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**DATE:** Monday, January 8, 2024  
**TIME:** 6:58 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:58 p.m.

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Shirese Hursey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Mitten

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6:58p.m.

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

None.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

*Mayor Marlin* made a statement regarding the presentation on “**Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM’s Wilken and Evans**” clarifying that the presentation was not initiated by the City of Urbana’s administration and that there were no draft resolutions submitted to City Council. Noted that there cannot be any votes or official action taken regarding this matter tonight. Requested that the sponsors of this agenda item withdraw it from City Council and seek an external venue to discuss this item due to it not being considered City business, there being no possibility of a productive outcome, and that this item ultimately will not have any impact on the issue itself. *CM Evans* moved to change the discussion to a 10 minute presentation under **Presentations and Public Input** following the **Fire Promotions** presentation on the agenda. *CM Wilken* seconded this motion, striking item K from the agenda.

**4. Presentations and Public Input**

**a. Fire Promotions**

Presented by *Demond Dade*. Provided background on the promotion process within the Fire Department. Celebrated the promotions of *Lieutenant Timothy Maross* and *Battalion Chief Mark Ashby*. *Michael Wallace* assisted with the pinning ceremony for *Lieutenant Timothy Maross* and *Kim Ashby* assisted with the pinning ceremony for *Battalion Chief Mark Ashby*.

**b. Presentation: Champaign County Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless - Katie Harmon, LCSW**

Presented by **Katie Harmon** and **Breaden Belcher**. Presented in response to the Council Strategic Area 2, Housing Goal 1-C (Coordinate with Housing and Social Service Agencies to Reduce Homelessness in Our Community). Shared background behind Champaign County Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless (CSPH) and what a Continuum of Care is. Explained the purpose and provided the mission statement of CSPH. Provided insight on who participates in CSPH. Shared strategic planning priorities and areas of focus. Provided contact information for further questions through either [kharmon@ccrhc.org](mailto:kharmon@ccrhc.org) or 217-239-5942. Questions and discussion ensued.

**c. Presentation: Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn**

Presented by **Ben Joselyn**. Shared background on purpose of presentation and recent events that spurred the creation of this proposal. Cited statistics on death tolls and United States government military aid given to Israel as well as recent vetoes from the United States on ceasefire measures presented in the UN security council and UN as a whole. Stated relevance to Urbana community and what measures could be taken toward calling for peace. Shared a link to a proposed ceasefire resolution for consideration <http://tinyurl.com/bdzzxyzw>. Further questions and discussion ensued.

**d. Public Input**

**Dua Aldasouqi** shared her lived experience as a member of the Palestinian diaspora and her reactions to the catastrophes in Palestine. Cited statistics on death tolls, bombs dropped, starvation, people displaced, and homes destroyed. Requested City Council to take whatever action it could to help contribute to decrying all forms of genocide, ending the genocide in Palestine, and calling for a ceasefire. **Marc Snir** decried actions taken by Hamas on 10-07-2023 as an act of barbarism. Noted that politicians in Israel have a desire to remove Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Stated that a ceasefire would leave Israel defenseless to future attacks from Hamas. Expressed that a ceasefire resolution by the City of Urbana would be of no use and would only serve to raise tension within the City of Urbana, encouraging Islamophobia and antisemitism. **Dana Anastasia** spoke in support of ceasefire resolution presentation. Expressed belief that the City of Urbana should use its power to function as a voice for peace. Shared family history as a Greek Christian whose family had fled from Turkey due to the Armenian genocide. Read poem by Hiba Abu Nada, Palestinian poet and educator, written on 10-07-2023, titled "I Grant You Refuge". Mourned death of Hiba Abu Nada which occurred on 10-20-2023 due to a raid conducted by Israeli forces. **Bara Saadah** shared support for a ceasefire resolution and mourned the loss of 10 family members who resided in Gaza. Spoke on emotional connection to the resolution and its relevance to the community of the City of Urbana. Pleaded for City Council to take any action possible to help stop the indiscriminate killing of children and innocent lives in Palestine. **Patsy Powell** stated that the issue being spoken on tonight is neither a war or a conflict due to the one-sided power imbalance, but it should be defined as a genocide. Pointed out that this issue is not a Muslim issue, but a humanitarian issue that is tied to political agendas which sets a dangerous precedent for other powerful governments. Expressed importance of calling for a ceasefire within any level of government. **Walid Jazem** echoed Patsy Powell's statements and stated that the issue is with Zionism, but not religion. Questioned why the United States sends funding to Israel for the purpose of bombs. Expressed disbelief at President Biden stating that he is a Zionist. Pleaded for City Council to use their conscience to support a ceasefire resolution. Frustratedly questioned why money from taxes are being sent to Israel as military aid. **Mark Ansel** stated that those in the room have not yet heard the whole story of the tragedy in the Middle-East. Expressed his understanding of City Council

