use prevention of Urbana.
- Life long friendships.
- Skateboarding can define someone’s sense of being which in turn makes skateboarders incredibly dedicated and they will frequent the spot possibly daily.



# Youth Engagement

- Free and easily accessible.
- Doesn't rely on screens.
- Gives a feeling of agency.
- Social and emotional learning benefits:
  - learn to persevere
  - learn independently as well as in groups
  - connects to body
  - increases confidence
- Safe outlet for youth to express themselves.
- Free from the norms of society.



# Economic impacts of a skate destination

- A skate destination will bring skate tourism to Urbana, including local foot traffic.
- Increased tourism will bring more to local businesses including downtown Urbana.
- Skating is international, therefore people from all walks of life, English speaking or not, can appreciate skating.
- Hosting events will bring media attention and sponsorships to Urbana.
- Any person passing nearby may make it a point to visit the skate space just because it's there.

# Community funding

- The space will need a Skate at Your own Risk Sign, a trash can, and porta potty. We are happy to fundraise for these things.
- Fundraising events held by local skateboarding organizations such as Noboardleftbehind and Positive Push.
- Examples like Skeuwax and other local merchandise.



# Urbana Park District Skatepark Plans

We are well aware of the park district's plans for building a skatepark. We have been advocating with the park district for years about the skatepark. Our proposal to the City of Urbana will serve a different purpose than the park district skatepark. It will be centrally located in Urbana instead of on the outskirts. We hope to build it as a DIY and can adjust it throughout to meet our needs.

# Sources

<https://www.cincinnati.com/citywiseblog/newport-diy-skate-park/>

<https://healthyliferecovery.com/staying-active-in-recovery/skateboarding/>

Some ideas on Youth Engagement slide are taken from Kamila Glowacki's open comment to Urbana City Council on 11/27/2023.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 9, 2024 11:23 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 18 MARCH 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the City Council,

I thank you, with my whole heart, for the inclusion of the amended language in point two of the resolution that "Call[s] for just and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine **starting with an immediate and permanent cessation of violence between Israel and Hamas**, along with delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Gaza as necessary step in that process."

I urge you, also whole-heartedly, to hold fast to this language at the next meeting of the council on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Any retraction of this, or similar, language will be devastating to your constituents. Please, hold to the amended language for point two when you vote.

I will be away for family reasons during this next meeting, so am giving my testimony here in writing. It is worth reiterating that there are so many folks in the community who have been working so hard to come together and organize around this issue to hold respectful and meaningful and safe discussions, and I hope what has previously seemed invisible is now becoming more clear, as we take steps, however imperfectly, but yet in a united way, to make ourselves more known to the community at large. (I also want to be clear that while UC Jews for Ceasefire supports the amended language for point two, that I am writing this e-mail on behalf of myself. We have many wonderful letter-writers in the group, who I am sure you will subsequently hear from.)

The following testimony is in service of why we must, at the very least preserve the amended language in point two "**starting with an immediate and permanent cessation of violence between Israel and Hamas.**" This language is the only language in the resolution that we can know for sure came into being with any input from members of the Palestinian and Muslim Community, as well as by any members of UC Jews for Ceasefire, or anyone that we know.

After the conclusion of the last City Council meeting, I was having a difficult but meaningful conversation with Stav. Then, other men subsequently approached me with very forceful language and intimidating body postures. This handful of other men did not offer their names, did not even respectfully introduce themselves before launching into various tirades that I fielded with calm and every attempt to deescalate. I attempted to communicate that no one chanting for ceasefire in attendance at this meeting wished them any harm, and simply wanted violence to end. That I want the violence to end. And this came my way in a casual conversation because I speak in favor of wanting violence to end, and because I chose to breach the divide of those in the room and those outside chanting? I offer this story because I want to illustrate to you how certain Jewish members in attendance at the council meeting are treating a white woman with Jewish heritage who has dared to speak openly. And one who was lucky to have colleagues who could come to my aid and stand by me to help conclude the difficult conversations that came my way, and who made sure we all got home safely.

And I am not even one of the all-too-many of your constituents who have been physically attacked (and who have testified to this effect). I also learned from several people at the end of the meeting that while your constituents who were chanting for ceasefire left the building and continued speaking outside, that there was a deliberate attempt to hit pedestrians dispersing by a passing vehicle, witnessed by police officers in attendance.

There seems to be an inherent assumption of fear that is being weaponized to label members of the community antisemitic, and, as I and several members of UC Jews for Ceasefire have attempted to share with you, is threatening to label our intentional, nuanced, and well-researched criticism antisemitic. (We are, again, a multigenerational group who are guided by Jewish faith and who hold a wide range of personal views, yet are united in calls for ceasefire.)

Supporting **an immediate cessation of violence, at the very least, must, must remain and is more crucial now than ever**. The placating language of the rest of the resolution speaks in the interest of silencing anyone critical of the current war, with ramifications for our physical safety. The seemingly well-meaning veneer of the original resolution language serves to hide in plain sight something truly pernicious—the silencing of any critical voice, by any and all means necessary. So much, so very much, rests on the continued inclusion of “immediate cessation of violence” in this resolution. Please, stand by it, for all of the good reasons you have already outlined in your discussions.

I want it on the record that I have never, ever, been spoken to disrespectfully or have been in any way intimidated by any member of the Palestinian or Muslim community in attendance at City Council meetings or in Urbana or in Champaign. And I am proud of the steps the community at large is taking to come together and mutually support each other during this painful time. I will remain disappointed that the council as a whole could not come to use language called for by Palestinians and the international community in calls for violence to end. But I will rest easy if language of an immediate cessation of violence can remain. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Lilah Leopold

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

---

**From:** Tegan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 3:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Subject: Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Tegan Doherty and I am an Urbana resident. It is really important that the word ceasefire is used in this resolution. Not including makes this a much more watered down resolution, and doesn't actually put any pressure on the Biden administration. You can call for peace and a cessation of violence while ALSO calling for a ceasefire. It is clear based on Israel's actions that this is not being done in self defense. Starving Palestinians are being killed while trying to get food. American tax dollars are funding this and therefore our tax dollars in Champaign Urbana are funding this. As our local representatives, please use your voice to firmly name and call for a ceasefire. Anything less is weak and not likely to let anyone know you want change.

You cannot claim ignorance or continue to be neutral. To do so only benefits the much more powerful and western backed Israeli occupation. You must call for a ceasefire.

Thank you



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Umutoniwase, Firdaus <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:19 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

My name is Firdaus Umutoniwase and I am a member of the CU community. I'm writing to strongly support the resolution of a real ceasefire. We have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us. We want a ceasefire resolution that uses the ceasefire language, as we have been asking for and as is recognized worldwide. The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

Yesterday was the first day of Ramadan, a month that's supposed to be of tranquility and joy, but Israel continues to bomb civilians including bombing Rafah as well as restricting Palestinian access to Al-Aqsa mosque. How are Palestinians supposed to have this tranquility and joy when they are under bombardment?

Firdaus Umutoniwase, MSW

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work  
1010 W Nevada St  
Urbana, IL 61801

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]  
<https://socialwork.illinois.edu/>

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Umutoniwase, Firdaus <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:52 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

My name is Firdaus Umutoniwase and I am a member of the CU community. I'm writing to strongly support the resolution of a real ceasefire. We have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us. We want a ceasefire resolution that uses the ceasefire language, as we have been asking for and as is recognized worldwide. The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

Yesterday was the first day of Ramadan, a month that's supposed to be of tranquility and joy, but Israel continues to bomb civilians including bombing Rafah as well as restricting Palestinian access to Al-Aqsa mosque. How are Palestinians supposed to have this tranquility and joy when they are under bombardment?

Best,

Firdaus Umutoniwase, MSW

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Social Work  
1010 W Nevada St  
Urbana, IL 61801

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]  
<https://socialwork.illinois.edu/>

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Matthew Soener <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:45 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Matt Soener and I am an Urbana resident. I have been following the proposed ceasefire resolution recently. I am disheartened that the resolution does not feature this term "ceasefire."

Semantics and proposals like this matter. Dozens and dozens of city councils have passed ceasefire resolutions and Urbana should join this list.

Some may wonder if local politics is the appropriate forum for international politics. It is indeed appropriate because this is one of the few ways we can exercise our democratic voice today and our government is supplying weapons and diplomatic support for an unspeakably brutal military operation that has overwhelmingly killed civilians. I am not a lobbyist. I am not connected in DC. I do not work for foreign policy think tanks. Encouraging my elected officials is really the only means I and virtually the rest of the population have.

