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**DATE:** Monday, March 4, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Jaya Kolisetty

**STAFF PRESENT:** Demond Dade, Seok Hyun Cho, Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, John Zeman, Courtney Kwong

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sue Grey, President & CEO of United Way of Champaign County; Beverley Baker, Chief Impact Officer of United Way of Champaign County.

**Chair:** Chaundra Bishop, *Ward 5*

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Bishop called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

##### a. 12-11-2023 Minutes

##### b. 12-18-2023 Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

#### 3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

#### 4. Public Input and Presentations

##### a. Presentation: Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Households - United Way of Champaign County, CMs Kolisetty & Bishop

Presented by Sue Gray, President & CEO of United Way of Champaign County and Beverley Baker, Chief Impact Officer of United Way of Champaign County. Shared background on origins of research on Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE) from the state of New Jersey and United Way of Northern New Jersey working in conjunction with Rutgers University. Encouraged everyone to access the complete ALICE

information online by searching “United For Alice” or through visiting <https://www.UnitedForAlice.org/>. Defined ALICE as families that earn just above the federal poverty level, but still cannot afford every basic necessity. Shared statistics on ALICE households in Champaign County and in the City of Urbana. Elaborated further on ALICE demographic statistics. Talked on newest research from Rutgers University for an Economic Viability Dashboard. Shared top-level findings regarding socio-economic needs of workers and top-level findings for housing. Shared information on how to navigate the United For Alice website to view information specific to areas.

Motion to extend presentation time by 2 minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.  
Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## b. Public Input

*Dua Aldasouqi* shared petition with 1,300 signatures in support of the original ceasefire resolution presented on 01-08-2024. Stated that she reached out to all Councilmembers on behalf of the CU Muslim Action Committee to share concerns of the Muslim community regarding the new resolution on the agenda tonight. Expressed that the new resolution is an attempt by the Mayor to silence concerns of their constituents and that it was drafted without an Arab or Palestinian voice behind it. Voiced that support for the original ceasefire resolution has consistently and strongly outnumbered the opposition to it. Shared concern felt for how the original resolution was discarded. Voiced that a ceasefire resolution is still what is desired by the public. *Shayna Andrews* stated 10-07-2023 was the bloodiest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust and that Hamas are still holding hostages in community buildings. Shared experience of visiting Israel on a volunteer trip where she met an Israeli soldier who spent time in Gaza and had shared a video of his experiences with her. Stated that Israel does not use people as human shields and that they celebrate life instead of death. Shared anecdotes regarding speaking with survivors from the Nova Music Festival and picking oranges for a farmer, stating that it felt safer in Israel than in the City of Urbana. Reminded everyone that a ceasefire was present on 10-06-2023 and Hamas has continued to reject ceasefire agreements. Urged City Council to vote against the current resolution and write a resolution that calls for the release of hostages and for peace. *Lilah Leopold* read from a letter originally submitted on behalf of UC Jews for Ceasefire, stating disappointment felt from the new resolution proposed without any mention of a ceasefire. Stated that by the time that members of UC Jews for Ceasefire had tried to reach out to Stav in order to assist in drafting a new resolution, the opportunity had been closed in a few days after the email was made public during the last meeting. Expressed that a resolution on Israel and Palestine must include wording calling for a ceasefire. *Sana Saboowala* expressed support for a real ceasefire resolution instead of the one currently on the agenda. Voiced disappointment felt from the absence of ceasefire language in the currently proposed resolution. Expressed concern regarding City Council’s prioritization of Zionist voices rather than the diverse coalition formed in support of a ceasefire. Requested City Council to stand against United States war crimes, to put the original ceasefire resolution onto the agenda, and to not refer to a resolution as a “ceasefire resolution” when it does not contain wording calling for a ceasefire. *Diane Gottheil* expressed delight regarding the currently proposed peace resolution. Addressed young people in the audience, pointing them toward the needs of the community reported on by United Way of Champaign County and hoped they would channel their passion toward those issues. *Steven Maguire* stated that by refusing a ceasefire, Hamas is strengthened and it becomes more impossible to pivot priorities to Asia. Asked if those in opposition to a ceasefire condemn Hamas. *Anonymous* shared the reported official death count of 30,035 Palestinians from Gaza’s Health Ministry after the

Flour Massacre. Stated that more than 800 legal scholars are referring to the events in Gaza as a genocide. Called upon City Council to put forward a ceasefire resolution with the specific terms of ceasefire. **Tania Ionin** spoke in support of the resolution calling to an end of the Gaza war and calling for a lasting peace. Stated that the resolution was drafted by a diverse group of individuals with many differing views and provides a balanced perspective. **Bara Saadah** spoke in favor of a ceasefire resolution and denounced the currently proposed resolution as it lacks wording calling for a ceasefire. Stated that the original ceasefire resolution was supported by many different groups and people from diverse backgrounds. Requested City Council keep the supporters of the original ceasefire in consideration when moving forward. **George** spoke on peaceful protest turnout of around 700 people in support of an immediate ceasefire and an end to United States aid to Israel. Stated that City Council's response to a ceasefire has been to limit public comment, avoid discussion regarding a ceasefire, and ignoring their constituents. Voiced that the violent, Zionist minority is being empowered by City Council's actions, citing an attack by a Zionist against a woman volunteering at the most recent protest. Demanded a permanent and immediate ceasefire. **Itai Sagath** spoke in support of the proposed resolution on the agenda calling for a peace and an end to the Gaza war. Stated that he participated in the drafting process with Stav's group and that sufficient notice had been given to the public for everyone to participate. Stressed the amount of compromise that went into drafting the new language in the peace resolution. Urged City Council to consider the amount of compromise that went into drafting the resolution before making further changes. **Luke Leigh** demanded City Council to not adopt the new resolution for peace as it does not call for a ceasefire and does not call for the United States to stop funding military aid for Israel. Stated that there needs to be further investments into local community resources rather than military aid for Israel. **Chris Zelly** stated that Zionists have historically not stuck to any agreements made since the 1949 Armistice Agreement. Expressed frustration with lack of diversity behind the drafting of the new peace resolution while the original ceasefire resolution had a diverse backing from the local community. Urged City Council to not pass the new peace resolution and to either continue working on correcting the wording or adopt the originally proposed ceasefire resolution. Read death tolls and shared statistics from Israeli sources, citing the Israeli military's history of friendly fire, inflicting casualties upon its own citizens, and amount of child hostages taken from Palestine. Stated that Israel's intention is to eradicate the Palestinian people rather than Hamas, as seen in their targeting of civilian infrastructure. Urged Jewish people to speak with their rabbis to heal their inner self for supporting Zionism and for City Council to vote on a ceasefire resolution. **Addison Gray** recalled history of the City of Urbana passing the resolution opposing the Iraq War and being staunchly anti-war. Expressed disappointment in the current state of the City of Urbana as City Council has not yet put forward or voted upon a ceasefire resolution. Questioned the community support that the new peace resolution is purported to have. Denounced the newly proposed peace resolution and stated that City Council must draft another resolution. **Chelsea Birchmeyer** spoke in support of adding language calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire to the peace resolution on the agenda. Stated that peace, justice, and delivery of aid is not possible to achieve without a ceasefire. Expressed that without mention of a ceasefire in the peace resolution, they will continue to attend City Council meetings until that condition is met. Voiced that there is strong nationwide support for a ceasefire from national unions. **Patrick Herr** provided context comparing the suppression of Jewish people during the Kristallnacht to the documented, ongoing suppression of Palestinian people by the Israeli Defense Force. Asked if City Council are aware which side of history they are standing on. **Hiba** questioned the logic behind her Palestinian grandparents having to pay to retain their family property which has been in the family for generations. Shared personal experience of being Palestinian in America and facing persecution on the basis of being Palestinian. Stated that the United States is funding the killing of Palestinians by providing military aid to Israel. Questioned why there is opposition to a ceasefire in the face of the

ongoing tragedies and complete destruction of hospitals in Gaza. **Alan Cook** spoke in favor of the resolution calling for peace and an end to the Gaza war. Stated that the presented resolution on 01-08-24 by Ben Joselyn was not added to the agenda because City Council deemed it to be flawed. Voiced that the current resolution was drafted by a diverse group of people and was sufficiently publicized. Stated that criticisms of the new peace resolution lacking diversity in writers is a fault of the critics not participating. Questioned the calls for a ceasefire, stating that a resolution calling for peace would achieve the same goal. Expressed confusion as to Ben Joselyn's opinion on the originally proposed ceasefire resolution. **Esther Patt** made light of calls for City Council to put forward a ceasefire resolution, stating it fall out of the City Council's control and has wasted much time. Stated that efforts for calling a ceasefire should be directed toward Hamas as they are the ones capable of directly enacting one. **Urulah** shared personal experience of growing up in the City of Champaign and spending summers in Palestine. Questioned why deliberations on a ceasefire resolution have taken so long when education on the Holocaust is present in the United States school system. Stated that the crimes perpetrated by Israel since 10-07-2023 span back 75 years further and that City Council is not acting with the urgency it should. Urged City Council to call for a ceasefire. **Robert Naiman** underlined the mention of recent changes in the United States where Vice President Kamala Harris called for an immediate ceasefire on behalf of the Biden administration. Noted that the call for an immediate ceasefire is not a radical demand of people to be making. Stated that there is no way for aid to enter Gaza until a ceasefire is called and that aid must be provided in order to prevent the imminent famine in Gaza. Noted that Josh Paul resigned from the State Department in October 2023 in protest of knowing that he would not be able to enforce United States law regarding compliance of international United States military aid. **Alexa Urquhart** shared that the peace resolution on the agenda was meaningless in the face of the broadcasted mangled, dead bodies from Gaza. Expressed pain felt from inaction and silence heard from the City Council regarding a ceasefire resolution. Called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. **Marc Snir** complimented the contents of the peace resolution and noted that nobody was angry with its contents, but only had suggestions for further items to be included within it. Noted that Vice President Kamala Harris did call for an immediate ceasefire and that she also called upon Hamas to agree to a ceasefire, and that if City Council were to call for a ceasefire that it should also be directed to Hamas instead of Israel. Stated that there cannot be peace between Israel and Palestine as long as Hamas is committed to the destruction of the Israel state. Called upon both sides to come together for peace and build bridges instead of further becoming polarized against one another. **Omnon** spoke on context and responsibility of a resolution calling for peace. Stated that a call for peace is balanced and fair while a call for a ceasefire is one-sided and is a judgement upon the state of Israel. Called upon City Council to not make judgements against international bodies outside of their jurisdiction. **Asha Sawhney** shared personal familial history of being genocide and displacement survivors and urged everyone to search up rabbis Brant Rosen, Lynn Gottlieb, and Ariana Katz. Stated that City Council should pass the original ceasefire resolution as the language is accurate to the genocide that Israel is demonstrably perpetrating against Palestinians. Questioned why the calls for a ceasefire from Palestinian constituents have not been addressed when they have lost numerous family members due to this conflict. **Benjamin Cosman** spoke in support for the peace resolution as written, but begrudgingly so as international affairs should not be considered City Council business and the language does not reflect what he personally believed should be written. Stated that the current peace resolution is a compromise and should be passed as it because it was drafted by both people in support of a ceasefire and in opposition to a ceasefire. **Wes Bollinger** shared personal experiences of antisemitism as a Jewish person, hoping it would emphasize his urging of City Council to call for a true ceasefire. Stated that it is not antisemitic to criticize Israel's leadership and that it is a proponent of Israel's propaganda ministry to paint criticisms of Israel as antisemitic to protect backlash against their atrocities. Urged City Council to pass a