elected officials are only elected to deliberate on issues regarding the City of Urbana. Shared belief that the City of Urbana should only deal with issues regarding the City itself. Stated that the efforts put into the ceasefire resolution will only serve to please one half of the City and anger the other half. Disagreed with this time being spent on international issues and believes that any decision made will have no impact on international relationships. **Jake McGinty** shared personal experiences with antisemitism as a Jewish person. Clarified that denouncing the actions of the Israeli government is not an antisemitic act. Stated that Israel is weaponizing valid Jewish fears as a moral cover to the atrocities it is committing against Palestinians. Expressed distress and rage felt at the normalized assumption that all Jewish people support the actions of Israel. Shared how terrifying ideas and actions must be actively opposed at every level. Pled to City of Urbana to denounce intolerable acts and unify the community by doing so. **Elizabeth Soderopelos** read "It's Also Fine" by Palestinian poet, Mourid Barghouti. Spoke on how she has watched in horror of the escalation of violence in Palestine. Pled to City Council to find the courage to vote unanimously for a ceasefire resolution. **Luke Lee** spoke in favor a ceasefire resolution. Expressed disappointment in Mayor Marlin's statements during the Additions to the Agenda. Read "Fuck Your Lecture on Craft, My People are Dying" by Noor Hindi. Called upon the people of the City of Urbana to call for a ceasefire. **Azil** shared his personal experiences as an Israeli on 10-07-2023. Expressed how he felt the concept of a ceasefire resolution is absurd. **Josh** shared his personal experience of being in Jerusalem on 10-07-2023. Disturbed by the idea of City Council considering a ceasefire resolution and does not consider this to be City business. Spoke on how a ceasefire is not wanted by either Israel or Hamas. Questioned why no ceasefire resolution was called for various conflicts within several countries. Asked why City Council has not commented on antisemitic incidents in Urbana. Requested City Council to stick to their role as defined in their mission statement. **Matthew Murray** voiced that he strongly supports City Council in putting forward a ceasefire resolution. Dismayed by how a ceasefire could be considered more favorable to one side over another. Expressed displeasure regarding Mayor Marlin's comments made during the Additions to the Agenda. Stated how the United States should scrutinize how military arms provided by the United States are used. Pleaded to City Council and public to call for a ceasefire. **Tania Ionin** impartially stated that it is not City Council business to pass a resolution on international matters and how it would have no purpose. Expressed belief that City Council should focus on more local matters. **Sarah Blanco** spoke in favor of a ceasefire resolution and shared her personal experience having visited Palestine. Encouraged City to view the suit from South Africa charging Israel of having committed genocide. Requested the City Council to listen to its constituents and support them by passing a ceasefire resolution. **Takeya Alamin** called for a ceasefire resolution to be passed by City Council on behalf of her personally known Palestinian friends and students. **George** spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution. Framed atrocities in Palestine using local geographic contextual references. Quoted Israeli official communications denying the existence of a genocide and boasting on success of their bombings. Cited current state of segregation within Israel codified through their laws and legislation. Called upon City Council to represent their constituents properly by calling for a ceasefire resolution. **Lily Wright** expressed support for a ceasefire resolution, stating that another 2/3rds of Americans do as well. Pointed to the impact on the Urbana community that the genocide has caused as reason for the City of Urbana to echo the concerns of their constituents by calling for a ceasefire. **Jane McClintock** mentioned the points made by a previous speaker regarding the death tolls in Gaza being similar to 2/3rds the population of Urbana. Stated that this issue is relevant to City Council because of the City of Urbana's diverse population. Expressed how calling for peace through a ceasefire would do more to unify the community rather than dividing it. **Steven McGuire** wished to address concerns regarding housing developments for unhouse people. Cited personal experience with being unhoused and stated how having basic needs met acts as harm mitigation. Expressed opportunity for community healing through calling for a necessary ceasefire. Spoke on danger of assumptions that correlate the viewpoint of Israel to those of Jewish people worldwide. Called for a ceasefire to be supported with the end