The Biden administration is slowly shifting its posture on this but not enough. Not even close. But to the extent they have shifted, *it is because of democratic pressure*. That includes city councils passing ceasefire resolutions. These have some effect and so it is our moral duty to do what we can to stop this killing now.

Thank you,  
Matt

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Nick Abboud <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Nick Abboud, and I am a Champaign resident who works in Urbana. I urge the Council to amend the proposed "end of the Gaza war" resolution. At a minimum, the resolution must be amended to include the word "ceasefire".

At the March 4 committee of the whole meeting, several members expressed concern that the word ceasefire has (unspecified) "connotations", and should not be used. I believe "ceasefire" is the most appropriate word to use here, because it is the universally accepted word meaning an end to military violence. The alternative phrase "cessation of violence" was endorsed by **Councilperson Hursey** as encompassing not just an end to military violence, but also an end to violence between "neighbors" in the region (I assume she was referring to settler violence in the West Bank). I agree strongly with this point. However, using a term with greater generality will also diminish the specificity of the resolution, diluting its core message. I recommend that **Councilperson Hursey** put forward an amendment introducing all of the terms "cessation of violence", "ceasefire", and "end to settler violence" into the resolution. This would emphasize her important observation that the latter two terms are a subset of the first.

The word "ceasefire" is crucial as the United States has repeatedly vetoed all ceasefire resolutions at the UN Security Council. We must, at minimum, send the specific message that such obstruction to peace is unacceptable. The United States, as the chief international supplier of arms and funding to the state of Israel, is responsible in large part for the violence (in my view, genocide) being inflicted by Israel on the Palestinian people. It is a basic moral responsibility of all levels of government to oppose this, including the Urbana City Council. This demand has been on the table for 10 weeks, and I will personally continue to show up to demand a ceasefire for as long as it takes for the Council to act.

Sincerely,

Nick Abboud

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Melissa Lyke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 3:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3/18/24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I would like to write to the Urbana City Council to share my support of a designated skate space in Downtown Urbana. There are numerous benefits to this proposal. It will bring people into the city of Urbana to frequent local stores and restaurants. Skaters like to eat and drink to fuel up before or after skating. Our local skate shop is in Urbana and bringing skaters to that area will help keep the shop running. The shop, Skeuwep, is such an important resource to local skaters. It will also benefit skaters who currently live in Urbana. They won't need to travel to Champaign to skate at one of the two skateparks in Champaign. Skating is for all ages. There are lots of benefits for kids and teens especially. A skate space in Urbana will provide a space for kids and teens to go that isn't school or home. A place to let loose, exercise, meet friends, make happy memories, and learn new skills. Skateboarding is something that I started as an adult and really wish I started as a kid. It has taught me so many lessons such as perseverance, facing my fears, and not judging a book by its cover. I have met so many friends through skating that I would not have met otherwise. The exercise and rhythmic activity is very meditative to me and good for my mental health. I love skating so much and I want to share it with the people of Urbana! I appreciate the City Council's time in listening to the proposal from Positive Push and taking into consideration the hopes and dreams of the Urbana skate community.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Lyke

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Ali Zaidi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Ali Zaidi and I am a CU community member. I would like to send my opposition to the proposed resolution. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. We have been coming to city council for 10 weeks now and you are not listening to us, we want a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. We urge you to consider this comment, and the many like it.

Thank you,  
Ali Zaidi

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Ali Zaidi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Ali Zaidi and I am a CU community member. I would like to send my opposition to the proposed resolution. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution, and the cowardice shown by current city council members to even include the word ceasefire is striking and appalling. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.

We have been coming to city council for 10 weeks now and you are not listening to us, we want a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. We urge you to consider this comment, and the many like it.

Thank you,  
Ali Zaidi

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Kai Hanley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:02 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Kai Hanley and I am a CU community member. I'm asking for Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide that have joined the call for a ceasefire. Please, do the right thing.



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Allison F <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Allison Funneman and I am a CU community member.

We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace" which they have been doing, we call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war.

The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.

No more military funding for Israel.

The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks.

We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Thank you,

Allison

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED] Cigelnik <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

My name is Aly Cigelnik and I am a CU community Member. In order to uphold the values of this community, Urbana must join the 70 plus cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire. We call on you, our government, to do more than just "promote peace." We call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The city council sets the vision for the City and is meant to represent residents' wishes, and this community largely supports a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

As of March 4th, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately bombed for 150 days. The Israeli military, with United States funding, has murdered over 30,000 Palestinians and displaced over two million people, which is more than 85% of the population. Death totals are likely higher due to those missing under the rubble and the internet blackouts in Gaza. According to multiple United Nations Officials and Human Rights Organizations, famine is imminent in Gaza. From our phones in Champaign, we are seeing children dying daily from starvation. Humanitarian aid is largely blocked from entering Gaza, and when it has entered the food was expired United States military rations or was delivered with faulty parachutes that killed Palestinians on impact. A child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes. Any action, no matter how big or small, must be taken to stop this violence and murders.

It is extremely important that Urbana uses the word ceasefire because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. The city council must amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sincerely, Aly Cigelnik

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Rei Hanley, and I am a member of the CU community. I and my fellow members of the community would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace." We call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and promoting this genocide. The US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. The people of CU demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire, NOW.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sent from my iPhone

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Tegan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Tegan Doherty and I am an Urbana resident and community member.

More than 70 cities in the US have called for a ceasefire and we should be one of them. I have always thought of this as a progressive place that listened to and cared for its community members, but I've been frustrated with the council as of late.

Simply calling for peace isn't actually taking a stand. We must call on the government to stop funding the Israeli military and their actions in Palestine. The reason it is so important to actually use the word ceasefire is because the US keeps vetoing all ceasefire resolutions in the UN security council.

I am asking that you use the word ceasefire and also amend the resolution to call for an end to the us supplying military funding to Israel. Please look at what our taxes our enabling and be a voice for change.

Thank you.

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Kelly Kwok <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:51 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment three.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

City Council,

My name is Kelly Kwok and I am a CU community member.

Everyone I've spoken with about this would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

Like MLK said, peace isn't just no tension it's the presence of justice. Elected officials acting fake, selfishly for their career longevity, and in the interest of business deals and the status quo - does not serve their constituents and the wellbeing of their souls and descendants. I call on Urbana, state of Illinois, and the US government to do what's just and stop funding the Israeli military and war.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. And the US sends the bombs that kill them approximately every 36 hours. We see the genocide unfolding across social media platforms. Everyone must use the word ceasefire precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Thank you

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** Sara Berthier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 4:52 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Sara Berthier and I am a CU community member. We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace" which they have been doing, we call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war.

The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.

No more military funding for Israel.

The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** Rachel Perkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:23 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

My name is Rachel Perkins and I am a senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who hopes to continue living in the community post-graduation. In order to uphold the value and integrity of our community, Urbana must join the **70+ cities nationwide that have called for a ceasefire**. We call on you, our government, to do more than merely "promote peace." We call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The city council sets the vision for the City and is meant to represent residents' wishes, and **this community largely supports a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Gaza**.

As of March 4th, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately bombed for 150 days. The Israeli military, with United States funding, has murdered over 30,000 Palestinians and displaced over two million people, which is more than 85% of the population. Death totals are likely higher due to those missing under the rubble and the internet blackouts in Gaza. According to multiple United Nations Officials and Human Rights Organizations, famine is imminent in Gaza. From our phones in Champaign, we are seeing children dying daily from starvation. Humanitarian aid is largely blocked from entering Gaza, and when it has entered the food was expired or delivered with faulty parachutes that killed Palestinians on impact. A child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes. Any action, no matter how big or small, must be taken to stop this violence and murder.

**Urbana must use the word ceasefire** because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. **The city council must amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.**

I am proud to be a member of this community. Since moving here, I've found this city to be overwhelmingly made up of people who do the right thing even when doing so may feel risky. I've been personally mentored by leaders in this community who've taught me to be led by love and not fear in my actions and words. **Amending this resolution is an opportunity to act with love, and to stand up to those who try to control this council with fear.** Please do not Urbana down.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Perkins

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Talha [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:41 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Talha and I am a CU community member. We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire. We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace" which they have been doing, we call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. No more military funding for Israel. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Sana Saboowala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 6:46 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear city council,

My name is Sana Saboowala, I'm a resident of Urbana. I have spoken many times about my support for a ceasefire resolution.