resolution calling for genuine hostage release and an explicit ceasefire. **Maxwell Rizzo** spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution as a graduate student, stating that all Universities in Gaza have been demolished by bombing. Asked all current and former academics to empathize with the reactions Palestinians have taken in response to having their academic institutions destroyed. Voiced shame felt from inaction by City Council regarding a ceasefire resolution. Stated that Hamas is condemned first in the peace resolution as the voices of White people are prioritized over voices of Muslim people by City Council. **Terri Barnes** shared pride felt from seeing continued democratic engagement from public from the past 8 weeks of City Council meetings. Stated that foreign affairs fall within the boundaries of City Council's responsibility as the actions of City Council are directly connected with the potential actions taken on the state and federal level of the government. Expressed that the peace resolution is reminiscent of people saying slaves and slaveowners were two sides to an argument and that a reasonable agreement could be made between them. Stated that the peace resolution inadequately addresses the genocide ongoing in Palestine and is dismissive. Voiced that it is everyone's responsibility to protect the children of Gaza and a ceasefire must be called by the City of Urbana. **Jaden Andrews** spoke on misinformation being spread regarding Gaza and Palestine, stating that women are mistreated in Palestine, citing statistics on women being unemployed. Stated that LGBT Palestinians fled to Israel to escape persecution. Stated that a ceasefire will only serve to preserve Hamas and the ongoing mistreatment of women and LGBT people in Gaza. Urged City Council to pass the current peace resolution. **Morty** echoed pity felt for City Council having to listen to public input. Stated that antisemitism is amorphous and will not stop until everyone sees the light of God and brings true peace. Stated that he lost more family in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War than during the Holocaust. Shared fear felt from Hamas, that peace talks are ultimately futile, and that Jewish people will persevere. **Timor Oikhberg** urged City Council to support the peace resolution because it is a compromise, will help the community heal, and lower the levels of acrimony. **Shauna Miller** acknowledged that both Hamas and Israel have declined temporary ceasefire proposals and negotiations. Stated that a permanent ceasefire is necessary in order for peace to be achieved between Israel and Palestine and that the majority of people nationally support a ceasefire. **Josh** stated that the disagreements voiced by the public indicate that the resolution for peace is a successful compromise as it leaves everybody displeased. Urged Councilmember Evans to pass the peace resolution as is. Denounced remarks made at Jewish people who spoke in opposition to the proposed ceasefire resolution. **Ben Joselyn** stated that a true, diverse coalition backs the original ceasefire resolution. Voiced urgency of a call for ceasefire in light of the daily atrocities committed by Israel that are ongoing in Palestine and that a call for a ceasefire has been misrepresented as a complex issue when it is simply a call for the cessation of military action against innocent people. **Anonymous** stated that a ceasefire resolution falls under the business of City Council as tax money from constituents goes toward funding United States military aid toward Israel. Expressed disgust felt over City Council not listening to its constituents calling for a ceasefire resolution over the course of 2 months. Denounced Israel's claims of self-defense as innocent people and children have been deliberately killed and injured in Gaza. **Frilaos** spoke in support of a resolution calling for a permanent ceasefire. Stated that it is not difficult to recognize the moral bankruptcy in the killing of 30,000 innocent Gazans and that it does not make sense to commit genocide on Palestinians for the sake of eradicating Hamas. Stated that the City of Chicago passed a ceasefire resolution in January despite controversy toward the resolution because they recognized the urgency of the situation. Expressed that avoiding discussion on a ceasefire to minimize divisiveness in the community is pointless due to the divisiveness pre-existing talks of a ceasefire, its manifestation in violence by Zionists against peaceful protestors and fears of wearing a keffiyeh. Voiced that personal opposition to genocide is not solely extended to Palestinians, but to anyone who is facing genocide. **Berry** urged City Council to call for an immediate ceasefire because Palestinians are facing starvation and death on a daily basis.

Questioned the competency of City Council due to their inaction in calling for a ceasefire and reiterated that a ceasefire resolution falls under City Council business as tax money spent toward funding military aid to Israel could rather be spent toward local community issues. **Leon Smith** spoke in support of a permanent ceasefire to be called in Palestine and that the current peace resolution is incomplete without mention of a ceasefire. Reminded City Council of its duty to represent its constituents, stating that the turnout in support of a ceasefire should be reflected in the City Council's actions. Stated that peace cannot come without justice and liberation and that Palestinian resistance will continue as long as the settler-colonial state of Israel continues to oppress Palestinians. Voiced that City Council, due to its inaction, has become complicit in genocide. Read "Oh Rascal Children of Gaza" by Khaled Juma. **Caitie** stated that City Council time is not being wasted as Israel has killed over 30,000 people in comparison to the few hours of public input being taken each week. Stated that City Council sits in a position of privilege to be able to have their voices heard and that by not voting on a ceasefire resolution, City Council holds no regard for Palestinian lives. Questioned why Israeli military strategy permits the bombing of hospitals containing civilians. Voiced that death tolls for Palestinians are incorrect as they do not accurately capture the higher amount of people who have died and are unable to be accounted for. Reaffirmed commitment to attending City Council meetings until a ceasefire resolution is passed. **Stav Ashur** thanked Mayor Marlin and City Council for assisting in facilitating community discussions on drafting a peace resolution. Hoped for future dialogues within the community and thanked everyone who reached out and participated. **Stuart Levy** stated that the peace resolution appropriately asks for a release of Israeli hostages, that it would be inappropriate to ask for either Hamas or the Israeli Defense Forces to disarm, and that it is appropriate to ask for the end of this conflict as the United States is providing Israel with military aid. **Jake McGinty** expressed gratitude and optimism toward City Council for taking steps to put forward a resolution regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Voiced disappointment felt from Mayor Marlin stating that there will be cooperation with Stav, but that cooperation was not extended to Ben Joselyn. Reaffirmed commitment to urging City Council to vote on a ceasefire resolution, stating that the current peace resolution is unacceptable in its current condition. **Anonymous** expressed alarm felt from hearing Democrats use similar language to Republicans on MSNBC when discussing immigration, displaying the capitulations the Democrats have made toward Republican framing of issues. Stated that the similarities between Democrats and Republicans connect in their mutual support of Israel. Condemned Israel, the United States, and those who weaponize Jewish trauma to justify colonial violence in Palestine. Voice disillusionment felt toward Democrats as they begin to share more viewpoints with Republicans on various issues. Called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. **Jared** stated that a ceasefire resolution is relevant business for City Council and that a resolution calling for peace is not sufficient. Shared personal history with supporting Israel before coming to a shift in principles held. Spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution quoting philosophers and religious texts. **Timothy Chen** mentioned previous residence in New Orleans, raising a tragedy that occurred on 01-20-2024 where 17-year-old American citizen from New Orleans, Tawfiq Ajaq, killed by an Israeli officer in the West Bank. Posited that if a terrorist organization had done the same, the United States military would immediately mobilize in response, but the current response is that that incident is currently under investigation. Expressed that everyone should be in support of a permanent ceasefire in respect to all the lives that have been lost in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. **Sabrina Fellingner** spoke in favor of the peace resolution currently on the agenda, stating that unverified claims have been made during public input. Stated that voting for a ceasefire will not have any impact and that it only will make Jewish students feel unsafe on campus and in classes at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Stated that everyone should be condemning the actions of Hamas as they are the only ones who can cause the conflict to end. Stated that discussions regarding a ceasefire worsen antisemitism locally. **Maxwell Haynes** voiced disheartenment felt toward the

actions of City Council and Mayor Marlin attempting to claim neutrality toward the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Stated that Israel's Zionist violence is rooted in white supremacy and settler colonialism, and that some people believe that this violence is justified when it is against people of color. Called upon City Council to vote upon the original ceasefire resolution presented on 01-08-2024 by Ben Joselyn as the current peace resolution is insufficient to the demands made by the community. **Yasmin** quoted Israel's Minister of Heritage, Amihai Ben-Eliah; former Minister of Public Diplomacy, Galit Distel Atbaryan; Israeli Knesset member, Ariel Kallner; former Justice Minister, Ayelet Shaked; and the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog on their statements where they call for the deaths of Gazans and Palestinians to illustrate genocidal intent behind Israel's actions. Echoed questioning of the Israeli bombing campaigns used attack Hamas embedded within civilian infrastructure in Gaza. Retorted against a statement made by a previous speaker stating that the conflict between Israel and Palestine does not affect people locally, stating that the presence of this discussion inherently displays its local impact. Called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire to support local, impacted families.

*Public Input was received from the following 65 individuals who were in support of the originally presented ceasefire resolution, but were not read: Ali Zaidi, Wesley Bollinger, Alexa Urquhart, Rebecca Obuchowski, Sumayyah Hussain, Omar Baltaji, Hanafy Fouly, Maryam Tariq, Tabi, Terri Barnes, Christopher Zelle, Sarah Unruh, Kathryn Dullerud, Dua Aldasouqi, Addison Gray, James Kilgore, Ella Dennis, Edgar, Stephen Maguire, Stephanie, Bryan Maxwell, Andrea Lindenbaum, Fauzia Rahman, Brain Seheult, Maryam S. Ar-Raheem, Sana Saboowala, Rosa Druker, Peter Kogen, Hadjer, Jane McClintock, Dilan Kurukulasuriya, Alex Gordon, Dana Hubanks, Camille Cobb, Iman Guiga, Don Owen, Muna Osman, Afeefa Ismail, Lindsay March, Malika, Alexandria, Kay Neal, Daniel Folger, George, Derek Briles, Kate Popetz, Penny Hanna, Matt Turino, Matthew Heinrichs, Jasper Nord, Emily B., Izzy Scott, Berry Zhang, KJ Naum, Matt Soyland, Sam Ehlinger, Cale, Timothy Chen, Lane To, Teresa, Matthew E. Peek, Julia Boldrick, Hildegard Luijten, and 2 anonymous individuals. Public Input was received from the following 17 individuals who was in support of Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace, but was not read: Mark Band, Alan Cook, Tania Ionin, Esther Patt, Mitchell Harris, Ruth Kantorovitz, Elliot Weinberg, Robert, Lauren, Kathryn Weisbaum, Rosa Druker, Sara Druker, Arnon and Ayelet, Steven Rosenberg, Rob and Diane Ore, Mick Woolf, Benjamin Cosman, and an anonymous individual. Public Input was received from the following individual who was in opposition to Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace, but was not read: Arielle Weinstein.*

Recess for 10 minutes called by Chair Bishop at 9:18 p.m.

Motion to return from recess at 9:23 p.m. by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Hursey

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None

## 5. Staff Report

None.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-011:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #7 - Omnibus) - HRF

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator with John Zeman, City Engineer and Demond Dade, Fire Chief available for questions. 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. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

- b. **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 the University of Illinois, 2600 Stone Creek Boulevard, Urbana, Ill.) - Exec

Presented by Mayor Marlin. Ordinance seeks to maintain the number of Class GC liquor licenses in the City of Urbana.

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-03-013:** An Ordinance Vacating a Street and Alley (Wide North Cottage Grove Avenue and Wide East/West Alley Between Hickory Street and North Cottage Grove Avenue, Both North of East Park Street) - PW

Presented by John Zeman, City Engineer. Graphics and visuals displaying the proposed alley right-of-way vacation and proposed street right-of-way vacation were shared. This ordinance would vacate a segment of North Cottage Grove Avenue, north of East Park Street, and an adjacent alley, located between Hickory Street and North Cottage Grove Avenue, north of East Park Street. Explained that the purpose of the vacations is to remove the burden and potential costs of maintenance activities along the right-of-way. Questions and discussion ensued.

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.



**d. Resolution No. 2024-03-012R:** A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Residential Electronics Waste Collection - PW

Presented by Courtney Kwong, Recycling Coordinator. This resolution would approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Champaign County, the City of Champaign, and the Village of Savoy for 2024 electronics waste collection events. Previously, the City of Urbana has partnered with Champaign County, the City of Champaign, and the Village of Savoy to conduct semi-annual electronics recycling collection events since the early 2010s. The costs are divided by relative population and the City of Urbana's cost share is 18.6% with the maximum share in 2024 for two electronics recycling collection events is up to \$8,658.30 for the City of Urbana. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

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

Presented by Mayor Marlin. 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. Mayor Marlin addressed statements made during public input, stating that a member of the public was originally invited to present on a proposed ceasefire resolution and City Council was not able to review its contents. Stated that the contents of the ceasefire resolution were seen as hateful by members of the community and that its contents prevented it from being added to the agenda by City Council. Stated that Stav Ashur invited everyone to collaborate with him on a joint resolution by publicly providing his personal email. Acknowledged the polarization, pain, and differing viewpoints surrounding this topic. Stated that participants of the drafting of the new resolution remain undisclosed outside of those who have self-identified as participants during public input. Acknowledged that those who had attended the meeting held by Stav had differing opinions, viewpoints, goals, and personal lived experiences regarding the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Acknowledged the deep divisions and differences in opinion about the short-term steps to be taken regarding the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Voiced that the resolution is a result of compromise that is unable to satisfy everyone, but the resolution grew out of finding common ground within the participating group. Extended sincere thanks to Stav Ashur and the members of the community who had come together to discuss a new resolution.

- i. Motion to amend the second resolve to say the following: "Call for just and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine starting with an immediate and permanent ceasefire by both Israel and Hamas along with delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Gaza as a necessary step in that process" by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wilken. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Evans, Wilken

**NAY:** Wu, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry

- ii. Motion to amend the second resolve to say the following: "Call for the just and

lasting peace between Israel and Palestine starting with an immediate and permanent cessation violence by both Israel and Hamas along with delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Gaza as a necessary step in that process” by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu. Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda, as amended, by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu. Discussion ensued.