goal of stopping the cycle of violence. **Chris Zelly** spoke on what the purpose of the ceasefire resolution could be and whether it falls under City Council purview. Called upon the City of Urbana to amplify the voices of its constituency so that their pleas for ceasefire can be heard through higher levels of government. Cited experiences of antisemitism caused by Zionism from Jewish brothers and sisters. Stated Islamophobia is of major concern and should be of concern to City Council as well. **Maxwell Haynes** voiced support for ceasefire amendment and echoed earlier support. Disappointed by lack of mention for prior international conflicts. Expressed need for call of immediate cessation of hostilities from City Council. Called for an end to all colonization around the world. **Caite Kruiswyk** spoke in support of today's ceasefire resolution presented to the City Council. Cited historic oppression Palestine has faced from Israel as a reason for the urgency for action. Questioned if City Council valued human life. **Ben Theobald** quoted murder of a 6 year-old Palestinian-American in Plainfield, Illinois to show that these international matters pertain to the City of Urbana and City Council. Estimated 66% of Americans and 80% of Democrats are in support of a call for a ceasefire. Disagreed with statements made by Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski regarding Israel being justified in their actions and statements made by Governor J.B. Pritzker saying that Illinois stands behind Israel. Requested City Council support the ceasefire resolution. **Shauna Miller** thanked City Council for considering a ceasefire resolution and hopes for continued cooperation moving forward. Stated that Israel is undeniably conducting a genocide through their bombings and military actions. Called for City Council to call for a ceasefire with massive urgency and for America to withdraw from aiding in genocides. **Stuart Levy** shared personal experience as an American Jewish person who has visited Israel in the past. Stated that conflict between Israel and Palestine is escalating into becoming a genocide that is recognized by people worldwide. Supported ceasefire resolution terms stating that the violence must come to a stop. Stated relevance of this conflict to Americans and the City of Urbana is that it is directly fueled by federal taxes, American political support, and American manufactured weaponry. Hoped that if anything were to arise from the conflict, it would be a push for peace processes to begin. **Marcie Goldstein** stated that ceasefires are not productive as it provides opportunity for Hamas to regroup and continue attacking Israel. Stated disapproval of indiscriminate bombing, but says they were justified due to Hamas tunnels, funded by humanitarian aid, being located directly under buildings such as schools, hospitals, and large apartment buildings. Called for an end to Hamas' tunnelling and does not believe a ceasefire is a solution. **Lee DeVille** requested City Council reject the ceasefire resolution on the grounds of it not being business of the City, there not being a chance that this resolution has any impact on the conflict itself, and that the resolution will only serve to harm the local community. **Karmel** shared his understanding and opinion of the tensions between Israel and Palestine. Stated that the conflict is a war between Hamas and Israel that was instigated by Hamas on 10-07-2023. Shared background on Hamas and its political history within Gaza. **Ron Kester** quoted reported death tolls of Gaza. Stated that military actions taken by Israel are more fitting to be considered as genocide rather than warfare. Recited quote from Dr Hammam Alloh on hopes for the future of Palestine and the people of Palestine. Implored City Council to support a permanent ceasefire, denounce the genocide conducted by Israel, and call for a long term solution to the conflict between Israel, Gaza, and neighboring nations. **Maian Weinberg** spoke on emotional toll taken by the local Jewish community due to the on-going conflict between Israel and Palestine. Requested City Council to listen to the voices of Jewish, City of Urbana residents and the input received through emails. Questioned effectiveness of discussion of a ceasefire resolution within City Council. Declared that a ceasefire resolution is counterproductive to peace and useless. **Chibu** expressed importance of holding a space within City Council for conversation regarding a ceasefire resolution and thanked Mayor Marlin and CM Evans for their comments during Additions to the Agenda. Requested City Council read into record the complete contents of the resolution put forward by Ben Joselyn to ensure that antisemitic tropes and Islamophobia are avoided. Shared personal experiences of following Palestinians on social media and stated how Palestinians do not deserve to be martyred. Expressed hope for City Council to amplify voices