It's important to me, and many of your constituents that we support a ceasefire in that specific language, because our federal government continues to veto ceasefire resolutions in the UN. I want to live in a city that's not afraid to take a stand against militarism and violence.

I also urge you to further amend this resolution to encourage the US to stop sending funds to Israel. I, along with the 1300 constituents who signed the petition and the 700 who shut down the streets, don't want our tax money to fund genocide. We are asking you, as our elected representatives to make our voices heard. Those of us supporting a ceasefire resolution represent a diverse coalition of constituents. This resolution has brought us together, as we all ask you to speak for us and say enough is enough.

Thank you

Best,  
Sana Saboowala

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:32 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Alexandria and I am a concerned citizen of CU. I love our diverse community. But what I would love more is for everyone to feel safe here and for our local government upwards to take a stand against hatred, violence, and genocide. We need to have a ceasefire resolution here in Urbana. We need our community to be a place of safety. A place of action on the right side of history.

People in Gaza are still being killed. They have family here. Imagine if that situation were yours. How horrible to have family murdered trying to get food. To survive.

Please, vote in favor of a ceasefire. Not a peace resolution or pact. But a true ceasefire

Thank you,

Alexandria

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Jo [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:10 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

My name is Jo and I am a CU community Member. In order to uphold the values of this community, Urbana must join the 70 plus cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire. We call on you, our government, to do more than just "promote peace." We call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The city council sets the vision for the City and is meant to represent residents' wishes, and this community largely supports a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

As of March 4th, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately bombed for 150 days. The Israeli military, with United States funding, has murdered over 30,000 Palestinians and displaced over two million people, which is more than 85% of the population. Death totals are likely higher due to those missing under the rubble and the internet blackouts in Gaza. According to multiple United Nations Officials and Human Rights Organizations, famine is imminent in Gaza. From our phones in Champaign, we are seeing children dying daily from starvation. Humanitarian aid is largely blocked from entering Gaza, and when it has entered the food was expired United States military rations or was delivered with faulty parachutes that killed Palestinians on impact. A child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes. Any action, no matter how big or small, must be taken to stop this violence and murders.

It is extremely important that Urbana uses the word ceasefire because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. The city council must amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sincerely,  
Jo

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:52 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT: March 18, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello! I just wanted to say that I think we need less space for parking and more space for skateboarding in Downtown Urbana, especially when it comes to specific lots that are hardly used right now. Having a place for skaters to skate safely and create a sense of community could be beneficial for people mentally, physically, emotionally, artistically and socially! Not to mention a greater presence in the downtown area could spur economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration!

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** hedaya hassanein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:32 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Hedaya Hassanein, and I am a CU community member. I am reaching out as I believe Urbana needs to join the list of over 70 cities nationwide that have called for a ceasefire. Our government needs to do more than "promote peace," and as the city of Urbana-Champaign, we need to call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The word ceasefire within the resolution is essential specifically as the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. Calling for a ceasefire means halting the murder of a child every 15 minutes in Gaza, and this can only be done by de-funding the Israeli military as the US supplies the bombs and weapons, and ultimately funding these genocidal attacks. CU, and more broadly, the US, cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

## Sandefur, Darcy

---

**From:** Laura Goffman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:01 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Laura Goffman and I am a CU community member.

I would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

We must call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war.

The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.

No more military funding for Israel.

The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks.

We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sincerely,

Laura Goffman

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Laura Pensel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:10 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council,

My name is Laura Pensel and I am an Urbana resident and healthcare worker. I have attended the last 2 meetings for this resolution. I am very pleased that this is being voted on however am concerned that not including “no more military aid for Israel” is counterproductive to the “promotion of peace”. We cannot say we promote peace while on the same breathe sending the bombs that kill a child in Gaza every 15 minutes. Also, not including the word “Ceasefire” is negligent. The US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN and we have to send the message clear that CEASE- FIRE, is the bare minimum.

Thank you

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:34 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Free Palestine, ceasefire now.

Support the real ceasefire resolution that was proposed in January.



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Kendra Calhoun <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:45 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** public input: March 18

**\*\*\* 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 Kendra Calhoun, and I am a local community member in support of a ceasefire in Gaza and the end of all U.S "aid" to Israel.

What is happening in Palestine is not just a Palestinian issue. It is not just a Middle East issue. It is a human rights issue. It is a women's rights issue. A children's issue. An educational issue. An environmental issue. Palestine and Palestinian people have the right to safety and security; access to food, water, healthcare, and education; to freedom of movement; to joy.

What is happening in Palestine is fundamentally a U.S. issue because the U.S. government continues to bankroll Israel's genocidal mission with money and weapons. Our elected officials have decided that this is an acceptable use of our tax dollars despite majority public support for a ceasefire across the country. Because of this, we – the people of Urbana and Champaign – have been made complicit in the murder of more than 31,000 Palestinians; complicit in the bombing of hospitals, aid centers, medics, and journalists (including Israel's attack on al-Shifa hospital in the last 24 hrs); complicit in the destruction of Palestine's infrastructure and autonomy.

The Urbana city council has the opportunity to uplift the voices of the Urbana community and add to the growing list of city councils that have done the same for their local communities. Urbana, Champaign, and our neighbors have literally shouted our opposition to Israel's genocide, and it is imperative that the city council listens.

Ceasefire now.

Kendra Calhoun, Ph.D  
Champaign, 61820  
[REDACTED]

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Yuliy Baryshnikov <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:21 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT, 3/18

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear members of the Council, dear Mayor Merlin,

the campaign to adopt a "ceasefire resolution" (a bizarre attempt to help a murderous theocratic regime in Gaza to survive a war it started) is nowhere close to being grassroots: it is organized by the radicalized members of the Palestinian diaspora rejecting a two-state solution.

It seems, unfortunately, this campaign is steered by the members of the Urbana City Council. The call below (broadcast today) has a clear reference to the information available only to the City Council members. The radical leaders attempt to use this information to inundate the UCC with the email supporting their narrative.

I believe this is highly unprofessional, and possibly illegal to use insider knowledge to create an appearance of an overwhelming public support for the one-sided, polarizing agenda. I urge the City Council members to take this into account.

Sincerely,

Yuliy Baryshnikov

<excerpts>

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL RALLY + MEETING**

We're back at it!

We need you to take **3 steps**:

<...>

Email City Council! They received ONLY 3 emails in the past week. **They need to receive 200 before the meeting tomorrow.**

1. Email: [citycouncil@urbanaininois.us](mailto:citycouncil@urbanaininois.us)
2. Subject: Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution
3. Body: (personalize - here are some points)
  1. My name is [NAME] and I am a CU community member.
  2. We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.
  3. We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace" which they have been doing, we call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war.
  4. The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.
  5. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.
  6. No more military funding for Israel.
  7. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks.
  8. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

9. *If you'd like me to review your email or share more specific thoughts, please feel free to email me.*

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Florence Caplow <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:39 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Florence Caplow and I am an Urbana resident. I appreciate that you have engaged with this big global question here in our little Midwestern town, but I implore you to be brave and go further.

I would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a cease-fire in Gaza. This is not an unreasonable or anti-Semitic word (and I'm of Jewish heritage). This is the language used by the UN Security Council itself. Our own Vice President has called for a cease-fire.

As a faith leader, I am horrified by the loss of life - the loss of life from the Hamas attacks, and the order of magnitude greater loss of life in Gaza, which is continuing every day, with news articles of attacks on people waiting for food or water, and with more than 10,000 children killed. We are funding these attacks, and we are supplying the weapons. Please amend the resolution to include a call for the US to stop military aid for the war.

I understand that you, as the Urbana City Council, have no power over the US government, but we do have the power of our conscience, and the right to speak up.

Thank you so much,

Rev. Florence Caplow, Unitarian Universalist minister

*Rev. Florence Caplow*

To meet, please use this link to schedule: <https://cloudway.as.me/meeting>

*"There is something fundamentally mysterious and sacred about the world." - David Loy*

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lois Kain <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment: 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Genocide: The deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group. Oxford Dictionary

My name is Lois Kain. I live in Urbana. I write to ask the City of Urbana to join the more than 70 American cities that have called for a ceasefire.

As home to one of the best universities in America, the decimation of Palestinian education system should be just one reason, among so many, to rally our community to demand that U.S. policy support an immediate ceasefire, a halt to all weapons, and stop funding this genocide.