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** Wilken

## 7. Council Input and Communications

*Mayor Marlin* reminded the public that the next week’s City Council and Township Board meeting is rescheduled to 03-18-2024 due to not having quorum on 03-11-2024. *City Clerk Sandefur* clarified that the Township Board meeting on 03-18-2024 is a special meeting with the sole purpose of approving the Annual Town Meeting agenda and the regular Township Board meeting is rescheduled to 03-25-2024. *CM Hursey* voiced appreciation for CM Evans’ comments and shared her personal story of witnessing the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Invited everyone to listen to the song “You’ve Got to Be Carefully Taught” by Rodgers and Hammerstein as it resonated within her regarding the conversations surrounding the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Expressed lifelong hope to see lasting peace from Israel and Palestine. *CM Quisenberry* mentioned that he attended the Read Across America event on 03-02-2024 and expressed that it was fantastic to see everyone enjoy literacy and benefit from the efforts of the various groups that helped put the event together.

## 8. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Bishop 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:** 04-22-24

Received 3-4-2024  
at  
meeting -

## A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION IS URBANA CITY BUSINESS

Dear City Council Representatives,

We, the undersigned members of the Urbana-Champaign community, call on the Urbana City Council to pass the "Resolution Calling for a Permanent and Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza" in its current or an amended form.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately bombed for 95 days where a bomb is dropped every five minutes and a person is killed every six minutes. Two million Palestinians in Gaza are currently displaced out of 2.3 million, more than 85% of the population. 60% of all homes and residential buildings have been destroyed. Over 30,000 people have been killed (including those missing under the rubble), over 13,000 children, over 100 journalists, over 300 healthcare workers in 95 days.

We live in a world that is only growing smaller and we are all interconnected. Violence can only beget more violence so we demand a ceasefire.

To view the text of the resolution: [bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireRes](https://bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireRes)

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Hrant Kebantsi  
Omar Agustin Hernandez  
Tess Wallace  
Marilyn Ryan  
Lisa Sechler  
Umeeka Sadarangani  
Togzhan Seilkhanova  
Isabella Viega  
Liv Charlton  
Omar Khan  
Nisheet Panda  
Kelsey Rice  
Maggie  
Pat McLaughlin  
Brenda Galan  
Erica Holmes  
Johnny Backling  
Sophie Larsen  
Madie Farni  
Robin Redgate  
Aedan Murphy  
Dan Folger

Francisco Belsis  
Averie Keoppel  
Farah A  
Autumn Soliman  
Joaquim O'Malley-Macias  
Jules Berglund  
Elizabeth Harthe  
Yanique M. Quiles  
Emily Benca  
Maureen Warren  
Allison Hansen  
Erica Belloso  
Simmi Rana  
Matthew Soener  
Sara Berthier  
Nancy Yeagle  
Stephen Dolan  
Miriam  
Thomas Kran  
Cassidy Farrar  
Salma Zumorud  
Milo Darby  
Kari Darby  
Matthew Miller  
Jann Humphrey  
Caitlen Kelley  
Auburn Kelton  
Amina Malik  
Leo Kaempfe  
Owen MacDonald  
Ulas Cosken  
Norin Redes  
Camden Keifer  
Liv Brown  
Andres M  
Ilir Sulejmani  
Elaina Baughes  
Nora Abdelghani  
Rosa Docker  
Jonas Yela  
Amy Han  
Ester Cha  
Susannah McLaughlin  
Hedaya Hassanein

Farah Hasan  
Ashraf Al-Dadah  
Ramin Jameel  
Miky Eum  
Daniel Jones  
Sarah Unruh  
Ashley Camargo  
Arhan Rout  
Bradley Allen  
Tianna Censi  
Lucas Censi  
Ivana Owona  
Galen Selligman  
Becca Obuchowski  
Juniper Jones  
Benjamin Theobald  
Peter Kogen  
Nick Cragoe  
Lindsey Sharp  
Mohammad Al-Heeti  
Aziz Rahman  
David Endean  
Marwan Yousef  
Adam Judeh  
Shayma Rizwan  
Fatimah Skeets  
Tabitha Clymer  
Hailey Eams  
Mia Bartleth  
Adam Transue  
Lucah Kloster  
Shahbarno Moosau  
Robin Malke  
Kevin Herrera  
Savannah Wills  
Alex Gomez  
Ghada Adham  
Kyle M  
Jayden Louge  
Uma Makdan  
Amin Kassem  
Rachel Carroll  
Alex V  
Hany Z

Theresa Fuller  
Victoria Valadez  
Tarisha Morris  
Abreeana White  
Sherell Hughes  
Max Klein  
Ritvik R.  
D. Crowder  
Faith Ryan  
Tidjani Maouloud  
Athena Turrentine  
Allison Wessel  
Nessa Belen  
Miranda Martin  
Jake McGinty  
Anna Valle  
Andrea Sasa-Lopez  
Creel Foreverunbeloved  
Malcolm Lang  
Havah Berg  
Hallee Heredia  
Miriam Delgado  
Finola McMahan  
Tiffany Armas  
Candy Leti  
Olivia Prudhomme  
Alexandra Rayburn  
Indra Vogel  
Charlotte Watson  
Mahir Morshed  
Mehmood Rasheed

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ali Zaidi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:12 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,

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 8 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

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Wes Bollinger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:13 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.

I am a Champaign county resident and I am calling on the council to reject this Zionist resolution that DOES NOT CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE and instead ask the council to call for a bipartisan group of Jews, Muslims, concerned non-affiliates and members of all parties to draft a resolution calling for unanimous ceasefire and return of all hostages on both sides

Wesley Bollinger  
Environmental Scientist Contractor, The RESTORE Council  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED] Urquhart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4: The Resolution is Not a Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Alexa, and I am a member of the Urbana community. I am a barista, a grad student, and I am raising my family here. I am emailing to let you know that the proposed "statement for peace" is not what we are looking for in a statement. I had the horrible displeasure of looking at an image of a child crushed by an IDF tank. I will not settle less for anything else than an unconditional ceasefire. Palestine has been the world's largest open air prison for 75 years. Every fifteen minutes a child is killed in Palestine. Women are dying because they do not have any menstrual products not to mention the people who have had their appendages amputated without anesthesia. What about the men who were killed just trying to get flour?

Where is your humanity?

I look forward to hearing your response.

-

Alexa Urquhart.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Rebecca Obuchowski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:29 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,

My name is Rebecca Obuchowski and I am a lifelong Urbana resident. I am writing in regards to the "Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace" that is on your agenda for this evening.

First I would like to point out that this is not a Ceasefire resolution, as has been called for by the Urbana Community for weeks. Nowhere does it explicitly state that the genocidal violence towards Gaza and the millions of people living there needs to end. A child in Gaza is killed every 15 minutes. Innocent civilians are being massacred while desperately trying to feed their families. People are starving to death. This is a result of Israel's violent military actions and I believe that calling for the end to that should be clear and distinct.

While the city council has stalled and refused to discuss the original ceasefire resolution presented to it over 8 weeks ago, many other cities and elected representatives have seen the importance of speaking out for a ceasefire. Our local Rep. Nicki Budinski has come out in favor of a ceasefire as has Vice President Kamala Harris, just this morning.

There have been statements (including by Mayor Marlin) that this is not a local issue. But it is. We are a diverse community whose citizens are seeing their families, friends, and country killed and decimated. Our tax dollars are going towards that death and destruction and I believe our community, voiced by our City Council, needs to stand up for what is right and vote for a real ceasefire resolution - not the half-measure put in front of you today.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Obuchowski



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED] Hussain <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:34 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,

My name is Sumayyah Hussain and I am a community member in Urbana-Champaign. I am reaching out to you today to let you know that this resolution is not a ceasefire. The children of Gaza do not need empty words and gestures, they need a ceasefire. A child in Gaza is killed every 15 minutes and nothing will stop this killing except a ceasefire.

We have been coming to the city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to the community. The community supports a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with constituents. Vice President Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire as well.

We need a ceasefire immediately.

Thank You

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Omar [REDACTED] Baltaji <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:41 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.

My name is Omar Baltaji and I am an Illini.

I am so ashamed of the position that the council has taken so far regarding the ceasefire resolution. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza and the council is still not able to produce a resolution requesting a ceasefire and end of this madness that took the life of now 40,000 innocent people. People of CU have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to them. They are demanding a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski now supports a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire this morning. However, the US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of Israeli attacks and this needs to stop!

I hope you take action to pull us and our beloved city out of this shame! The support for a ceasefire resolution in CU is massive, so do not turn deaf ears!

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Hanafy Fouly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:41 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.

Hi Urbana council

My name is Hanafy Fouly and resident of Urbana

We have been asking you to adopt a cease fire now in Gaza. You afraid of what. You may saw the Saturday protest walk downtown Champaign All asked for cease fire now in Gaza additional support came from IL congresswoman and yesterday from the vice president woman Kamala Harris

Demand ceasefire now in Gaza

Thanks

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Tariq, Maryam [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:45 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,

My name is Maryam Tariq and I'm a CU community member. I am emailing to say that the resolution regarding Israel and Palestine is NOT a ceasefire resolution. Palestinians, Arab, and Muslim voices have been continually ignored in this process. The US directly supplies the Israeli military with bombs, weapons, and other technologies that are being used in the genocide of the Palestinian people of Gaza. We have been coming to the city council for 8 weeks now and still you refuse to listen to the community, whom you have been elected to serve. We want a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Even Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire this morning. There is nothing political about calling for a ceasefire that will save lives. A child is murdered every 15 minutes in Gaza. It is a common saying that children in Gaza are born dead. This is absolutely unacceptable. We need a ceasefire now.

~ Maryam Tariq

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Tabi [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 1:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4: Not a ceasefire resolution.

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a working member of the CU community and have lived here my whole life. I have seen huge support in my community for a ceasefire resolution. (Nearly 700 people at sundays march for Palestine) Yet we do not have one. I would like to see city council back it's community on this issue that so many of us are passionate about. WE WANT A CEASEFIRE. And active discussion and accountability surrounding this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Tabi

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Terri Barnes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public comment 3.4

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi Urbana councilors - the resolution that is on tonight's agenda is not a ceasefire resolution. The times do not call for a layer of sweet icing over a cesspool of genocide. The times call for a ceasefire. Nothing less.

Respectfully yours,

Terri Barnes

Urbana resident

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Chris Z <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:14 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.

My name is Christopher Zelle and I am a Champaign-Urbana community member. I would like this read into the record for the meeting on 3/4/2024 at 7:00 pm.

This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution.

This resolution is not even-keeled, center-of-the-road, unbiased, objective, nor representative of the people of this community.

A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.

We have been coming to the Urbana City Council meeting for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us!

That is thousands of children dead while you have refused to act and enabled zionist hate speech!

We want a ceasefire resolution immediately!

If you will pass this new resolution you are morally obligated at a minimum to pass the original resolution side-by-side to let the voices of the community be lifted up! The original resolution did not even call for an equivalent release of hostages held by the Israeli Occupation Force and is far more pragmatic and compromising than the new resolution.

Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents.

Vice President Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning.

You can have the strength to be on the right side of history!

The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks and enacts the sanctions that turn Gaza into a concentration camp.

Urbana taxes fund these bombs, weapons, genocidal attacks, and crimes against humanity in a very direct way.

Your community members need restorative community justice and you are failing us. Empanel a community discussion that brings community stakeholders to the table to discuss, grieve, come together, and maybe eventually heal. Play a role in government here that you can be proud of!

No Justice No Peace

What do we want?

Ceasefire!

When do we want it?

Now!

[singsong voice] If - we - don't - get - it??

SHUT IT DOWN!

Which side are you on, Council?

Which side are you on?



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Unruh, Sarah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT March 4th 2024: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

As an Urbana resident, I am furious that we as a city have not yet called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Everyday, I look at my phone and see the death and destruction that Israel is inflicting on the Palestinian people then I look up and see no evidence that my representatives in this city are taking this seriously. This is jarring and demoralizing. How can we not speak against this blatant genocide?

While this country continues to veto ceasefire resolutions and fund the oppressive Israeli military, Palestinian people are dying, starving, struggling everyday to attend to their basic needs as human beings.

The current resolution is not enough and a bland appeal toward peace will only continue the status quo. The Palestinian people are living under siege and have endured an apartheid state.

I urge you to take a strong stance and use your power to add your voice to the [more than 48 cities who have already done so](#) and **call for a permanent ceasefire.**

Thank you,  
-Sarah Unruh

Full link to city council article below:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-city-councils-increasingly-call-israel-gaza-ceasefire-analysis-shows-2024-01-31/>

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Kathryn Dullerud <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4: Ceasefire Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kathryn Dullerud and I am a resident of Urbana, writing to you about the “peace” resolution on the docket for the council meeting tonight. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. People have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and have made clear that we want an actual ceasefire resolution, one that calls for such explicitly. This resolution does not represent the community, and our other government officials are responding to this, as Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Although the council and mayor have been claiming that Urbana calling for a ceasefire will have no effect on Palestine, passing an actual ceasefire resolution will demonstrate to federal officials that we do not support further funding of this bloodshed. Frankly, there is no reason not to pass an actual ceasefire resolution.