and concerns of constituents to the federal level of government. Shared poem from Plestia Alaqad. **Sedmin Amin** read aloud the Resolution Calling for a Permanent and Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza authored by Ben Joselyn. **Paul Whykesil** stated he is a proud Zionist and believes in the principles of Zionism. Shared that from the public input he listened to in this session, he distilled that a ceasefire can only serve to give Hamas an opportunity to rearm. Expressed that this conflict comes down to the question of whether or not one believes there should be a Jewish state where Palestine and Israel reside. **Rebecca Obuchowski** continued reading the resolution proposed by Ben Joselyn. **Elizabeth Taki** continued reading the resolution proposed by Ben Joselyn from where the previous speaker left off.

*Mayor Marlin read written input from the following individual regarding Hope Village: Christopher Hansen. Public Input was received from the following 95 individuals that supported a ceasefire resolution, but were not read: Reverend Beth Monhollen, Allan Max Axelrod, Caite Kruiswyk, Kathryn Clancy, Amy Clay, Takeya Alamin, Sanja Pudar, Hind Mhaouer, Maxwell Haynes, Haneen Odeh, Kadra Ali, Muhammad al-Faruque, Skyler Reifsteck, Ella Dennis, Ibtihal Ferwana, Imran Khan, Andrew Ritchie, Jeff Putney, Ifran Shaikh, Mohammed Siddique Ahmed, Fredric Hancock, Fatimah Odeh, Sharif Nasr, Abu-Bakar Zafar, Nehal Shamma, Lilly Wright, Alex Martell, Ammar Bhutta, Alexandra Chapman, Israa Jarrar, Jamila Hammoun, Ahmer Hafiz, Ali Alamen, JQ Hannah, Imam Ousmane Sawadogo, Hanan Jaber, Mamadu Diallo, Nour Odeh, Iman Guiga, Hooli Oglesby, Bara Saadah, Yusuf Sobh, Jadzia Taborski, Shahana Ahmed, Said Mhaouer, Autumn Powell, Hannah Hopper, Michael Stephens, Samuel Froiland, Naima Toqeer, Alex Taylor, Dana Anastasia, Lawrence Maushard, Fatima Ahmed, Matt Soyland, Eva Ginsburg, Isa Rahman, Talha Al-Zoubi, Lexie Vogel, Kay Neal, Nusrat Hawa, Eman Saadah, Mari Altshuler, Chelsea Birchmier, Mozhde Bagheri, Elsie Gratz, Siobhan Somerville, Matt Turino, Afeefa Ismail, Jack Cleary, Fauzia Rahman, Hadjer Benkraouda, Aline Leite, Dante Dabaghian, Derek Briles, David Cisneros, Miriam Larson, Ifran Ahmad, Toqeer Israr, Lesley Owens, Bryan Savage, Christopher O'Brien, Faruq Nelson, Shahram Maroof, Nahil Sobh, Asraa Ibrahim, Dua Aldasouqi, Emma Velez, Amina Alamin, Elbashir Araud, Imad Rahman, Mehmood Rasheed, Warren Inskeep, Zayn Aiman Beg, and one anonymous individual. Public Input was received from the following 17 individuals that opposed a ceasefire resolution, but were not read: Ruth Kanotorovitz, Sarel Har-Peled, Inbal Elazar, Reut Berkson, Yuliy Baryshnikov, Lilyan Levant, Stav Ashur, Esther Patt, Frances Harris, Richard Ross, Marc Snir, Linda Bauer, Elliot Weinberg, Inna Zhamitsky, Erin Kerpel, Leslie Landman, and Nathan Fredman. In addition to the written Public Input, numerous communications to City Council regarding the ceasefire resolution was received from the local community.*

## 5. Council Input and Communications

None.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 7. Committee of the Whole (Council Member James Quisenberry – Ward 7)

### Consent Agenda

None.