From TROUTHOUT March 17,2024

*Israel Has Ruined 76 Percent of Gaza's Schools in Systematic Attack on Education: Denying Palestinians' right to education has been central to Israel's settler-colonial project for eight decades.*

Thea Renda Abu El-Haj, Fida J. Adely, Jo Kelcey,

A few points from this insightful, heartbreaking report:

\*Israeli wholesale and deliberate destruction of Gaza's education system should constitute a distinct and new crime under international law: **"educaricide"**

\***Scholasticide**, the systemic destruction of the entire education system

\*As of late January 2024, Israel had destroyed or damaged 378 school buildings- 76% of the total school buildings in Gaza, along with cultural sites, museums, libraries, archaeological sites, publishing houses.

We can no longer watch the collapse of Palestinian healthcare, the bodies of dead children, spreading disease, lack of basic necessities, the murder of journalists, educators, doctors, starvation, malnutrition, and now the possibility of wide-spread famine. The intentions and lies of Netanyahu are on full display for all to see. Our government can no longer speak of Peace and then send weapons and money.

Lois Kain  
[REDACTED]

Urbana

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Tania Ionin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 11:13 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** public input for tonight's meeting

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

**Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Dear Mayor Marlin and the Urbana City Council:

I am writing in support of the agenda item "Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace". I urge the city council to pass this resolution as currently stated, with no further amendments or modifications.

I know that the resolution currently in front of the city council was drafted by several individuals, community members who have very different views and opinions but who nevertheless came together and were able to come to agreement on this resolution. I do not personally support every point in this resolution, and in fact I have stated several times during the public input sessions at the Urbana city council meetings that I don't think that city governments should pass international resolutions. This said, I support the present resolution because unlike the earlier resolution that was brought to the city council on January 8, the current resolution reflects the views of multiple segments of this community, is balanced, and speaks about peace and coexistence, values that I hope we all share. I hope the city council will vote in favor of the current resolution on the agenda.

Thank you,  
Tania Ionin

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Paola [REDACTED] Muñoz [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 12:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public comment End US Military Funding for Israel

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

- - My name is Paola Munoz and I am a CU community member.
  - We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.
  - We must call on our government to do more than "promote peace" which they have been doing, we call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war.
  - The word ceasefire is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council.
  - A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.
  - No more military funding for Israel.
  - The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks.
  - We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Marc Snir <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** City council meeting March 18 Public input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear council members.

I urge you to vote on the current resolution about the war in the Gaza Strip with no further amendments to the current text:

1. The council has already wasted way too much time debating on an issue that it cannot possibly affect. This exercise in futility should stop.
2. Additional humanitarian help to the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip is essential. This does not necessitate a permanent ceasefire.
3. A ceasefire is being negotiated by both sides to the conflict. There cannot be a ceasefire unless both sides agree to its terms. Calling for a ceasefire without spelling its terms (such as freeing immediately all hostages) is meaningless.
4. The hours of public input at previous council meeting has made it clear that many or most supporters of a ceasefire resolution oppose the continued existence of the Jewish State and support Hamas' goal of putting an end to it. This is clearly expressed by the calls to free Palestine from the river to the sea and by the demonization of Zionism, the ideology that calls for the continued existence of a Jewish State. While there are good reasons to criticize the current policies of the Israeli government, this should not degenerate into a debate on the right of existence of the Jewish State. Such a debate is viewed as an existential threat by most members of the local Jewish community.

Respectfully,

Marc Snir  
Urbana resident

Please read this comment at the meeting, time allowing.



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Donald Owen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT MARCH 18, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Mayor Marlin and Members of City Council:

Two weeks ago, I submitted written public comment, and I was unable to share my comments at the microphone.

I was disheartened to listen to the discussion surrounding the proposed resolution. It continues to reinforce my disappointment in your humanity, your values, and your leadership.

This entire issue could have been resolved in two or three meetings, instead, it took you three months. You, Mayor, and Members of City Council have done more to create division and distrust in this community. Please do better in the future.

Given that you have a less than perfect document on the agenda tonight, I would like to point out several factual points and a few political points that I ask you to add on behalf of your constituency and on behalf of the millions of people who are suffering famine, starvation, and execution at the hands of a Zionist hate monger.

Before passing this resolution I urge you to strengthen/add three points:

- In Resolved #1: Add a sentence that states that Israel release all women and children and other non-combatants who are being held by the Israeli Occupation Forces. [If you are not aware, the Israeli military is holding as many as 10,000 individuals without cause, charges, or justification (see <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/24/who-were-the-palestinian-prisoners-israel-released-on-friday>)
- In Resolved #2: Please change this wording to state, "Call for an immediate and lasting cessation of violence between Israel and Hamas, along with immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza."
- In Resolved #6: Please change this wording to state, "Call on the United States Government to immediately suspend all military aid to Israel."

Thank you,

Don

Don Owen, Ed.D.  
Educational Equity, Excellence, Engagement, and Leadership  
[REDACTED]

Follow me in Instagram: [@ddo\\_photo](#)

Connect on LinkedIn: [Donald Owen](#)

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Peter Titus <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:03 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello... On March 4 the council voted to accept a so-called "peace" resolution addressing the situation in Gaza for a vote to take place on March 18. Please be aware that this document, cooked up privately, bears no resemblance to the ceasefire resolution that has been discussed in council chambers since January 8. That resolution calls for an "immediate ceasefire." I ask that you accept the original resolution instead of the substitute. Failing that, you need to add words that demand an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire. The choice is between peace and genocide. Thank you. -  
-Peter Titus (graduate, Urbana High School, class of 1968)

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Ruth Kantorovitz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT; City Council Meeting 3/18/2024; Topic: In support of the Peace Resolution - unchanged

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I urge you **not to make any amendments** to the Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace (resolution No. 2024-03-013R). The current version has been debated at length and its language was approved on March 4th.

Please vote no to amendments.

I support the **current version** of the resolution and hope that this will put an end to the toxic environment at the City Council meetings.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kantorovitz  
Urbana

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Alan Cook <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** March 18, 2024 Public Input for Urbana City Council Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members,

My name is Rabbi Alan Cook and I serve Sinai Temple, a Jewish congregation serving Champaign County.

While I am unable to attend the city council meeting this evening, I did want to write to express my hope that if the Urbana City Council is to take up a resolution regarding the Gaza War, that they pass Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace without amendment.

As you are well aware, the ongoing discussion of this matter has been vitriolic and divisive. The compromise language that Stav Ashur engineered with input from individuals on all sides of the conversation is imperfect, but such is the nature of compromise. It does avoid incendiary language that places the blame for the conflict only upon one party and calls for a true and lasting peace, rather than a temporary cessation to the fighting.

I am aware that there has been some call for amending the resolution to call for divestment from Israel. Again, I feel this is outside of the purview of the Urbana City Council. Further, it directs blame for the conflict solely toward Israel and ignores Hamas' culpability in this situation. I urge that this, and any other suggested amendments, be rejected.

The notion that anyone in the community was excluded from participation in Mr. Ashur's draft is patently false; open invitations were repeatedly issued for any interested parties to come to the table. This can easily be seen by viewing public input comments archived on the Urbana YouTube channel.

I was not initially in favor of the City Council taking up this cause, as I do not believe it is in the purview of the council's mission. However, I do believe that this is the best wording of such a resolution for the good of our community.

With best wishes,

Rabbi Alan Cook

Rabbi Alan Cook  
(preferred pronouns: he/him/his)  
Sinai Temple  
3104 Windsor Road  
Champaign, IL 61822  
[REDACTED]  
<http://ravcookie.blogspot.com>

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good [people] to do nothing." - Edmund Burke

לא עליך המלאכה לגמור

ולא אָתָּה בְּן-חֹרִין לְהִבְטֵל מִמְּנָה

*You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to abstain from it (Pirke Avot 2:15)*

Please note: I am generally away from email on Tuesdays, and on Shabbat and holidays.

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Unruh, Sarah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 3.18 End US Military Funding for Israel

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

My name is Sarah Unruh and I've been an Urbana resident for more than two years.

In my capacity as a researcher, I presented my work on combatting gun violence to you back in May 2022. The main takeaway was that our leaders and stakeholders need to listen to and empower those who are directly impacted by violence and oppression.

These findings also apply to the proposed statement regarding a "cessation of violence." Any statement put forth by you should be informed by Palestinian voices. Currently, Palestinian people are being starved, are murdered, and are displaced at the hands of the Israeli military. This work is funded by our tax dollars. I am disgusted that I and that the community of Urbana is contributing to the violence against the Palestinian people.