I look forward to seeing something genuine passed by the council.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Dullerud

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dua Aldasouqi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:33 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** 3.4 Public Comment: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Dua Aldasouqi and I have been and spoken at city council just about every meeting starting on Jan 8 until now and as I hope you know by now I am also a member of the Palestinian diaspora.

I have reached out to each council member individually to share the concerns of the CU Muslim Action Committee regarding the new resolution submitted and spoke with 3 out of 7.

The resolution that was presented to the council on Jan 8th was thoughtful and nuanced. The one drafted by the Mayor and on the agenda for tonight is a poor attempt to silence our concerns. The mayor has chosen to only work with Stav and anyone working with him which did not include a single Muslim, Arab, or Palestinian voice and I encourage you to reflect on why that may be.

Council has gone from a resolution with massive community support which includes this petition with over 1300 signatures ([bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireSigs](https://bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireSigs)), the fact that we have outnumbered those who oppose the original ceasefire resolution almost 2 to 1 at every meeting, the diversity represented by those supporting the original ceasefire resolution, the validity of the arguments proposed, and how we had almost 700 people on the streets of Champaign on Saturday demanding a ceasefire now.

It's incredibly problematic to see this completely disregarded by our mayor and council. I know it's not the easy thing to support Palestinian rights, it has always been the litmus test for politicians, it's not where the funding comes from but funding is almost never on the side of truth and justice.

We came back week after week for a ceasefire resolution. An end to violence now. Not later, not at an undefined future time. But now, the US is the only reason this aggression continues until now. Let us not be a cog in the US war machine.

**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)

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** █████ Gray <█████>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** 3/4 Public Comment: Peace Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Addison Gray and I am a Champaign-Urbana community member. I am writing to voice my staunch opposition of the new "peace resolution" that will be presented at tonight's Committee of the Whole meeting.

After 8 weeks of the community showing up en masse to voice their support for a ceasefire resolution, this resolution not only does not include the word ceasefire, but was written by a group that failed to include any Palestinian, Muslim, or Arab voices.

The Mayor pushing through this resolution is unacceptable. You must return to the drawing board and include Palestinian voices in any further discussion of a ceasefire resolution, or add the originally proposed resolution to the agenda.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** James Kilgore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:40 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment-This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members,

The vicious military attacks the IDF on the people of Gaza, with support from the US, are one of the great human tragedies of our time. A child dies every 15 minutes in Gaza. We need a ceasefire and we need our city council to support that. Dozens of other cities across the US and around the globe have passed resolutions supporting a cease fire. The resolutions proposed so far do not propose ceasefire. This morning Vice President Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire. Why should we in Urbana not do the same. A ceasefire can save lives and restore some semblance of peace to allow the Palestinian people to rebuild their homes and communities. Our U.S. Rep, ,Nicki Buzinski has also called for a ceasefire. Please City Council members hear our voices and the voices of those around the world. Ceasefire Now. Please read this message to the meeting.

James Kilgore (he/him/his)  
Director, Advocacy and Outreach, [FirstFollowers Reentry Program](#)  
Building Community Power Fellow, [Community Justice Exchange](#)  
Author, [Understanding Mass Incarceration](#), [Understanding E-Carceration](#)  
National Book Foundation Award Winner  
[Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow 2017-18](#)  
[www.challengingcarceration.org](http://www.challengingcarceration.org)

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dennis, Ella <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:41 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,

My name is Ella Dennis, and I am a member of the CU community. Despite VP Kamala Harris calling for an immediate ceasefire and Representative Budzinski recently showing support for a ceasefire, it has come to my attention that the resolution on Palestine has been edited to remove any kind of explicit support for a ceasefire. **This is unacceptable.** A child is murdered every 15 minutes in Gaza, and entire families are passing away due to starvation, as a direct result of Israel's refusal to let in food aid waiting at the Rafah border (along with sanitary products, medical supplies, anesthesia, and many other life-sustaining items).

I am writing to request that article 2 of the proposed resolution be revised to say, "2. Call for just and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine **via an immediate and permanent ceasefire**, along with the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Gaza as a necessary step in that process".

Innocent families are being slaughtered – please don't turn away from using language that supports peace just because you feel uncomfortable. Do the right thing.

Thank you,  
Ella

**Ella Dennis** (she/her)

Psychology & Global Studies - Chancellor's Scholar; James Scholar | **UIUC 2024**

Obama-Chesky Scholar | Boren Scholar

Founder and President | ***It's On Us UIUC***

Head Office Assistant | ***Education Justice Project***

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4: Ceasefire Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello Urbana City Council,

My name is Edgar, I've lived in Champaign-Urbana for the last 6 or 7 years now. I'm writing today to support the original proposed ceasefire resolution and urge that it be addressed by the council. The resolution for peace put together by city council is a watered down mess and it's clear that you have not heard us.

I feel strongly that a CEASEFIRE resolution is our business in CU if solely for the fact that the taxes I've just paid this year are going to fund a genocide of the Palestinian people. A genocide that does nothing for the interests of Americans here that already don't have our basic most needs met and everything for the interests of the Capitalist ruling class. I'll quote a brief excerpt from a declassified CIA report from October 20th, 1947, "The Current Situation in Palestine":

"Palestine is a small, weak country whose war potential is almost nonexistent but whose geographic position gives it a strategic significance out of all proportion to its size and wealth. This significance stems not only from its location at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, its proximity to the Suez Canal and the fact that it is an outlet for the oil of the Middle East, but also from the psychological problem posed by irreconcilable claims of Arabs and Jews for hegemony over the country. To preserve the US position in the Middle East and to counter Soviet infiltration, political, economic, and social stability must be maintained in the area."

I quote this document because it outlines the reason for the United States' unwavering support of the apartheid state of Israel, which has nothing to do with our historical care for the Jewish people and all to do with our interest in Capital. Palestinian and Israeli lives are disposable to America's corporate greed and this has long been the plan of our nation. While my taxes pay for Israeli's free healthcare and free college education, your own residents are hungry, losing their homes to rising rent prices, buried in medical or student debts, and miserably overworked.

I've watched for months now as the city council has chosen to do nothing despite your people making it clear what we stand for. If the decision of a ceasefire, by definition solely asking for the end of mass death and an end to hostilities, is too difficult for our city council members to make then I worry for the moral standing of those who represent Urbana. You must do better and stand firmly by what is right or we will continue to apply pressure until you do so.

Thank you,  
Edgar

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Stephen Maguire <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:53 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Read Into the Record

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Stephen Maguire. I am a resident of Urbana. At first, I wanted to be involved in the revision of the resolution for ceasefire until I found out that it called for "peace" but not a ceasefire.

The argument others who grieve primarily for Israel have provided against a ceasefire is that enables Hamas time to regroup. However, I believe that a lack of a ceasefire emboldens Hamas, especially in the Palestinian archipelago in West Bank which is currently controlled by Fatah.

Our military is currently unable to enact its long desired "pivot to Asia" strategy because we are forced to defend Israel and its colonists (a.k.a. "settlers") as they break the Oslo and Abrahamic accords. If we were to send a strong message to Israel to give up the West Bank and withdraw their colonists as they had agreed to, then we might be able to resume talks with Saudi Arabia about normalizing relations with Israel. Such talks could result in thwarting Iran's plans in the region, and allow us to pivot to Asia. The only obstacle to being able to achieve our objectives is the far -right Netanyahu administration.

In addition, if talks worked out with Saudi Arabia, they might be able to dump oil into the market thwarting the Russian war machine and such success would weaken Hamas by showing that the peacemaking strategy pursued by Fatah works.

Instead of this smart strategy we choose to strengthen Hama by killing civilians despite how our own generals know that "insurgent math" is working against us.

So, I ask those against ceasefire, do you condemn Hamas? If so, why are you enabling the Netanyahu administration to strengthen them.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Maguire



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Stephanie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:54 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.

My name is Stephanie and I am a CU community member. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. Every 15 minutes a child is killed in Gaza. We have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us, we want a ceasefire resolution. Rep. Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian and Arab constituents. VP Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire **just this morning**. The US supplies the bombs, weapons and funding of these genocidal attacks and we will not stand by and let this go unaddressed. Ceasefire resolution NOW!

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Bryan Maxwell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:58 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.

Deeply disappointed but not surprised by Mayor Marlin's decision to move ahead with a separate and new "peace" resolution. After months of public input on an actual ceasefire resolution, thousands of signatures collected, we were told that this resolution was one-sided and biased. And now Mayor Marlin has declared her support for a single individual's attempt at a rewrite. This individual made multiple inflammatory statements during city council meetings saying the current violence against Palestinians was justified, demonstrating clear bias. The current resolution in no way uses the word "ceasefire", what is immediately necessary to address what the UN calls one of the worse humanitarian crises in modern history.

It is bizarre for the city council to accept a resolution from one group who has shown clear bias during this process, a resolution that is not clear what kind of public support it has, while refusing to even vote on a resolution from another group which has collected over 1200 signatures.

Bryan Maxwell, Resident of Historic East Urbana for 4 years

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Andrea L <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:00 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.

Hi,

My name is Andrea Lindenbaum and I am a CU community member. Public Comment 3.4 is not a ceasefire resolution. The CU community demands the end of the ongoing slaughter and genocide of Palestinians which began on October 7th. Over 150 days later, the onslaught continues. To put it into perspective, Public Comment 3.4 does not end the killing of a child in Gaza every 15 minutes.

We have been coming to the city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us. Our demand is clear: we want a ceasefire resolution. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Moreover, Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning. Nonetheless, the US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding for these genocidal attacks.

We want a ceasefire and peace, not violence and death.

Thank you,  
Andrea

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Fauzia Rahman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public comment 3.4

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Respected Council,

My name is Fauzia Rahman and I've been an Urbana resident for more than a decade. I cannot remain silent as this resolution is NOT A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION. I feel sick to my stomach as I watch the live footage of men, women, and children eating grass, animal feed, and rotten potatoes because my country cannot make a decision to stop a genocide when it is blatantly obvious. My community has been showing up to city council meetings for the past 8 weeks and NO ONE IS LISTENING. WE WANT A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION NOW!

Representative Budzinski has finally show 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. Urbana must send a strong and clear message that we stand on the side of humanity. I want our global town to go down in the books of history as standing on the right side! You all can ensure that this happens.

Respectfully,  
Fauzia Rahman

--

Fauzia Rahman, PhD  
Adjunct Instructor  
Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1310 S. 6th St., Champaign, IL 61820  
College of Education

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** brian <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:23 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT March 4, 2024 To read aloud

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the City Council of Urbana,

I understand that this evening's agenda will include a vote on ceasefire in Gaza. Let this be another city resident calling for the council to adopt the resolution.

I counted myself among those supporting Israel's right to defend itself in October, but the situation has changed.

Although Israel does have a responsibility to defend its people, and the attack committed by Hamas was an atrocity, Israel has itself crossed the line beyond defence.

I won't point out the terrible civilian casualties and miserable conditions in Gaza. Everybody knows. However, I will point out that I don't want our tax dollars paying for Israel's vengeance; I don't want to see our president humiliate himself before Netanyahu; and I don't want to see the United States continue to shame itself and foster the resentment of an international community that has come to demand an end to this terrible bloodshed.

Please join communities throughout the United States, including the great city of Chicago, and publicly call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank You,

Brian Seheult

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Maryam Ar-Raheem <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:26 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment- This is NOT a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Maryam S. Ar-Raheem and I am a CU community member.

- This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution.
- A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.
- We have been coming to city council for 8 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 using my hard earned money.

No thank you!

Regards

Maryam

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sana Saboowala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:26 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.

Dear council members,

My name is Sana Saboowala, I am an Urbana resident and member of the CU Muslim Action Committee. Today I am writing to express my support for a real ceasefire resolution. Many of us have been coming to speak in support of a specific ceasefire resolution every week for the last 8 weeks. We have a petition of about 1300 locals who support that ceasefire resolution ([bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireSigs](https://bit.ly/UrbanaCeasefireSigs))

The proposed “peace resolution” does not call for a ceasefire. It doesn’t meet the demands we have been begging city council for these past weeks. If you expect us to be satisfied with the proposed resolution, you have not been listening to us.

I’m very disturbed that the city council continues to prioritize the feelings of a certain subset of individuals over both their own moral compasses as well as the demands of a diverse coalition of constituents. The same people who say this new resolution is “the best compromise” are the people who didn’t support a ceasefire in the first place.