### Regular Agenda

**a. Ordinance No. 2024-01-001: An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Three, Section 3-43 (Decreasing the number of Class R&T-2 liquor licenses for Les Gourmets Cuisine LLC d/b/a Les Gourmets Cuisine by Christelle, 401 North Broadway Avenue, Urbana, Ill.) - Exec**

Presented by Mayor Marlin. Item approves the attached ordinance that would decrease the number of Class R&T-2 liquor licenses in the City of Urbana.

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, and seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 9. Reports of Officers

None.

## 10. Mayoral Appointments

Presented by Mayor Marlin. Two appointments to the Urbana Arts & Culture Commission with terms ending on 06/30/2026 to Xander Hazel and Abby Heras. Shared background on Xander Hazel and Abby Heras. Read quotes provided by Xander Hazel and Abby Heras in their applications to the Urbana Arts & Culture Commission. Both are recommended for approval.

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, and seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 11. New Business

None.

## 12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 03-18-2024**

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Christopher Hansen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 7, 2024 6:59 PM  
**To:** !City Council; !City Clerk  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT January 8, 2024 Council Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

*To be read aloud during public input:*

Dear Members of the Urbana City Council,

I am writing in regards to the Hope Village development project. I sent public input about Hope Village last week, and although it was emailed nearly 40 minutes before the meeting start, the Mayor did not read it along with the other public input emails.

While I find the Hope Village project intriguing and I hope it is successful, as I tried to learn more about it I could not help becoming focused on the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

I do not live close enough to the project site to be personally affected, but I did visit the site and I listened to the public meetings where the project was discussed.

What I saw at these meetings were a number of residents, many of whom live in the Carver Drive neighborhood area immediately south of the project site, express valid concerns about how this project will affect their quality of life and the character of their neighborhood. I saw a great deal of confusion and frustration, and dare I say intimidation, caused by the Plan Commission and staff, regarding when and how residents could give public input during those meetings. I saw a number of residents express anguish - feeling that they had not been informed, consulted, and included in decision making regarding the project. I saw the public fed lies regarding when and how construction of the development would be allowed to begin.

At the December 7th Plan Commission meeting, in front of the residents who already felt disenfranchised, I saw the entire Commission stand up and walk out of the Council Chambers so that they could discuss the Hope Village project in a place where those residents would not be able to listen and stay informed. This flagrant disregard for the Open Meetings Act took place with Mayor Marlin and Council Member Maryalice Wu present, and with the blessing of City Attorney David Wesner. Of the many public officials present, all of whom are required to go through Open Meetings Act training, not a single one spoke up for the rights of the residents in the audience that night.

At the December 18th Council meeting, I saw Urbana residents from more affluent neighborhoods (including at least one past City Council member), in an attempt to hijack the moral high ground and remove focus from the actual concerns raised, accuse residents of the Carver Park neighborhood of "bigotry".

The Hope Village project may very well turn out to be an excellent idea, and I hope in the future I will be hearing about how amazingly successful it is.

However, if the City of Urbana desires that its operations make some residents feel disenfranchised and trampled upon, then you have succeeded once again. I believe the City owes the public a clearer accounting of their decision making process on this project, including an explanation and apology for unlawfully excluding the public from Plan Commission discussion on December 7th. Since the action taken by the Plan Commission on that night was borne directly out of an illegal closed meeting, the Commission should be made to nullify that action, redo the meeting, and redo those votes.