Please amend the cessation of violence statement to **demand the halt of military aid for Israel.**

Anything less will make a plea for peace hollow. Please listen to those who are dying, who have lost loved ones, whose very existence is under threat from Israel's genocidal attacks.

Thank you to Chris Evans and Grace Wilken for moving to add the demand for a ceasefire at the last council meeting. Thank you for listening to those who care about Palestine and justice more broadly.

Please keep listening,  
-Sarah Unruh, PhD, MSLIS

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lee DeVille <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** March 18, 2024 PUBLIC INPUT

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I am in support of the resolution in the March 18 agenda packet titled **Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace - Exec** and whose text is written on pages 62 and 63 of the agenda packet. I will admit that this resolution is not perfect, and it's not the one that I would have written --- I personally would add some missing items, and remove a few things that are in there. Nonetheless, I strongly support the passage of this resolution.

We have all seen over the last several weeks in the city council room and in local media outlets that there are some deep divisions in our community over the war between Israel and Hamas. As I have sat through the discussions of the last few weeks, I have noted (as have many of you, I am sure) these divisions and differences. But when I listen carefully to what most people are saying on both sides of this debate, I have heard people argue in favor of **PEACE, JUSTICE, and COEXISTENCE**. These are shared values that almost everyone in our community supports.

The resolution that the city council has put on the agenda does an excellent job of articulating and advancing these shared values. I hope that the city council is able to pass this resolution, and if it is able to do so, this will be a massive positive forward step to bring the Urbana community back together.

All the best,  
Lee DeVille

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Naina Balepur <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:26 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Naina Balepur and I'm a member of the Champaign-Urbana community. I would like Urbana to join more than 70 communities nationwide that have called for a ceasefire, and I'm grateful that the council is hearing our input regarding this issue.

However, as written, the current resolution does not call explicitly for a "ceasefire". Using this word is important because our goal is to put pressure on our politicians to support a *ceasefire* resolution in the UN Security Council (which thus far has been vetoed by the US). Without this word, our statement will not have the impact we all want. Please amend the resolution.

Thank you,  
Naina



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Trevor Benos <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

My name is Trevor Benos and I am a CU community Member. In order to uphold the values of this community, Urbana must join the 70 plus cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire. We call on you, our government, to do more than just "promote peace." We call on the US to stop funding the Israeli military and war. The city council sets the vision for the City and is meant to represent residents' wishes, and this community largely supports a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

As of March 4th, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately bombed for 150 days. The Israeli military, with United States funding, has murdered over 30,000 Palestinians and displaced over two million people, which is more than 85% of the population. Death totals are likely higher due to those missing under the rubble and the internet blackouts in Gaza. According to multiple United Nations Officials and Human Rights Organizations, famine is imminent in Gaza. From our phones in Champaign, we are seeing children dying daily from starvation. Humanitarian aid is largely blocked from entering Gaza, and when it has entered the food was expired United States military rations or was delivered with faulty parachutes that killed Palestinians on impact. A child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes. Any action, no matter how big or small, must be taken to stop this violence and murders.

It is extremely important that Urbana uses the word ceasefire because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. The city council must amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sincerely,

- Trevor Benos

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Berry Zhang <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:35 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: End US Military Funding for Israel

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

Hello, my name is Berry Zhang and I am a student at UIUC and a community member from Champaign. I am urging the city of Urbana to join over 70 cities and pass a resolution calling for a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Palestine. As we speak, one child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza by the Israeli occupation. This is a genocide and ethnic cleaning of the Palestinian people and needs to come to an end right now. I am calling on you to truly promote a lasting peace by ending military funding to Israel, as there cannot be any peace if over 30000 innocent civilians have been brutally murdered by the IOF, sometimes just for trying to bring aid to their families after starving for weeks. You must call for a ceasefire NOW and end the needless suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli military. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Berry Zhang

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Allison Casar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 2:45 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution  
**Attachments:** IMG\_4071.png

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

My name is Allison and I'm a CU community member living in Champaign and working in Urbana. I am calling on you once again to heed the voices of the people of CU and join the 70+ cities nationwide calling for immediate CEASEFIRE in Gaza.

I am a linguist; language is my entire profession. Why is the word CEASEFIRE so important here? Because the US has vetoed every single vote for ceasefire at the UNSC. Because when our federal government talks about "peace" and "pauses" in the fighting while continuing to send weapons and money for Israel to use in the genocide of Palestinians, those words LOSE ALL MEANING.

Because every possible red line has been crossed; no safe zone in Gaza is truly safe; Rafah is under siege; children are quite literally starving to death; IFC soldiers are bragging on telegram and Tik Tok about the war crimes they've committed against civilians; aid trucks are not getting safe passage into the Gaza Strip; BOMBS paid for by my tax dollars ARE DROPPING ON REFUGEE CAMPS.

Enough. We demand a ceasefire resolution because our collective voice as a city is the loudest one we have. We demand a ceasefire resolution to stand as a testament to future generations that in the midst of all this horror, at least, at the VERY LEAST, Urbana said NO.

Cordially,  
Allison TR Casar, MA

--  
Allison TR Casar, MA  
PhD Candidate, UIUC  
Linguistics Steward, UIUC GEO

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Grace McCourt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:20 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Members of Urbana City Council,

My name is Grace McCourt and I am a member of the Champaign-Urbana community. We would like Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire. We must call on our government, at all levels, to do more than "promote peace". We must call on the US government to stop funding the Israeli military and war.

The word ceasefire is important in our resolution precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. Mentions of peace and ends to violence are near-meaningless without acknowledging the most crucial initial step towards an end to violence: a ceasefire.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza, and more children have been killed in Gaza in the past 5 months than in all worldwide conflicts in 2019-2022. It should not be controversial to call for a permanent ceasefire to protect the people of Gaza, especially the children.

Further steps towards peace include no more military funding for Israel. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and much funding of these genocidal attacks. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands.

Please amend the resolution to include the word ceasefire and to include a call for no more military aid for Israel. Listen to your constituents, listen to your community, and listen to your conscience.

Sincerely,  
Grace McCourt

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** timur oikhberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** 03/18/2024 public input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Esteemed Council Members:

I urge you to vote for the "Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace" without introducing any further changes. The current resolution came about as a result of a compromise between opposing sides, and adopting it will be a step toward reducing tensions and polarization in our community. On the contrary, editing the resolution will reignite the fruitless and acrimonious debate surrounding the topic.

Sincerely,

Timur Oikhberg

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Jada Fulcher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello! My name is Jada Fulcher and I have lived here in the Champaign-Urbana area for going on six years. Here I have found my community, my long term partner, and myself in the time I've studied and started working in this area. As such, I am invested in the direction our local government takes to represent us to the world. This is why I email you today regarding the aforementioned resolution.

With the level of carnage evident in the region, I implore the Urbana City Council to use stronger language in this resolution. As a journalist by trade, I am deeply concerned about Israel's explicitly targeted attempts at the lives of Palestinian journalists, many of which have been taken so as to not show the world the hellfire Israel is raining upon these people. In these months we have turned to citizen journalists forced into these positions because of a need to serve and show the world what is happening, often at the cost of their lives. A government that works specifically to harm those trying to share the truth through a free press should not be one this city or country should be coddling or aligning itself with.

I call on the Urbana City Council to explicitly call for a ceasefire, as well as sustained humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine. We must demand that the US government stop their military funding of Israel's violent reign. This is one of those moments that make men's souls. It is a defining event of my generation, and it is decisions like these that will shape whether Urbana, IL is truly seen as a space that protects and supports the marginalized people of the world.

Thank you for your time,  
Jada Fulcher

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Do the right thing and don't fall for Zionist propoganda- a diverse multitude of activists and local residents are calling for the City of Urbana to line with other cities which have begun using their power to support actionable change in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Alexandra Chapman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3-18-24: This is Not a Ceasefire Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Below is my public comment regarding tonight's Urbana City Council Meeting.