I’m tired of being asked to compromise in the face of blatant, US government-funded human rights violations. Every day we see more Israeli atrocities. We are asking the city council to stand against this, clearly and whole heartedly. The idea that the word “ceasefire” is deemed too polarizing is a testament to the level of depravity we are allowing ourselves to be complicit in. It has to stop.

Put the original ceasefire resolution on the agenda. Call for a ceasefire. It’s what the people of CU want because it’s the right thing to do.

Best,  
Sana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Rosa Druker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:30 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am an Urbana resident, mediator, and member of the Jewish community. I am also a member of UC Jews for Ceasefire. I am writing to express my concern that the amended resolution proposed regarding the war in Gaza.

This resolution does not call for a ceasefire, which is what the community has explicitly been advocating for for months. While I recognize that this is a difficult and uncomfortable spot for our Urbana leadership to be in, speaking on such serious international issues, I feel that it is time to do what is right and leverage your voices against the violence and extreme harm being done to Palestinian people.

The resolution, as written, does truly reflect the urgency and extreme nature of this situation. Over 30,000 Palestinians have lost their lives.

Please amend the language in the resolution to reflect this by including a call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire.

Yours truly,

Rosa Druker



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Peter Kogen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:33 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.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Peter Kogen; I live in Urbana. The resolution that will be discussed at tonight's City Council meeting is not a ceasefire resolution. We need to pass a resolution that will create a permanent and immediate ceasefire to stop the Israeli killing of the people in Gaza, and to allow in the much-needed humanitarian aid to stop the increasing starvation.

We are trying to make our voices heard. We want peace, but peace can only be achieved with a ceasefire resolution. Please allow for discussion and a vote on this important topic.

Sincerely,  
Peter Kogen

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** H | <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:35 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.

My name is Hadjer and I am a CU community member. I am writing to you to comment on the Public Comment 3.4. The comment in question does not call for a ceasefire and this is frustrating and makes me feel unheard. We have been coming for 8 weeks to the city council and voicing our concerns and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and we still can't get a ceasefire resolution! Also, the argument that we have been hearing time and time again that this is not a local matter does not satisfy me, especially with the US supplying funding (weapons, monetary) to Israel and is used in the genocide against Gaza. The city council should be able to support a ceasefire especially that Representative Budzinski showed support for a ceasefire and Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire.

Shukran

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Jane McClintock <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:42 PM  
**To:** !City Council; !City Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Input - Yes to Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi all,

I really appreciate the effort and thought that has gone into recrafting the resolution regarding Gaza as well as your patience and time in listening to community members during the last few weeks. However, the final resolution should include the words "immediate ceasefire" to make the intention and path forward clear.

As you all are probably aware, Rep. Budzinski has recently posted her hope for a ceasefire and a focus on negotiation. We all know that the ceasefire has been by far the most successful way to get hostages back safely. And it isn't hard to imagine how horrible a ground invasion of Rafa would be for the millions of displaced civilians pushed into that city.

Please revise the current resolution to include a call for an "immediate ceasefire" and pass it. And then maybe you can enjoy the peace and quiet of Monday nights not talking about this any more?

Thank you all for your service and your consideration.

Best,  
Jane McClintock  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dilan Kurukulasuriya <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:49 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.

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 this past thursday, and this morning Vice President Harris also called for an immediate ceasefire. Over 700 community members participated in a march this past weekend 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

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Alex Gordon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:49 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Marlin, Diane  
**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.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council,

I am writing in strong, enthusiastic support for an Urbana ceasefire resolution. One that explicitly calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

I am a proud resident of Urbana, a proud Champaign Unit 4 educator, and a proud member of the Jewish community. My Jewish upbringing taught me the importance and sacredness of human life. Like many, my heart aches when I see the destruction and death toll in Gaza. I feel helpless watching Israel's brutal, genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people. Razing homes, bombing hospitals and schools, and murdering children and families will not bring safety to Jews, or anyone.

When I begin to lose hope for a more just future I think of the following quote from educator, writer, poet, scholar, and activist Clint Smith: "*Do not for one moment think you cannot change what exists. This world is a social construction; it can be reconstructed. This world was built; it can be rebuilt. Use everything that you accrue to reimagine the world.*"

This is a moment for bravery and clarity. Peace is difficult and complicated, but if we can imagine it, we can create it. It begins with a ceasefire.

Thank you,  
Alex Gordon

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** dana.hubanks <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 3/4/2024

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

City Council,

My name is Dana Hubanks, and I live on E Green St. in Urbana.

I'm writing for three reasons:

- 1) to express my severe disappointment in the Mayor's recent strategy regarding the ceasefire resolution and presentation of the new "peace resolution,"
- 2) to point out the glaring injustice of *excluding all Muslim and Palestinian voices* from the process of drafting a new resolution, and
- 3) *(if it is the intention of the council to vote on something this evening)* to advocate for an amendment to the newly proposed, Marlin-backed "peace resolution." **The document should include, at the very least, the word "ceasefire." If it does not, I strongly believe it should not be passed.**

Put simply, without the word "ceasefire," this new document serves only to reify the positions and strategies already in place at a federal level. This new document presents nothing that challenges or questions the current position or approach of our national government. Further, this document also calls for things that fall even further outside the scope of the City of Urbana's power than the original ceasefire resolution. If the City Council is concerned about wasting their time on things that a) won't make a difference and b) disregard precedence and the scope of Ward power, then I'd recommend approaching this document warily.

To emphasize my above point, this document was produced *at the wholesale exclusion of all Muslim and/or Palestinian voices in the community*. Mayor Marlin has claimed that her reason for opposing this process early on was the risk of community divisiveness. However, we have now seen Mayor Marlin take arguably the most divisive move of all - to prioritize a specific segment of the community while entirely disregarding the community members most directly impacted by the ongoing violence in Gaza. This is unjust to say the least, in addition to being entirely tone deaf and deeply unstrategic. **This move sends a clear message from Mayor Marlin's office that she does not value or respect the Muslim or Palestinian voices in this community.**

**Over 30,000 people have been killed by the Israeli military campaign in Gaza over the past 5 months - tens of thousands of them children. Most recently, we have seen videos of Palestinian civilians being shot at while attempting to gather food and other aid at the southern border in Rafah, the last zone which the Israeli government nefariously claimed would be safe for Gazans. Members of the Urbana-Champaign community have lost numerous family members to this genocidal violence over the past weeks and months. For the City of Urbana to pass a "peace resolution" that intentionally, obviously, and loudly excludes the word "ceasefire" sends a message of injustice and disregard for the sanctity of human life that I simply cannot comprehend.**

As an aside, I'd like to add that, over the past two months, I (as a co-author of the original ceasefire resolution) have been vehemently accused of being a hateful, antisemitic, unintelligent, and reactionary person by many people in this community. I have stayed silent in response to these claims because I don't feel it would have been productive to try to

argue with people determined to misunderstand and misportray me. Despite these claims, many of which have been submitted into public record by other community members, not one person has been able to meaningfully or concretely cite what specific language in the resolution is hateful, antisemitic, or even incorrect. I have seen claims that our ceasefire resolution "contains factual inaccuracies," that it's full of "vitriol" and clear hatred toward the Jewish community. Yet, again, I have yet to be provided with supporting evidence for any of these claims. As someone who has spent many, many years advocating for justice, peace, love, and community cohesion across all areas of my life, from the personal to the political, I have simply had to take in stride the fact that wide swaths of this community are now choosing to see me as a hateful, bigoted person.

Nevertheless, I do not see my "opponents" in this debate as hateful or bigoted. I do not see any member of my community as an opponent, as this would be an unhelpful and unloving way to approach existing in a community. Instead, I see and respect the extremely justifiable and important fear, trauma, and grief these community members hold, and none of these feelings should be disregarded. ***And I strongly believe that we all owe it to one another to fiercely reject the notion that to value the lives and self-determination of one group, we must deny the very same to another.***

Let's start by respecting the voices and determination of Palestinian and Muslim voices right here in Urbana by passing a resolution that actually calls for a ceasefire.

Sincerely,  
Dana Hubanks

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Camille Cobb <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:03 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] Public Comment 3.4: This is not a ceasefire resolution

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read the following into the public record at tonight's meeting.

Hello,

My name is Camille Cobb. I live in Champaign and spend a significant amount of my time in Urbana. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. We are almost half a year into this genocide, and we are still complicit in it. The genocide of Palestinians is being enabled by our national government, funded by our tax dollars, and enacted via weapons we send to Israel. The US has been so committed to continuing the genocide that we have vetoed UN ceasefire proposals that were otherwise unanimously favorable.

Almost two months ago, the Urbana City Council was gifted with an opportunity to stand for peace. The mayor and city council should have honored the effort, compassion, and empathy of the community members who created an initial draft of a ceasefire resolution. They should have listened to the community members who have shown up week after week to emphasize our commitment to peace and our support of the existing resolution. They could have critiqued specific language in it that they found unacceptable and amended it if they felt that was necessary.

Instead, Diane Marlin hoped we would just go away. Last week, Mayor Marlin gave up on waiting it out and asserted that a single community member who has been outspokenly anti-ceasefire would lead the effort to write a different proposal. When our Palestinian community members come and tell you about their family members who continue to be starved and murdered by Israel, it is reprehensible to put someone who has spoken against the cessation of these murders in the leadership role for drafting a resolution. Additionally, there was not even enough time for him to get input from a broad group of affected community members, since a new resolution was announced just two days later. The city council is poised to vote on this watered down "peace" resolution. Both the process and the currently proposed resolution are UNACCEPTABLE. Even Nikki Budzinski and Kamala Harris have called for a ceasefire at this point, and the resolution Diane Marlin has proposed does not even use the word "ceasefire." Pass an actual ceasefire resolution. Go back to the original and change it as needed.

Camiille



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Iman Guiga <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:05 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.

1. My name is Iman Guiga and I am an Urbana resident. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. We attended the city council meeting last week and listened to multiple people demanding for a ceasefire and at the end the Mayor says she is going to work with an Israeli (who is clearly biased) and those who work with him. What about all the Palestinian voices in our community?? You just completely ignored them and turned your crack no then. How shameful of you. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. We have been coming to city council for 8 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. It's our turn Urbana we must put an end to this genocide and call for a ceasefire now!

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Donald Owen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT MARCH 4, 2024

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Mayor Marlin and Members of City Council:

At last week's meeting, I suggested that you put the Ceasefire Resolution on the Agenda for a vote in order to see where you stood on this issue. I stand by my words. I want to know where you stand on the Ceasefire Resolution that was presented to you on January 8, 2024

The past two months have been a textbook case of failure in leadership. I truly hope that you each will reflect on your role, your words or your silence about this issue and that through that reflection, you strive to do better in the future.

What I witnessed on that side of the bench was a classic self-fulfilling prophecy. If you are not familiar with the idea behind a self-fulfilling prophecy, it is that your belief about what will happen drives the actions that make that outcome ultimately come to pass.

Mayor Marlin, on January 8, 2024, before any discussion or presentation or public comment occurred, you stated, "there is no possibility of a productive outcome from a discussion or vote on this topic in Council. The discussion will serve to divide us and permanently damage relationships within our community." You were right, Mayor. You manifested that outcome by your initial resistance, and then your disregarding the voices from one side of this issue, and taking a side that does not call for a ceasefire.

Yesterday, Vice President Kamala Harris called for an immediate ceasefire. In my opinion, it is not the ceasefire I want, as a taxpayer who is paying for a military action that has killed over 13,000 children (NYTimes: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/02/world/middleeast/gaza-deaths.html>). Mayor Marlin, you also stated on January 8, "What impact will the city council have on the outcome of this conflict? None whatsoever." I would ask the City Council to reflect on why the Vice President Harris called for a ceasefire yesterday? Is it a change in policy? Is it a change in heart? Is it because over 50 cities have passed Ceasefire Resolutions as of March 1? Is it because the majority of American voters favor an immediate and permanent ceasefire (according to Georgetown University)? Is it because of the millions of people who protested the ongoing genocide on Saturday - including here in Champaign-Urbana? Mayor, resolutions like this matter. Marches like we saw on Saturday matter. It is time for Urbana City Council to participate. Members of the Council, there are procedures for you to place items on the agenda, to amend items on the agenda. If the Mayor is going to continue with her self-fulfilling prophecy, I urge you to use your power to put the Ceasefire Resolution on the agenda. We will not stop asking.