-Christopher Hansen



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Rev. Beth Monhollen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 7, 2024 2:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** Beth Monhollen; Sally Fritsche  
**Subject:** Public Input - 8 January 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the Urbana City Council to be include in the record for Public Input and to be read aloud in the meeting

We are writing to urge the leaders of the City of Urbana to join their voices in demanding that the State of Israel immediately cease the attacks in Gaza. The bombs and attacks have killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians since October, and displaced tens of thousands more, and the "war" is not a war at all but according to the United Nations, it is a humanitarian crisis under genocidal conditions. Those conditions are funded by billions of dollars of U.S. military aid for Israel. As U.S citizens, and as people of conscience, we have a moral and ethical duty to demand **no more**. And while as individuals we might not be able to affect global change, there is power in our voices raised together with millions of other individuals, organizations, and countries across the world who are calling for a ceasefire. As spiritual leaders within the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, we affirm the inherent worthiness and interdependence of all life. and from that deeply held value, we ask the City Council join us and the many others across the world in demanding "Ceasefire Now."

With compassion and care,  
Rev Beth Monhollen and Rev Sally Fritsche  
Ministers, UU Church of Urbana-Champaign

**In compassion and care,  
Rev. Beth Monhollen.  
M.Div. M.S, Lead Minister**

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

[Unitarian](#)

[Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign](#)

309 West Green Street,  
Urbana, Illinois 61803

***Build community. Seek  
inspiration. Promote justice. Find peace.***

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Schedule a meeting with  
me: <https://calendly.com/revbeth-uucuc>

*Monday is my sabbath  
and Fridays and Saturdays are my writing days.*

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Allan Max Axelrod <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 8:52 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Read Aloud

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening, Urbana City Council,

My family was eviscerated in the Holocaust. My family is serving in the activated Israeli reserves right now. My family has donated blood in support of Israel's armed forces.

American Judaism is complicated, and many do not understand how their religious upbringing includes institutional support for Israel as something separate from our religion. We have prayers where we face the direction of the Western wall, our synagogues often have American and Israeli flags next to our torah, our religious books often include maps of Israel, we're institutionally encouraged to go on a birthright trip via most religious leaders, youth groups, Summer camps, college institutions, and so on.

This is starting to change. Unlike the local Jewish institutions in Champaign which have repeatedly collaborated with white supremacist groups like Turning Point USA (TPUSA) both when the local TPUSA organizer was not Jewish and when they replaced the not Jewish organizer with a Jewish organizer to help TPUSA avoid scrutiny, there are now explicitly anti-Zionist Jewish religious institutions. In Illinois, one such anti-Zionist Jewish house of worship is Tzedek Chicago.

To be Jewish and anti-Zionist is not a contradiction. The UIUC Student Government passed a resolution acknowledging that back in 2019 by specifically noting a fundamental difference between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. Anti-Zionism is not an ideology of hate. Anyone telling you that, doesn't understand that Israel is an apartheid government, if they are being honest. When nonprofits like Amnesty International can finally recognize that, then hopefully you can too.

This genocide in Gaza is not in our name, this is not a religious war, and the genocide in Gaza a fundamental betrayal of our loved ones we never met because of the Nazi's Holocaust in World War 2.

Pass this resolution. I don't want my family members killed by Hezbollah but instead to live healthy lives while learning about the difference between our religion and the state of Israel so that equitable and peaceful reconciliation with Palestinians is possible.

Solidarity and stay safe,

Allan Max Axelrod

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Caite Kruiswyk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:03 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Caite Kruiswyk and I am a local community member. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. More than 20,000 Palestinians have been murdered by Israel in the last three months. If you care about their lives at all, please pass the ceasefire resolution.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Kathryn Clancy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:05 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Kathryn Clancy and I am an Urbana resident as well as professor at the University of Illinois and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Clancy

--

Kathryn Clancy, PhD  
Professor and Associate Head, Department of Anthropology  
University of Illinois  
<http://www.kateclancy.com>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: For public comment re: Ceasefire in Gaza  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 9:39:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Council,  
I received this public input this morning.

**Darcy Sandefur**  
Interim City Clerk

City of Urbana, City Clerk's Office  
400 S Vine, Urbana, IL, 61801  
217-384-2362



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**From:** Amy Clay-Moore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 07, 2024 10:55 PM  
**To:** Sandefur, Darcy <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** For public comment re: Ceasefire in Gaza

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Public comment to be read into the record during the urbana city council meeting:

I am writing to urge the Urbana City Council to pass a resolution in calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

I keep thinking about when we learned about history's atrocities in elementary school and how sure we all were that *we* would have spoken out against horrors like genocide and human cruelty. We learned our history so that it would not repeat itself.