My name is Alexandra Chapman and I am a member of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I join the CU community in calling for an explicit and permanent ceasefire resolution to be passed by the city of Urbana. This resolution must be further strengthened by a demand to end US military aid to Israel. Recent suggestions of "promoting peace" are hollow and ineffective so long as they refuse to confront America's continued funding and arming of the genocidal Israeli government.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Chapman



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lane To <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 3/18: Pass a REAL ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Lane To, and I am a CU community member and current Champaign resident. I was at the last city council meeting at which the potential resolution on the war in Gaza was discussed. The revised resolution calling for a "lasting peace" is full of weak, watered down language that serves nobody. There can be no lasting peace without a ceasefire. There can be no lasting peace when the US continues to send military aid and funds to Israel. And there can be no lasting peace when our representatives continue to deny the genocide that Palestinians are facing in Gaza. I call upon the city of Urbana to join more than 70 cities across the US in calling for a ceasefire, in those exact words—nothing less.

**Sandefur, Darcy**

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**From:** Inbal Elazar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT; Council Meeting 3/18/2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I am in support of the resolution in the March 18 agenda packet titled Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace - Exec and whose text is written on pages 62 and 63 of the agenda packet.

Even that I'm opposed for the UCC to pass any resolution related to the Israeli-Hamas situation and even that I don't completely agree with the Peace Resolution that is on the agenda packet, I urge you to pass the Peace Resolution as written.

This is a compromise, from both sides, and the best possible effort to bridge the gap between an incredibly divided community.

We have all seen over the last several weeks in the city council room and in local media outlets that there are some deep divisions in our community over the war between Israel and Hamas. People argue in favor of PEACE, JUSTICE, and COEXISTENCE. These are shared values that almost everyone in our community supports.

I hope that the city council is able to pass this resolution and bring the Urbana community back together.

Any amendments to the current resolution by the city council members would be an insult to the community effort to start a dialogue and a path for peace.

Thanks,  
Inbal Elazar

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lesley Owens <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 3/18 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members,

My name is Lesley Owens, and I'm an Urbana resident.

I would like the City of Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire in Palestine. We must call on our federal government to stop funding the Israeli military and its genocide.

While calls to "promote peace" are admirable, they are not nearly enough. The word "ceasefire" is important precisely because the US continues to veto all ceasefire resolutions in the UN Security Council. We continue to supply bombs and guns to a government that is committing genocide through violence and starvation.

The phrase "promoting peace" is meaningless while our government provides the Israeli government with the weapons that have killed over 30,000 people. Please pass a strong **ceasefire** resolution that includes a call to end military aid to Israel.

Sincerely,

Lesley Owens (she/they)  
Urbana, IL Resident  
[REDACTED]

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED] Scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Isabel Scott. I've been a member of the CU community my whole life. I write to you today asking to pass a ceasefire resolution so that Urbana can join over 70 cities nationwide who have formally called for a ceasefire.

There can be no peace as military operations rage on. A ceasefire is only the first step on a path to lasting peace. Any resolution passed by the council that doesn't explicitly mention a ceasefire will only fall short; it will only fail the people of Palestine, and the people of Urbana. We deserve better than our taxpayer dollars being used on war instead of on improving our country and community.

Our tax dollars pay for this genocide, and we have a responsibility to hold our elected officials accountable, from the federal to local level. We cannot say we promote peace while sending the bombs that kill thousands. Please amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel.

Sincerely,  
Isabel Scott

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Bram Osterhout <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3/18/24: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the City Council:

My name is Bram Osterhout and I am an Urbana resident. Urbana should join the more than 70 cities nationwide who have issued resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. I support the language of the resolution proposed at the January 8th, 2024 city council meeting and that of the one released by the Graduate Employees Organization, IFT-AFT Local 6300, of which I am a member. Such resolutions are exemplary for the clarity of their demands and their condemnation of all forms of intolerance that have flared up as a result of the conflict. The inclusion of the term "immediate ceasefire" is very important, as our resolution must be unambiguous in its objective.

Although the conflict is geographically distant, it is of deep significance to our community. Many community members have personal connections to those affected by the conflict and have lost loved ones to the ongoing violence. As state and federal elections approach, it is important that we tell our elected officials that we expect them to take a firm, humane stance on this matter and use their power within the US government to push for an end to the bombardment and ground invasion which have killed thousands of civilians, and which are materially enabled by our government. Furthermore, when our government spends our taxes on the war industry, whether domestically or internationally, money that could have been put to better use here is transferred out of our community for destructive purposes. Finally, the violence abroad has led to expressions of hatred within our own community, and we can only emerge from this stronger if we can demonstrate a capacity to simultaneously call for an end to show solidarity with those subjected to genocidal violence across the world and with our community members when they face any form of intolerance.

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Dilan Kurukulasuriya <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:01 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it concerns,

My name is Dilan Kurukulasuriya, and I am a CU community member and a graduate student at UIUC. I am glad that the council has finally decided to add this issue to the agenda, however the resolution introduced regarding the war on Gaza is not a ceasefire resolution. The resolution in question largely frames the situation as a "both-sides" issue, where both Israel and Gaza are equally at fault.

Over 30,000 people, including 12,300 and 8,400 people have been killed in the Gaza strip. Hamas' attack on October 7th killed 1,139 people. While it is bad to see civilian deaths on either side, by taking a both-sides approach, the Urbana city council is expressing its view that the 30,000 Palestinian lives lost are only worth as much as the 1,000 Israeli lives lost, therefore placing the Palestinian life to be worth 1/30th that of an Israeli one. The condemnation of Israel must be unequivocal.

Every single day that passes, Israel proves again and again that it does not have any interest in protecting Palestinian lives. It has even gotten to the point that Representative Budzinski expressed her hope for a ceasefire on twitter, as well as Vice President Harris calling for an immediate ceasefire two weeks ago. Over 700 community members participated in a march a few weekends expressing their support for a ceasefire. It is well past time that the city council of Urbana stands with its citizens and makes clear that it also supports a ceasefire.

Best,  
Dilan Kurukulasuriya

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Dilan Kurukulasuriya (he/him/his)

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]  
B.S. Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering  
Masters of Engineering in Plasma Engineering  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Reut Berkson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:04 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Marlin, Diane  
**Subject:** Public Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

COULD YOU PLEASE INCLUDE THIS LETTER IN PUBLIC RECORD AND READ AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

It has been proven that Hamas claims regarding casualty data is fabricated. The Hamas casualty figures were always obviously fabricated, given the history of Hamas lies, the fact no accurate real time reporting of casualties has ever occurred like this before, and the fact that Hamas wasn't even in control of parts of Gaza. Now a Penn Wharton Professor of Data Science has proven the data and demographic claims are fabricated. It's even possible that more Hamas terrorists have been killed than civilians, which would show that Israel's unprecedented lengths to limit civilian casualties has been more successful than any country fighting a war of this type in history (including the U.S. and UK). The typical terrorist/guerilla to civilian ratio is between 6:1 and 9:1. And Israel is operating under far more challenging circumstances than other countries fighting such wars (including the existence of several hundreds of miles of tunnels underneath).

- **How the Gaza Ministry of Health Fakes Casualty Numbers**

*The evidence is in their own poorly fabricated figures*

by University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Professor of Statistics and Data Science Abraham Wyner

<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/how-gaza-health-ministry-fakes-casualty-numbers>

- **'THE LATEST'? AP'S FEALTY VS. FOOTDRAGGING REPORTING FATALITY STATS FROM HAMAS, ISRAEL**

<https://www.camera.org/article/the-latest-aps-fealty-vs-footdragging-on-reporting-gaza-fatality-stats-from-hamas-israel/>

- **This could be the devastating proof that Hamas is faking its death figures**

One of the marks of anti-Semitism, George Orwell observed in 1945, is "an ability to believe stories that could not possibly be true". Which brings us smartly to Hamas and how the broadcast media, aid organisations, international bodies and world leaders take its disinformation as gospel. Last week it became clear that this gullibility may have led to a crime against reality.

[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/16/could-be-devastating-proof-hamas-faking-death-figures/?fbclid=IwAR0maQ7sGC9ICEWH928SxMSdL46rFUV32USDQ7IYLQeSceaQB-vyg6szcbw\\_aem\\_AVgatqwFImlnfNVX9QuvvL8Qa3g8T88d72r9sbzLt\\_IGSQMNkuamuOWq27Jj03qbjE](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/16/could-be-devastating-proof-hamas-faking-death-figures/?fbclid=IwAR0maQ7sGC9ICEWH928SxMSdL46rFUV32USDQ7IYLQeSceaQB-vyg6szcbw_aem_AVgatqwFImlnfNVX9QuvvL8Qa3g8T88d72r9sbzLt_IGSQMNkuamuOWq27Jj03qbjE)

And again, despite widespread baseless claims, Israel has actually gone to unprecedented lengths to limit civilian casualties. It has performed better than any country in history for this type of war (including the U.S. and UK, which saw 40,000 civilians killed unless far less challenging circumstances).