Before I close, I want to pre-emptively address the Mayor's response to my email. On February 26, 2024, you stated, "I appreciate Stav's leadership, and offering to do that. We will work with him, and whoever works with him, and we will address this topic, and there should be some more information so we will bring this to a resolution shortly." That statement demonstrates that you are taking a side. You do care. Your bias is clearly reflected in how you police one side of the public comment, but not the other. I have chosen to stand in the back of the chambers for the past two meetings, and the comments made by the Zionists in the room are as worthy of rebuke as your attempts to silence the gasps and comments by Palestinians who are subjected to

what they view as hate speech during certain public comment. One of the members of the public called out your hypocrisy related to the way you handled disruptions at the last meeting. Please do better. If you need to, please state your bias so that it is clear for our community. Stav's statements at the microphone may seem noble and worthy of praise. My understanding is that members of the Palestinian community will not work with him, because of statements he has made on WILL and statements he has endorsed with cheering and clapping during public comment.

You closed your remarks on February 26, 2024 with the statement, "You do deserve to know where people stand." I want to know where you and every member of the City Council Stand on the Ceasefire Resolution. This is a moment in history. A moment where we are witnessing the slaughter of children, women, and men by a military funded by our tax dollars. People will remember this vote.

Don

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



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

Connect on LinkedIn: [Donald Owen](#)

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:18 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 03.04.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public comment.

Last week was a lot. On Monday, airman Aaron Bushnell set himself on fire outside of the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC, after stating: "I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest. But compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

On Thursday, Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinian civilians seeking much-needed food aid, murdering over 100 people just trying to survive as the siege on Gaza starves the population.

On Saturday, over 700 people in Champaign-Urbana came out in peaceful protest to demand an end to the violence. This powerful display of solidarity was marred my violence as an opponent of a ceasefire attacked demonstrators and sent my friend to the hospital with a concussion.

The people of Champaign-Urbana and of the world are tired. Horrific violence has become all too normal, and as Aaron Bushnell stated, this is because our ruling class has decided that it will be normal. But working people refuse to passively accept this horrific state of affairs. That's why hundreds of community members got into the streets this Saturday, and it's why we've been coming back week after week to demand that the city council call for a permanent ceasefire.

After totally rejecting this call at first, the mayor has demanded that different sections of the community come together to write a resolution with broad community support. But that resolution has been in front of the city council this whole time. The original resolution has over 1,300 petition signatures and is supported by Jewish, Muslim, and Palestinian community members.

The new resolution does not represent the community's demands. It is the work of a tiny group that did not include any Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim community members and does not even call for a ceasefire. We can go on and on about how much we support peace, but that alone won't mean or do much. Even the warmongers say they support peace while they keep dropping bombs. That's why we need to be specific and call for a permanent ceasefire.

We'll never get 100% of people to support real action towards peace. The man who violently attacked my friend isn't going to support a ceasefire anytime soon, and that someone who opposes an immediate end to the violence in Gaza would commit an act of violence in Champaign-Urbana shouldn't be surprising, especially when this position is normalized by the council's refusal to pass ceasefire resolution. This is the "other side" the mayor wants supporters of a ceasefire to compromise with.

The Urbana City Council can give into intimidation from the handful of people who oppose a real ceasefire resolution, or they can respond to the calls of over 1,300 community members to be on the right side of history and call for an end to the genocide. Do the right thing and pass a resolution that calls for a permanent ceasefire.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Muna [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:19 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,

My name is Muna Osman and I have lived in CU area for almost 10 years. I am writing today to express my dismay at the watered down ceasefire resolution the city council is proposing, which does not even mention the word ceasefire.

We are now entering 6 months of this war, where Palestinians are being annihilated, with children comprising almost 1/2 of those killed. This is not a war between equal parties, this is a war against children and a starving population. Our country is supplying the weapons that is causing the mass displacement, destruction, and murders of the Palestinian population in a truly genocidal fashion. Our tax dollars are funding this genocide which is leading to a starving population on the brink of famine. There are already reports of children dying from starvation.

Our city needs to vote on a ceasefire resolution that calls for an immediate, permanent, ceasefire so adequate amounts of aid can get in to the vulnerable population in Gaza, hostages can be released, and the displaced Palestinians can return to their homes, despite their homes being demolished with bombs supplied by our government.

Please, stand on the right side of history.

Muna

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Afeefa Ismail <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:46 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.

Dear Urbana City Council,

My name is Afeefa Ismail and I am a CU community member.

I would like the Urbana City Council to call for a proper Ceasefire resolution.

The US supplies the military aid that Israel uses to carry out these deadly acts of genocide against an entire civilian population, including the innocent children who die every 15 mins in Gaza.

VP Harris and Rep. Budzinski have finally shown support for a ceasefire and it is time that the Urbana City Council does the same.

Please...be on the right side of history. Let us join the people of conscience in this world and be a part of the solution.

Thank you,

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** L March <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:53 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,

My name is Lindsay March and I am a CU community member currently living in Urbana. I feel an obligation to write to you about the current peace resolution on the agenda tonight. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution and it does not reflect the voices of the CU community being heard. We have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and I personally have attended city council to make my voice heard and you are not listening to us. We want a ceasefire resolution. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza, there have been over 30,000 civilian deaths. How much is enough? Members of our community have lost their aunts, uncles, grandparents, families in Gaza due to the bombing and violence. I have watched my friends mourn and suffer as their pain is not being recognized by the governing body of their town. Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire. It is imperative that the Urbana City Council supports a permanent and immediate ceasefire. The US supplies bombs, weapons, and fundings of these genocidal attacks so we as citizens of the US must stand against this. If a resolution specifying a ceasefire isn't passed we will continue to show up. The community is behind this and we will not stand down.

Thank you.  
Lindsay March

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Mallika [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:55 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. My name is Mallika and I am a CU community member.

The resolution as it stands is not a ceasefire resolution. Just this weekend, people across the country stepped out in overwhelming support for a decisive end to the needless slaughter of Palestinian civilians. Just this last week, a reported 112 people were killed and 750 injured when IOF troops opened fire on a crowd of innocent civilians desperately trying to receive much needed aid in what is now known as The Flour Massacre, mercilessly and senselessly executing innocents for the crime of starving. This massacre was armed and funded by the United States. Their blood is on our hands.

These people aren't just numbers. They are human beings whose lives have been lost, whose families are in grief, who deserved the chance to eat, to live.

We in CU MUST make it abundantly and explicitly clear that we stand AGAINST these acts of genocide, and openly call for a ceasefire. If we stand together, we can make a meaningful step in ending this horrific massacre of innocent Palestinian lives.

We hope you will take these comments into consideration, and amend the proposed resolution. Thank you.



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Alexandria [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:57 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** daldasouqi@gmail.com  
**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, my name is Alexandria and I am a proud Urbana resident and Parkland College student. I am 27 years old. I grew up in a small town 45 minutes away from here and always dreamt of calling this city my home.

This community is diverse and beautiful, and among us are so many vibrant Palestinians. Imagine how betrayed and unsafe they and Muslim/Middle Eastern people must feel when their leaders turn a blind eye to the suffering in Gaza. You heard of the Flour Massacre, I am certain. Over 700 were wounded and over 100 killed trying to get food for their starving families—brutally attacked by Israel soldiers.

I was proud to march for Palestine this Saturday. I took off work to do so. And I will continue to fight for my fellow humans. And I hope that the city council will open up their eyes and choose to stand with us on the right side of history by demanding a permanent ceasefire.

Thank you,

Alexandria

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Kay Neal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:24 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.

Greetings,

My name is Kay Neal, and I am a member of the CU community.

The resolution you released a draft of is not a ceasefire resolution.

This community wants a ceasefire resolution, and even Rep. Budzinski is finally showing support for a ceasefire after her meeting with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Even V.P. Harris has finally called for a ceasefire.

However, the fact that some representatives of the people are finally doing the right thing is not the point here. Calling for a ceasefire is simply the right, humane, moral thing to do. Eventually, the evil being done by the Israeli government will be stopped. Just as with slavery and with Jim Crow, the U.S. government will get on board with the moral response, and Israel will have its military aid cut off. In the meantime, four Gazan children are slaughtered every hour. Can you really live with that, knowing that it is our government using our taxes to make this happen? We are complicit, all of us, if we do not do everything in our power to stop it.

Please do your part to make this ceasefire happen sooner, not later. Put a real ceasefire resolution to the vote.

Sincerely,

Kay Neal

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Daniel Folger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:26 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.

Good afternoon,

My name is Daniel Folger, and I am a Champaign-Urbana community member. I am aware that the council is to vote on the proposed peace solution concerning Gaza this evening.

I have read the proposed solution - this resolution is however, unfortunately, **not a ceasefire resolution**. What is needed now is decisive language to encourage an end to the bombardment on Gaza, which would necessitate the **explicit naming of a ceasefire**.

After speaking with Muslim, Palestinian and Arab constituents, Representative Budzinski has shown support for a ceasefire. Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning.

I want to express that I firmly believe that what the state/governmental body of a population does has no bearing on the character of its citizens - something which I hear people often confuse, particularly when this issue is raised. I am in no way encouraging the espousing of negative attitudes towards Jewish people when I condemn a government's acts of violence.

What is occurring right now is not a "war" or a "conflict" between two entities of equal power. What the world is witnessing right now constitutes the worst crime that humanity can commit; that is, the systematic elimination of a people with the final aim of total erasure - in other words, a genocide. Individuals such as Aaron Bushnell as well as the self-immolating protester in Atlanta who passed away in early December of last year point to the true horrifying nature of the events that have been unfolding in Gaza.

The bombing of hospitals in northern Gaza and refugee tents in Rafah as well as the sniping of civilians attempting to attain food (e.g. the Flour Massacre) point to the indiscriminate nature of the killing being effected by the Israeli military.

The mass graves, the numbering of unidentified bodies, and the humiliation rituals inflicted on detained Palestinian civilians are a few aspects of this disaster that should be setting off alarm bells in the minds of anybody watching.

At this moment, the Israeli military is considering the invasion of Rafah, where more than a million displaced people are living in tents, in already appalling conditions, to be decided this March 10th. This is a decisive moment in history when everyone has a say in what they will or will not do to try and stop the potential massacre.

Therefore, I hope that the city of Urbana will be able to include a call for a ceasefire in the proposed resolution and be a part of those who decided to say something.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
-Daniel Folger

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** George [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:26 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.

Please read my comment into the record. My name is George and I've lived in this community for some time now, and am deeply concerned at the events of the past few weeks. The stubborn refusal of the Mayor and much of city council to even consider the original ceasefire resolution puts all our communities at risk as Islamophobia continues to be a serious problem largely ignored by the city.

The original ceasefire resolution is supported by a diverse range of community members including Palestinians, Muslims, Jews, Christians: in fact, over 1,000 community members have taken their time to support this resolution. Hundreds more have come to large marches and gone even further: calling for an end to all US aid to Israel.

This new resolution has zero support from the Muslim community or anyone associated with the initial ceasefire draft. Rather than bring us together, putting forth this new resolution is divisive and sends a clear message to the many, many Urbana residents supporting the initial resolution: that you don't care about them. I urge council to consider the will of the constituents and pass a resolution soon that calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Every delay contributes to the mounting death toll in Gaza. Thank you for your time.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Derek Briles <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:33 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.

Please have my comment read into the record.

The resolution being presented to the Committee of the Whole this evening is in no way representative of what community members have been demanding for two months. The people have clearly called for a ceasefire resolution, and what is coming before the council does not mention ceasefire at all.

67% of all Americans want a ceasefire, and nearly 80% of democrats want a ceasefire. Over 1,000 community members signed a petition calling for the passing of the ceasefire resolution presented by Ben Jocleyn on Jan 8. Over 700 CU residents marched on Saturday to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Listen to what your constituents actually want. Do not ignore the voice of the people. Pass a real ceasefire resolution and take a stand against genocide.

Derek Briles  
Urbana Ward 4

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Kate Popetz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:41 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.

My name is Kate Popetz and I am an Urbana resident. The resolution the council has offered is not what our community is asking for. If the council can not stand against the indiscriminate bombing of children in Gaza, what common humanity do we share? If you will not listen to Arab, Palestinian, or Muslim voices, what community do you represent?

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Penny Hanna <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:57 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.

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I have been a resident of Urbana since 1986 and of Champaign since 1967.  
I taught in the Urbana School District 116 for more than 30 years.

Today I want to stress the pending resolution on the Israel - Hamas conflict in Palestine, which must be reworded to include a call for an immediate ceasefire. Without that no negotiations, or prisoner/hostage exchanges, or humanitarian aid can occur. The process of peace- making cannot begin until the violent attacks on the civilians in Gaza ends.

It is essential to follow the lead of many other groups or individuals which have lobbied for the ceasefire. This includes our Congressional Rep. Nikki Budzinski, Kamala Harris, the United Nations, and the local Urbana- Champaign Jews for Ceasefire, The Muslim Action Committee of CIMC, the Unitarian Universalist Church, to mention just a few

The Crisis of death, starvation, and total suffering of the Palestinian families in Gaza is astounding. The attacks on Israeli citizens were horrific, but in proportion to the 30,000 fatalities in the ensuing military action being taken in response, is certainly leading to calls of ethnic cleansing, genocide and international war crimes.

This disaster is affecting the next 3 generations of Gaza and all of Israel and the region. Hence the voices of Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims must be considered in the writing and the decision-making about this pending resolution.

As a Jewish person I have been taught to respect the human rights of all people, and I have spent more than 60 years of my life working to achieve peace and nonviolent social change, for civil rights, for women's rights which have been attacked most recently, protesting authoritarian governments such as Apartheid South Africa, and unjust incarceration due to racism. Therefore in my mind pursuing the cause of Palestinian liberation will only improve the peace and security for all of the people of Israel, not just the Jews.

Please support the recommended rewrite of this resolution.

With regard to Peace,  
Penny Hanna

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Penny Hanna  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt Turino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:57 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.

Dear City Council,

My name is Matt Turino, a lifelong resident of Urbana and part of ward 5. The Israeli brutal and inhumane bombardment and cutting off of basic human needs from the people of Palestine is barbaric. The fact that our country so squarely stands behind this atrocity is yet another reason that I am ashamed to be called an American. I love this town, but this is a moment where I feel ashamed to be a resident of Urbana. This community has been asking you to pass a resolution of a basic and inoffensive thing; that we as a community want the killing to stop. That we as a community call for there to be an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the opening of the Palestinian border so that desperately needed food, water and medical supplies can get to people who desperately need it.

The current resolution says nothing about a ceasefire. VP Harris and Representative Budzinski have now called for a ceasefire and the city of Urbana has not been able to agree to do this. Please pass a resolution that shows our humanity and empathy for people who are powerless and in constant danger of being actively killed or purposefully starved to death. The United States of America is funding and supplying the weapons for this war and we are shielding Israel at every turn, it is important that we show the world that our community does not stand for this. Call for Ceasefire now and forever.

Thank you for your time,  
Matt Turino



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matthew Heinrichs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:58 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.

Greetings,

My name is Matthew Heinrichs and I am a member of the CU community. I am emailing to express my concern with the mayor's proposed statement on the situation in Gaza. This statement falls far short of an actual ceasefire statement and is a slap in the face to organizers who previously submitted a real ceasefire statement which has the support of over 1000 members of the CU community. I am also concerned because Muslim, Arab, and most importantly Palestinian members of the community are not being consulted, despite being the most affected by the violence. I am disappointed that it took the mayor and city council so long to wake up and realize that action was needed, and that it took CU community members leveling personal attacks at one another to realize that city leadership's inaction is driving the community farther apart. I encourage you to sit and grieve with members of your community who have lost dozens of family members and take seriously their concerns. We need to demand that the US government stop using our tax dollars to support apartheid and genocide.

Do what is right, not what is easy.

Matthew

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Jasper Nord <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:01 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment on 3.4: It is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

I am Jasper Nord, a UIUC student and a community member in Champaign Urbana.

I am emailing out of concern for the resolution being voted on tonight. This resolution is no longer a ceasefire resolution, although it should be. Currently, a child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes. A child being killed every day is too many children being killed. This carnage and murder of innocents is abhorable, and must be ended immediately.

After 8 weeks of constituents calling for this and being ignored, it feels like far too little to now be pushing a resolution that does not even mention ceasefire. This is despite the recent support for such actions by Representative Budzinski and, as of today, Vice President Kamala Harris.

The violence abroad would NOT be possible without the financial and material support of the US political apparatus, and in light of the extents of the human rights being violated by Israel in Gaza, this aid must be stopped immediately, and there must be a call for full and lasting ceasefire internationally. We are the last holdouts, and it is shameful.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Jasper Nord

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Emily B. [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:03 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.

My name is Emily B. and I am a CU community member. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution! Did you know a CHILD is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. While the US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. The community had been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us, we want a ceasefire resolution! Especially one that actually uses the word ceasefire! The people have every right to call on their local governments to recognize the needs of the majority. We call on you now. The City of Urbana might not have control over the war, but the council has complete control over whether they recognize the voices of the people they've been elected to represent.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Izzy Scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:10 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.

To whom it may concern,

Please read my comment out during public comment.

My name is Izzy Scott, and I'm a CU community member. While I couldn't attend the meeting tonight, I still found it important to send in a comment in lieu of speaking in person.

The proposed "peace resolution" is NOT a ceasefire resolution. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. Millions of Palestinians are starving to death in Rafah as the threat of an Israeli ground invasion looms over them. Should this ground invasion go through, it will be unbelievably catastrophic; unlike anything we've seen over that 150+ days. A ceasefire is of utmost importance in saving lives.

US Serviceman Aaron Bushnell self-immolated in a powerful protest against the US' involvement in Gaza. Vice President Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire. Representative Budzinski has shown support for a ceasefire after meeting with Arab and Palestinian constituents. It is our duty as US Americans that we do all we can to protest and decry the US' military and financial support of Israel.

C-U must call for a ceasefire and pass a ceasefire resolution. There is no peace without ending military operations.

— Izzy Scott

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Berry Zhang <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:21 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.

Please have my comment read into the record.

Hello, my name is Berry and I am a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. I am beyond disappointed at the resolution that has been put forth by the Urbana city council. This is not a ceasefire resolution, since it does not explicitly call for a permanent and immediate ceasefire. Even after eight consecutive weeks of pressure at the city council meetings, you still have not passed a resolution that effectively calls for an end of the genocide in Palestine. Every fifteen minutes, a child is killed in Gaza, brutally murdered by the IOF, and by continuing to fund the genocide of Palestinian people and not passing a resolution explicitly calling for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine, you are complicit in this highly immoral ethnic cleansing. We are imploring you to listen to your constituents and pass an actual ceasefire resolution.

Sincerely,  
Berry Zhang

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** KJ Naum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:27 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.

My name is KJ Naum and I live in Urbana. I am writing in support of a ceasefire resolution. The proposed resolution needs to reflect the need for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in those terms. Leadership of our local region (Rep. Budzinski) and nationally (Kamala Harris), to name a few, are in support of a ceasefire in Gaza. This is supported by large numbers in our community as well. The horrific and ongoing genocide of Gaza residents, including children, is a result of US funding and weapons. Please support a ceasefire in the strongest terms possible. Thank you.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:43 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3/4/24: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please have my comment read into the record.

The Urbana city council has repeatedly refused to listen to their residents when it comes to a ceasefire resolution in Palestine. The resolution being proposed is not a compromise between differing views, it is a dishonest attempt to quiet dissent against Zionism and racism.

Explicitly calling for a ceasefire is something that most Americans agree on. The more we continue to call for a ceasefire here the more likely the killing and wanton destruction being levied against Palestinians will stop.

We should not be paying for chaos and killing overseas or anywhere. Do what is correct and call for a stop to this violence.

-Matt Soyland

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ehlinger, Sam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:56 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.

Dear City Council,

My name is Sam Ehlinger, and I'm a community member here in Urbana. I'm emailing to give my feedback on the ceasefire resolution. Simply put, this resolution is not the ceasefire resolution the community has asked for. More than 30,000 people in Gaza have been killed. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire resolution after speaking with constituents and we expect our local leaders to do the same. The US supplies the bombs, weapons and funding to these genocidal attacks. What side of history do we want to be on? How can we as a community not speak out against such senseless death and destruction? Please put a ceasefire resolution on the table that our community can support.

Best regards,  
Sam Ehlinger



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:57 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] Public Comment 3.4: This is not a ceasefire resolution

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Cale. I live in Urbana, and I work in Downtown Champaign. This is my home. My entire family lives here, I have finally found community here. I have the enormous privilege of sleeping at night knowing my family is safe.

The same cannot be said for citizens OF THIS CITY who have lost and continue to lose loved ones in Gaza. At LEAST 30,000 people have been murdered. That is a conservative and incomplete count, as the systems in Gaza are crumbling under bombardment. At least 30,000 people. The population of Urbana is around 38,336 people according to the 2020 census.

Our tax dollars are paying for this bloodshed. This isn't complicated. This is a historic atrocity that will be looked back on with SHAME for our apathy, inaction, and complacency in mass murder. This must stop. The very least we can do is to collectively call for a PERMANENT CEASEFIRE. This isn't a debate, this is genocide.

Thank you.

Free Palestine

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Timothy Chen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 7:44 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Urbana City Council Public Comment March 4th, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Timothy Chen and I am an Urbana resident. Before moving to Urbana, I was a resident of New Orleans for 22 years.

My only comment would be to make it clear to the audience that Israel has American blood on its hands.

On January 20th it was reported by the Associated Press that an American teenager from New Orleans, Tawfiq Ajaq, passed away in the West Bank territory after being shot in the head and chest by an Israeli off duty officer.

If Hamas had killed an American citizen in this conflict this would be the biggest headline of the decade, even the century, but as it stands the US has not much more to say than they're "investigating".

I believe at bare minimum we should all be fighting for a ceasefire- so that we may respect the life and loss of one of my fellow New Orleanians, and the lives and loss of everyone else in the conflict which seems to only escalate by day.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lane To <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 7:49 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 3/4/2024: This is not a ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Lane To, and I have been living in CU since 2021.

A ceasefire resolution should not be a hot button issue. Regardless of which side of the conflict you fall on, you must recognize there is simply no road to peace without a ceasefire. Not just a "humanitarian pause", but an IMMEDIATE, PERMANENT ceasefire. A resolution that does not explicitly name this objective is pointless. The current resolution is NOT a ceasefire resolution. I urge you all not to pass the resolution as it stands today. Go back to the original resolution and support a TRUE ceasefire. Thank you.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Teresa [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 8:00 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.

Dear city council,

My name is Teresa and I am a community member of UC. I want a ceasefire resolution as the recent resolution is not. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza. We have been coming to the city council for 8 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. VP Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning. The US supplied the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks.

Please act now,  
Teresa

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matthew Peek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 8:09 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.

1. I am a CU community member.
2. This resolution is not a ceasefire resolution.
3. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza.
4. We have been coming to city council for 8 weeks now and you are not listening to us, we want a ceasefire resolution.
5. Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents.
6. Kamala Harris has called for a ceasefire just this morning.
7. The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks

Matthew E. Peek  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Emily Shirilla <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 8:30 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] Public Comment 3.4: This is not a ceasefire resolution

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear members of city council,

While I was unable to attend tonight's meeting, I must take the time to express my comments coinciding with the dedicated, compassionate commitment members who participated in person.

We must be an explicit call for a permanent ceasefire to the extreme genocide happening in Gaza. Community activists have been calling for this motion from city council for now 2 months. This is 2 months long that civilians have continued to go dying of starvation and murder. At least half of these deaths are children, one killed every 15 months. 2 months Israel has continued this violence with US tax dollars.

Vice President Kamala Harris has herself called for an immediate ceasefire, admitting to the immensity of this crisis. Representative Budzinski has done the same after efforts to speak with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. I implore the Urbana City Council to do the same.

Enough is enough.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Boldrick, Julia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 8:41 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.

Please read my comment aloud during the council meeting.

Hello,

My name is Julia Boldrick and I am a resident of Urbana-Champaign. I am writing to express my disappointment with the council's decision to not consider the original ceasefire resolution despite widespread and consistent support throughout the community.

The new resolution being considered is not a ceasefire resolution and is not an adequate replacement for the original resolution that the council never even voted on. I would like to know why this resolution immediately is being voted on, with the original never having gotten that far despite being introduced to the council much earlier.

This is not a replacement. Voting on this does not excuse your inaction and refusal to vote on the original resolution. If the point of hastily pushing this resolution through is to quiet or appease the people in this community who support a ceasefire, then it's a miscalculation. We will keep coming. It's not going to go away until we explicitly and clearly call for a ceasefire and condemn the genocide being perpetrated by the US and Israel on the people of Palestine.

Immediately accepting an AT BEST incredibly diluted rewrite with no backbone just looks cowardly. Though incredibly late, the numbers of people calling for a ceasefire globally and nationally is only growing. Even Kamala Harris and Rep. Budzinski at this point. They've learned and found their moral compass, and though it's taken too long, it's not too late to find yours. Call EXPLICITLY for a ceasefire. EXPLICITLY condemn this genocide. Respectfully, read the room.

You work for the people of this community. You were elected by these people. Your responsibility is to listen to us and vote in OUR interest. If you don't have the courage to do so then maybe reconsider being on this council. And I'm sure it's difficult to be in your position. I don't envy your responsibility. But doing what's right is usually the more difficult option. Please do the right thing. Free Palestine. Ceasefire now.

Thank you,  
Julia Boldrick

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Hildegard Luijten <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 9:00 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.