- **Israel Implemented More Measures to Prevent Civilian Casualties Than Any Other Nation in History**

*by John Spencer, chair of urban warfare studies at the Modern War Institute (MWI) at West Point; served for 25 years as an infantry soldier and two tours in Iraq*

[https://www.newsweek.com/israel-implemented-more-measures-prevent-civilian-casualties-any-other-nation-history-opinion-1865613?fbclid=IwAR2HvdCRv8S\\_wJJvK-ZucF-tW\\_ikUqiyWO8vQH61omb8jD0SvhGlgdsbMX8\\_aem\\_AUjYcONtP0zEpAHt5YaTBsbIUpegc9DGptQnO8-JPlhg0Ah44m1zNZectPAEegoYS3Srh9LymdpVZdwNUKbPZlf](https://www.newsweek.com/israel-implemented-more-measures-prevent-civilian-casualties-any-other-nation-history-opinion-1865613?fbclid=IwAR2HvdCRv8S_wJJvK-ZucF-tW_ikUqiyWO8vQH61omb8jD0SvhGlgdsbMX8_aem_AUjYcONtP0zEpAHt5YaTBsbIUpegc9DGptQnO8-JPlhg0Ah44m1zNZectPAEegoYS3Srh9LymdpVZdwNUKbPZlf)

- **The Road to Ceasefire Leads Through the Rafah Offensive**

by [Dr. Jacob Stoil](#), Chair of Applied History at the West Point Modern War Institute (MWI); and [John Spencer](#), chair of urban warfare studies at the Modern War Institute (MWI) at West Point; and

<https://www.newsweek.com/road-ceasefire-leads-through-rafah-offensive-opinion-1878137>

- **2022 UN Report: Ninety Per Cent of War-Time Casualties Are Civilians, Speakers Stress, Pressing Security Council to Fulfil Responsibility, Protect Innocent People in Conflicts**

*And yet it's Israel that is vilified*

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14904.doc.htm>

- **I'm an expert in urban warfare. Israel is upholding the laws of war**

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/opinions/israel-hamas-gaza-not-war-crimes-spencer/index>.

- **Biden aide: Israel taking steps to protect civilians that even US might not have done**

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby suggests that some of the steps the IDF has taken to prevent civilian casualties in Gaza might go further than what the US would have done if it were in Israel's place.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/biden-aide-israel-taking-steps-to-protect-civilians-that-even-us-might-not-have-done/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/biden-aide-israel-taking-steps-to-protect-civilians-that-even-us-might-not-have-done/)

Despite severely biased media reporting, Israel is not the problem with aid. There is a bottleneck *AFTER* Israel inspects vast quantities of aid, and the claims are in large part sourced to several UN individuals who have repeatedly lied and spread vicious hate. Same is true with the claim that Israel has amorphous rules for accepting aid – Israel's COGAT actually publishes transparent lists and rules online (pls see links). The issue with aid distribution is based on ineffective and logistical delivery problems by orgs and by Hamas stealing a large portion of aid.

- **Israel Is Not 'Deliberately Starving' Palestinians**

<https://honestreporting.com/israel-is-not-deliberately-starving-palestinians/>

- **CNN's Nima Elbagir peddles lies and propaganda about aid to Gaza**

Nima Elbagir had previously left out key details in an interview of a Palestinian mother of a terrorist

<https://honestreporting.com/why-is-israel-stopping-aid-going-into-gaza-it-isnt/>

- **Playing Hamas's Game on Aid to Gaza**

*Israel has been set up to take the blame. Biden goes along with it.*

by WSJ Editorial Board

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/playing-hamass-game-on-aid-to-gaza-israel-war-middle-east-f7f24d13>

-or-

[Opinion | Playing Hamas's Game on Aid to Gaza — The Wall Street Journal](#)





**Opinion | Playing Hamas's Game on Aid  
to Gaza — The Wall Street Journal**

Israel has been set up to take the blame. Biden goes along with it.

I'd love to share hundreds more articles and points to provide an even broader picture and to further support my statements above, but obviously your time is limited. If you would like anymore information or have questions, I would in fact be grateful to be afforded the opportunity to address them. Also, if you have any difficulties accessing any content from links above, please let me know and I'll send the full articles.

I also have numerous articles by longtime mainstream journalists and editors discussing causes of, and issues surrounding, severe media bias as regards reporting on Israel (which has gotten far worse in recent years, coinciding with related issues across the quickly changing "clickbait" media landscape). If you'd also be interested in those, kindly let me know.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Reut Berkson

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Chibu Asonye <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution - Asonye

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

My name is Chibu Asonye, and as a member of the CU, I would like to say that this current resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. I do want Urbana to join the many cities across the nation calling for a true, lasting, permanent ceasefire. Additionally, please add "No more military funding for Israel" into this resolution as Illinois tax dollars do aboard.

Kindest Regards and In Good Faith,

**Chibu Asonye**

She/Her/Hers

Founder, Zennials of Illinois  
[REDACTED]

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Hildegard Luijten <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Hildegard, and I am a CU community member. Please have my comment read into the record.

I urge Urbana to join more than 70 cities nationwide who have called for a ceasefire.

We must call on the government to do more than "promote peace". Please amend the resolution to include no more military funding for Israel.

Sincerely,  
Hildegard Luijten

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Frances Harris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** March 18, 2024 meeting: PUBLIC INPUT

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear council members and Mayor Marlin,

It's late in the day and I know you are being inundated, so I will keep this brief. I am asking you to support the resolution in the March 18 agenda packet titled Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace AS IS AND WITHOUT FURTHER AMENDMENTS.

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, but I don't think I would if I could. The meetings I have been to have been so filled with misinformation, vitriol, and toxicity that I am no longer comfortable being in that space. You are hearing from a small number of very loud people who I do not believe represent the majority of Urbana residents.

As always, I am grateful for your service to our city.

Best,

Frances Harris  
[REDACTED]

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Sarah Blanco <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:19 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 03.18.24: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public comment.

My name is Sarah and I am a CU community member. I am disappointed that the city council continues to refuse to use the word "ceasefire" in the resolution being voted on tonight and hope that those who voted against the amendment to use this language two weeks ago will reconsider.

Community members have not been coming back week after week to demand a resolution that simply expresses support for peace. Who would say that they don't support peace? We've been continuing to demand a real ceasefire resolution because we want to see a resolution that actually makes an impact by calling on our government to do better than simply pay lip service to the idea of peace. We need a resolution that specifically calls for a ceasefire because the US government has been ignoring the wide popularity of this demand by continuing to veto UN ceasefire resolutions and supply Israel with weapons to continue their genocide.

The position of the community and the demands of our current moment are clear. Will you listen to the people and pass a real ceasefire resolution or not?

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Maxwell Haynes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:19 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello to you all,

I am emailing in support of the resolution being proposed with amendments to solidify our community's support of justice and liberation. The current resolution lacks the strength and conviction necessary in a time in which injustice is rampant. Men, Women, and Children continue to die daily and if our little voices here can be added to the chorus asking for an end to this conflict then we must do so strongly and firmly to protect lives and end this genocide.

Since 1948, during the Nakba (the initial invasion of Palestine) and since, Israel has killed on average 800 palestinian civilians per year by the lowest possible estimates. That is over 60,000 deaths. More than 30,000 of these murders of palestinian civilians have occurred since october 7th alone. That is 200 people per day with countless thousands more likely dead and un accounted for under the rubble.

As such, I support an amendment calling for an end to any and all military aid to Israel.

Israel is currently holding as many as 10,000 non-combatants in prison without charge. This unlawful detention was a primary factor influencing Hamas' decision to attack Israel on October 7th. This inflammatory behavior only leads to more anger and more radicalization strengthening the resolve of and recruitment power of Hamas.

As such, I support an amendment calling for the release of all non-combatants whole are being held without charge by the IDF.

We as a community must come together and express our support for the freedom and safety of the Palestinian people. Too long have they been attacked and systematically bombarded by an oppressive regime and too long has the U.S. stayed silent in the face of these atrocities.

Please reflect upon all that has been expressed over the past few months and think about what side of history you want to be on. What do you want your grandchildren to think when they see photos of you in textbooks with footnotes describing how you acted or failed to act?