Good evening,

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

This new revised resolution is not a ceasefire resolution. It needs to explicitly call for a permanent ceasefire.

The US supplies the bombs, weapons, and funding of these genocidal attacks. A child is killed every 15 minutes in Gaza, and our tax dollars contribute to this.

Representative Budzinski has finally shown support for a ceasefire after speaking with Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents. Please join them. Please join us.

Sincerely,  
Hildegard Luijten



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Mark Band <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:38 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 3-4-2024

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear city council members,

I would like to express our full support of the newly proposed resolution concerning the ongoing conflict in Gaza as published in the News Gazette on March 1st. Following the increased tensions and emotional outcry as expressed at the recent city council meetings and local demonstrations this compromise resolution will hopefully help bring the community together while still expressing concerns from all sectors. It is my hope that the local communities can keep dialog civil so that we can all continue to support each other in times of stress.

Sincerely,

Mark Band  
Savoy Illinois

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Alan Cook <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input March 4, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Council Members,

My name is Alan Cook, and I am the rabbi of Sinai Temple in southwest Champaign, the only full-service synagogue in Champaign County. I write as a leader in the Jewish community, and also to express my own opinions. I strongly urge the passage of Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace, with the language as it currently stands, as soon as possible.

While it would have been my preference that such issues not occupy the business of the Urbana City Council, if indeed your body is to consider a resolution in this matter, I applaud the efforts of the authors to achieve a compromise position so that Urbana can promote peace in the Middle East (and throughout the world) and we can begin to bring healing to our community. To further prolong the discussion invites an escalation of the vitriol that has been evident in public comment sessions since January 8. The rhetoric we have seen runs counter to the stated goals of advocating for peace in our world, and has sown great divisiveness within our community. No one resolution is going to fully satisfy all parties who feel strongly about this situation, but I appreciate the attempt at a compromise, and I hope the council will pass the resolution.

I ask that this email be read into the record for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 4, 2024

With sincere thanks,

Rabbi Alan Cook

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Tania Ionin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] public input in support of current resolution for the end of the Gaza war  
**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and city council members:

I am writing to express my support for the 'Resolution calling for the end of the Gaza War and a lasting peace' that is provided in the March 4 meeting agenda packet. I believe that this resolution is a successful compromise between different views in the community, and I encourage you to pass it in its current form, and not consider any further changes to it.

Thank you,  
Tania Ionin

President (2022-2024)  
Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Esther Patt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:41 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 3-4-2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members:

Please vote in favor of "A Resolution Calling for the End of the War in Gaza and a Lasting Peace" as presented in the packet for the March 4, 2024 meeting – without any amendments or changes. This resolution addresses the desire for peace that is shared by most people engaged in debate about the Hamas-Israeli War and is focused on your most important duty as city council members – to promote the wellbeing of residents of Urbana.

I don't know if passage of this Resolution will stop the use of your weekly meetings as a forum for an unresolvable debate between people of opposing views; but you can reduce the possibility of that happening by refraining from making amendments that will lead to discussion that is divisive.

Thank you for your service on city council which has been especially challenging these last two months. I appreciate the time you devote and am so very sorry for the stress you must endure.

Esther Patt  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Mitch Harris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 9:06 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT March 4, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

This is Mitchell Harris and I live in the City Council Ward 1.

I am writing in support of "Resolution No. 2024-03-013R: A Resolution Calling for the End of the Gaza War and a Lasting Peace."

In principle, I oppose the Urbana City Council passing judgment on International affairs, nevertheless, I reluctantly support this resolution as a compromise to reach out for peace in the Urbana community.

I urge the Urbana City Council to guard against needing to answer to the loudest voices in the room, especially those who promote divisiveness and hate.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ruth Kantorovitz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 10:34 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT Read Aloud; CC meeting 3/4/2024; 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 am in support of the Peace Resolution **as written in the agenda packet** and encourage you to pass it. I urge the city council members **not to make any changes** to the resolution and vote no to such amendments.

At the last meeting, on February 26, the Mayor gave the charge to Stav to bring the City Council a joint community resolution. The Mayor said: "I had hoped that the community could come together to have a discussion...I appreciate Stav's leadership and offering to do that. We will work with him and whoever works with him."

This resolution is the outcome of that joint effort where people from both sides of the conflict were willing to brave their differences, find their commonalities, and reach compromises. It was hard work to agree on the current wording. As with all compromises, this resolution is not what either side wanted originally. Even words such as ceasefire vs peace needed negotiation. The City Council members should honor the efforts of these community members and not change any words in the resolution.

Amendments to the current resolution would damage and discourage the community efforts to start a dialogue and build bridges. Any changes will ignite another wave of toxic Urbana City Council meetings and hate in the community. If this resolution is amended, I would urge you to reject it or not vote on it at all.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kantorovitz  
Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Elliot Weinberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input March 4, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I write with regard to the Resolution before the Urbana City Council concerning the confrontation between Israel and Gaza.

I encourage the Council to vote for its approval.

I believe that it is important to settle this matter which has provoked so much attention and conflict in the city.

We must do what we can to create an atmosphere which allows the citizens of this community to live together peacefully in an atmosphere of good will.

Sincerely yours,  
Elliot Weinberg

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Robert [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:43 PM  
**To:** !City Council; ! Wu, Maryalice  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Out Loud March 4 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Member Wu and the rest of the Urbana City Council,

I am a constituent in Ward 1. I have watched in shock over the last several weeks as the unruliness in council chambers and the abusiveness being hurled towards council members and community members has unfolded. It is understandable that the community is divided on an issue like Israel and Palestine, but we are allowing these divisions on a political level to seep into the personal level where they do not belong. I am not Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, or Palestinian, but as a lifelong resident of Urbana, I simply want our community to come together over shared values. It looks to me as though the resolution on the agenda tonight calling for peace achieves that. I hope you will pass it without any modifications, because it is time that we move forward. Spending more time debating the resolution's language will only contribute to the anger we've seen on display for the last 2 months.

Thank you,  
Robert



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lauren [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Out Loud 3/4/2024 Resolution for Peace

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

As a constituent in the ward of Chris Evans, I ask that you vote for the resolution as written, without further modifications. I want to thank the Urbana City Council and Mayor Marlin, for your hard work and attentiveness to this issue. The new resolution was thoughtful, respectful and a good representation of our community.

I look forward to moving forward.

Peace

Lauren

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Kathryn Weisbaum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 3/4/2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please approve the Resolution ...for Peace.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:18 PM  
**To:** ! Kolisetty, Jaya; !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Aloud March 4 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Councilor Kolisetty and the Urbana City Council,

As a Jewish member of Ward 4 and a lifelong citizen of the city of Urbana, I want to express my support for the resolution calling for a peaceful solution in Gaza. We've heard so much blatant antisemitism at the city council meetings ever since this issue was brought to the table, and I fear that further discussion will only add fuel to the fire. As someone who wants to see an end to the division in our community, I hope you will pass the compromise resolution as it is currently written.

Thank you

[REDACTED] (Please leave my name anonymous)

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Rosa Druker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:30 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 3.4

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am an Urbana resident, mediator, and member of the Jewish community. I am also a member of UC Jews for Ceasefire. I am writing to express my concern that the amended resolution proposed regarding the war in Gaza.

This resolution does not call for a ceasefire, which is what the community has explicitly been advocating for for months. While I recognize that this is a difficult and uncomfortable spot for our Urbana leadership to be in, speaking on such serious international issues, I feel that it is time to do what is right and leverage your voices against the violence and extreme harm being done to Palestinian people.

The resolution, as written, does truly reflect the urgency and extreme nature of this situation. Over 30,000 Palestinians have lost their lives.

Please amend the language in the resolution to reflect this by including a call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire.

Yours truly,

Rosa Druker

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sara [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 3/4/2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please pass the resolution asking for peace in the Middle East as it is!

Sara Druker

Sent from my iPhone

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ayelet [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 5:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT meeting on 3/4/2024; Topic: In support of the Peace Resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

The Urbana community is undergoing difficult times due to disagreements/differences in opinions of citizens on international matters, and in particular the Gaza-Israel conflict.

These disagreements are difficult to bridge over, yet the recent updated resolution provides a descent solution/compromise of both sides allowing the Urbana City Council to vote on the matter and redirect its attention to other matters that are more pressing for advancing our local community.

Thus, we urge the city council members not to make any changes to the peace resolution and vote 'no' to such amendments.

Amendments to the current peace resolution would damage and discourage the community efforts to start a dialogue and build bridges. Any changes will ignite another wave of toxic Urbana City Council meetings and hate in the community.

If this resolution is amended, we would urge you to reject it or not vote on it at all.

Thank you for your attention,

Arnon and Ayelet  
Residents of Urbana

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Steven Rosenberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public+Input+3/4/2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I AM FULLY IN FAVOR OF PASSING THIS RESOLUTION.  
STEVEN ROSENBERG

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Diane Ore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:33 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

We want to congratulate the courageous members of our community who came together with patience, wisdom and compassion to draft the resolution for peace being considered at tonight's Urbana City Council meeting. Any resolution affecting parties in the Middle East conflict must be balanced and measured if it is to lead to lasting peace in the region and democratic self-determination of all people.

As much as we would like to think that the words of those in Urbana, IL will reach and influence the ears of world leaders, we do strongly believe that the behavior of our citizens toward each other can ultimately influence the world.

Two great tragedies in our community have arisen as a result of the Middle East conflict:

1. The disintegration of good will between local American Jews and American Muslims, and
2. The stirring of anti-Semitic and Islamophobic sentiment in the larger community.

For these reasons, we strongly support the adoption of the Resolution before the Urbana City Council this evening.

Rob and Diane Ore

Citizens of Champaign, Illinois



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Mick Woolf <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:48 PM  
**To:** Mick Woolf; !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Out Loud 3/4/24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a constituent in Chris Evans' ward.

The resolution before the Council is non-binding, and one that still remains outside of the Council's charge in my view. However, since the Council is indeed attempting to respond to the many concerns expressed over these last two months, I urge the Council to let the resolution that has been submitted to the agenda to stand as it is.

Once changes begin to be made, there will be no end to the editing and the Council opens everything up once again to recriminations on all sides. As it stands, no one side is fully getting what they want, and there are aspects that may be difficult to accept, yet on the whole, on the balance, it is a good faith effort to bring together what we should all share in common: our humanity, self determination, and efforts toward peace.

A resolution calling for peace seems to be deeper than a truce or a ceasefire.

The death, destruction, the devastation and ravages of war, the effect on real people and their lives, are beyond comprehension.

We need humanitarian pauses and delivery of urgently needed supplies, and a release of all the hostages taken from Israel.

You now have a resolution, on the agenda, from some community members, who were at least willing to come together, to focus on the commonalities, who are calling for PEACE, something BEYOND the symbolic term of "ceasefire", which has to many, become politicized, a resolution, which has no impact on the actual situation, and yet has a great effect on the many communities locally.

I am all in favor of coining a new term. A PEACE-FIRE.

I urge you to consider the efforts to bring at least two sides together, and to offer something to the local community to acknowledge the tragedy and far reaching implications of this ongoing, and current situation in both Gaza and Israel. Please vote yes on the resolution before you entitled:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE END OF THE GAZA WAR AND A LASTING PEACE

Mick Woolf  
Urbana Resident

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Benjamin Cosman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 7:27 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Aloud 3/4/24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Benjamin Cosman, I'm an Urbana resident from Ward 7, and I'm here to support the resolution for peace that is on your agenda - \*as written, with no changes\*. I still believe there should be no resolution at all since foreign policy isn't city business. And if there has to be a resolution but I were writing it, it would look quite different: it would drop the false parallels between the sides, and it would call for the dismantlement of Hamas. But you shouldn't pass \*my\* resolution because you represent Urbana, not just me. And that's why you \*should\* pass the exact resolution on your table, even though I don't like it. That resolution was the result of a lengthy and civil discussion between Urbana residents from both sides, which is a far better way to choose the wording than anything I've heard in this forum with its angry 3-minute speeches and no true dialog. So please, don't modify this text and overrule the one civil compromise the two sides could make. Pass it unchanged, or pass nothing at all. Thank you.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Arielle Weinstein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT

**Importance:** Low

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***  
Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members,

I urge you not to pass the resolution **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE END OF THE GAZA WAR AND A LASTING PEACE.**

The Urbana City Council should not make resolutions on international matters.

How this resolution, albeit an amended and improved version of the original, came to be was through a singling out of Israel and Jews. There are no other resolutions denouncing the horrific acts perpetrated by Hamas or any number of other torturous, murderous acts around the world. The singling out of Israel and Jews is, by definition, hate.

The existence of this resolution is a singling out of Jews and is motivated by, and full of, hate.

Please do not vote for this resolution.

Thank you,  
Arielle Weinstein