Thank you,

Maxwell Haynes

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Miguel Castaneda <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:24 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Miguel Castaneda and I am writing to support a real ceasefire resolution. I, like other members of the CU community, would like our city council to call for a ceasefire as have more than 70 other cities in the United States. Beyond a generic peace message, we want justice, which can only come from ending our government's role in arming Israel and funding genocide. We cannot stand on the sidelines when more than 10,000 children have killed in Israel's one-sided war while our government refuses to stop the bloodshed. As long as the US government bankrolls this genocide its our duty to speak up for those unable to and not to promote peace absent of justice.

Yours for a free Palestine,  
Miguel

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Justin Mansfield <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:33 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18: Call for a Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm Justin, and I live and work in Champaign County.

In only five months, the state of Israel has murdered over 31,000 people in Gaza. These deaths include over 13,000 children. Israel has destroyed or damaged a large majority of homes in Gaza, leaving nearly the entire population of Gaza internally displaced. Israel has cut off the supply of food, clean water, medical supplies, and fuel into Gaza. Israel has destroyed Gaza's healthcare infrastructure to the extent that only a third of facilities remain minimally functional. All of this has led to widespread starvation and disease outbreaks. A genocide is occurring. Everyone should, at the very least, speak up in opposition to violence of this severity, regardless of where you live. All elected officials in this country should speak up in opposition to genocide, especially when our tax dollars go toward the arming of Israel. Y'all should call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Y'all should call for an end to US funding of the Israeli military.



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Inna Zharnitsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:42 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT March 18, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I have lived in Champaign-Urbana for 20 years.

I will not show up for the meeting tonight, as the experience from the previous weeks has me worried for my safety tonight. However, here is my input.

I support Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace. It is not perfect, and I prefer it to be the "War Between Israel and Hamas", but it's crucial if any resolution is passed, so I will support this wording.

The resolution that the city council has put on the agenda does an excellent job of articulating and advancing shared values. If passed this resolution will be a massive positive forward step to bring the Urbana community back together.

Sincerely,

Inna Zharnitsky

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Dua Aldasouqi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:42 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18 - Listen to Us

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

It's me again, Dua Aldasouqi - palestinian. I woke up today full of rage after reading about Israeli aggression against Palestinians that occurred over night, here are the highlights:

- Gaza Health Ministry: Israeli military storms al-Shifa Hospital for the **fourth time**, killing and wounding a number of people.
- 30,000 people in al-Shifa Hospital ordered to evacuate to Khan Younis.
- Palestinian Prisoners Society: **Thirteenth Palestinian prisoner dies** in Israeli custody since October 7.
- IPC: 1.1 million people, about half of Gaza, face "imminent" famine. **30+ have already died due to being starved.**
- Nineteen aid trucks arrive in Jabalia without being blocked or fired on by Israeli forces in months.
- UNICEF chief Catherine Russell: Airdrops and maritime deliveries are "a drop in a bucket" compared to the scale of humanitarian need.
- UNICEF: one in three babies under the age of two in northern Gaza suffers from acute malnutrition.
- Gaza Health Ministry: **Israeli attacks killed 81 Palestinians and wounded 116 in Gaza during the last 24 hours.**
- Biden reportedly shouts and swears upon learning Michigan and Georgia poll numbers dropped over handling of Gaza war, according to NBC News. :)

In the past 164 days, over [100 arms deals were sent to Israel from the US alone](#). These are US-backed Israeli attacks and it is now being recognized as such internationally. [Niger has just announced](#) it is ending US military ties.

Besides the very important and glaring fact that US complicity is directly responsible for the 40,000+ murdered, 20,000+ children orphaned, 80% of homes destroyed, and the list goes on - the US is going to face international consequences for this.

This is why we call for a permanent and immediate ceasefire (legally binding language). This is why we call for no more military aid and funding and weapons to Israel.

If the US can cancel AID because of mere accusations of terrorism, we can certainly demand an end to US weapons and military aid and funding because of what we are witnessing with our own eyes amounting to international war crimes and crimes against humanity and near to definite genocide.

Before passing this resolution, please amend it so that it represents what we've been asking for: (1) immediate and permanent ceasefire, (2) ending all US military aid and funding including the selling of weapons to Israel as it commits these crimes and (3) urging the gov to apply the maximum pressure it can to reinstate unrwa funding and sufficient aid into Gaza without the theatrics of airdropped aid and another US port on foreign soil.

**Dua Aldasouqi, MA, RDN**  
Owner & Founder

**A Muslim Dietitian**

[www.amuslimdietitian.com](http://www.amuslimdietitian.com)

IG: [@amuslimdietitian](https://www.instagram.com/amuslimdietitian)

**ALMAZ Wearables**

[www.almazwearables.com](http://www.almazwearables.com)

Pinterest: [@almazwearables](https://www.pinterest.com/almazwearables)

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Josh [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 5:59 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Aloud March 18 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear city council,

Enough is enough. A resolution about the Israel Hamas war never should have come up for a vote as it is not city business and serves no purpose. Having said this, I urge you to vote in favor of the resolution tonight as written without any further amendments or revisions. The Jewish community has been increasingly frightened with the antisemitism coming from city chambers over the last 3 months. Let's end this already and pass the compromise resolution and be done with this. Enough already. Pass it so we can move on and go forward.

Thank you,  
Josh

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Mick Woolf <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:29 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Mick Woolf  
**Subject:** Public Input - Read Aloud - 3/18/24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Urbana City Council Members,

I encourage you to vote **YES** on **Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace - Exec** tonight without any changes.

As imperfect a process as all this has been, witnessing all the pain, trauma, fears, and concerns expressed from members of our local community all the way around over the last 2.5 months, due to the ravages of war and destruction between Israel and Hamas, my hope is that this will come in for a landing tonight.

I know that there will undoubtedly be more language to debate tonight, with the pull to add, to modify, to satisfy, with more. Whether legitimate, fair, understandable or not, which will of course be up to you all, if you DO decide to debate and amend, I hope that it will still follow a path of peace.

To a "peace-fire".

To quote Larry The Cable Guy, "Get 'er done."

Mick Woolf  
Urbana Resident

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lauren [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:35 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Out Loud March 18, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Urbana City Council:

Please vote in favor of the peace resolution tonight. This has been a long drawn out and painful process. I urge you to vote yes without any further revision so that our community can start to heal and move forward.

Thank you,

Lauren

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Amy Byrum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:35 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input, 318

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Members,

I do not support the ceasefire resolution. So if the council feels obliged to take a position, then the peace resolution by Stav and Mayor Marlin is far better.

Sincerely,

Amy Byrum  
Urbana resident

Sent from my iPhone

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:35 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire now

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Korinta Maldonado and I am a CU community member. I would urge Urbana the city council to call for a ceasefire and join more than 70 cities nationwide who have done so. We must stop this inhumane war. There is no middle ground, lives are being lost in unimaginable numbers. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. I urge as well to amend the resolution to include no more military aid for Israel. We need to do the right thing and I want my community to be on the right side of history! Please, please I urge you to do the right thing.

--

Korinta Maldonado Goti  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Anthropology/American Indian Studies  
Co-director of the Native American and Indigenous Language Lab  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
[REDACTED]



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Adam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:53 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 3/18/2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the question of "Shall the City of Urbana adopt a policy whereby the City shall not invest in any fossil fuel company, or any subsidiary, affiliate, or parent of any fossil fuel company?"

I'd like the answer to be a simple "yes". Making this choice would be in line with the city's goals in terms of sustainability, and the people of Urbana are very much in favor of clean energy.

As a simple example of this, the first year there was a solar group buy in Urbana, we purchased more solar panels than the group buy in the Chicago area. That's not more per capita, that's literally more watts of solar in the CU area than Chicago, despite the gross difference in population.

Thank you,  
Adam Nichols  
Urbana Resident

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Timothy Chen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 7:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.18

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Timothy Chen and I am an Urbana resident and Champaign worker. I believe the city council should vote yes on the ceasefire resolution because I believe in not just electoral democracy but in. As the Zapatistas in Chiapas Mexico once stated, "Here the people rule - the government obeys." I believe that my peers and I have spoken, and it is time for City of Urbana council members to obey.

Also, since skateboarding is on the agenda today, I would like to highlight the work of Skate Pal, an organization in which volunteers help build Skate Parks in Palestine, and share their message. "Skating represents the concepts of freedom, of movement, and expression" Militarism has limited the Palestinian people's right to freedom of movement and I urge the city council to support the ceasefire motion to begin allowing for freedom of movement to once again be possible.