And here we are. Watching Israel--with the support of the US-- commit the very atrocities we said we would not repeat.

The silence on this matter is deafening. Please stand up for the people of Palestine by passing a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you,

Amy Clay  
Urbana, Illinois

“He allowed himself to be swayed by his conviction that human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them, but that life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves.” - **Gabriel García Márquez, Love in the Time of Cholera**

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Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), any written communication to or from City of Urbana employees, officials or board and commission members regarding City of Urbana business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Takeya Alamin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:08 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Takeya Alamin and I am a Champaign-Urbana resident. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. We no longer can watch the horrific killing of Palestinians day in and day out. We can't say there is nothing we can do. As US citizens we can stand up and use our voice and platform to speak truth to power. We can call for a cease fire that is long over due.

Thank you,

Takeya Alamin

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Sanja Pudar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:12 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Sanja Pudar and I am a local community member. I support a ceasefire between Gaza and Israel along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you  
Sanja Pudar, Savoy



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

---

**From:** Hind Mhaouer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:37 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Hind Mhaouer, I am Urbana community member and I support a ceasefire. The Gaza Strip has been under seige by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, just like the rest of mankind deserve human rights and self-determination.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Haynes, Maxwell L <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Body:

My name is Maxwell Haynes and I am a resident of Urbana and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. It is my belief that it is a moral imperative that we as a society stand up for those experiencing oppression and violence throughout the globe. I see no difference between the apartheid of South Africa, the occupation of Ireland, and the occupation of Palestine today. In each case a military force has violently supported inequalities between groups of people and physically separated communities from one another. In each case there has been famine, loss of communities, harm to cultures and loss of life. In each case prior we hear of those heroes that dismantled these oppressive regimes and the supporters that facilitated them. In each case we learned of the atrocities committed by the oppressors and the cover ups orchestrated by their allies. As with all these prior events, there is a clear moral choice. That is to call for an immediate ceasefire and begin pressing forward for the complete cessation of the occupation of Palestine to end the ongoing genocide that has been occurring there since 1948. I cannot pretend to have a plan for this outcome more so than anyone else, but I know that we as a society were able to create peace and unification and we will do it again. Long live the dream for a free Palestine. Long live the dream for a free Congo. Long live the dream for a world without colonization and a world of peace.

Thank you,

Maxwell Haynes

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

---

**From:** Haneen Odeh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:22 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Haneen Odeh and I am a local community member and a previous Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Rasmiya Ali <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:47 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is [Kadra Ali] and I am [Champaign resident OR local community member] and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you!

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Muhammad al-Faruque <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:53 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT at the 1.8.2024 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Muhammad al-Faruque and I am a local community member. I strongly recommend that the Council adopt a ceasefire resolution tonight. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you.

Muhammad al-Faruque.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Skyler Reifsteck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:54 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Skyler and I am a born and raised Chambana local. I am writing this email to signal my support for calling an immediate cease-fire in Gaza. The Israeli government has subjected the Palestinian people to decades of violence and occupation, keeping the millions of people living in Gaza isolated from the rest of the world. Israel is able to completely restrict the flow of water, power, goods, and people coming in and out of Gaza, regardless of Gazans' wishes. The amount of violence required every single day to keep Palestinians subjected to this oppressive rule is hard to quantify.

Only an immediate cease-fire and allowing the thousands of Palestinians expelled from their homes since 1948 to return, can bring lasting peace. You cannot bomb a people into loving you. Even if you were to kill every member of Hamas in Palestine, you will simply be sewing the seeds for a new group to take it's place.

Thank you for your time,  
Skyler

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dennis, Ella <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:55 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

**Please read my comment out loud during public input**

Hello,

My name is Ella Dennis, and I am a resident of Urbana. I strongly support a ceasefire, and am severely disappointed in my fellow community members who do not. I genuinely have no idea how some people could acknowledge that Israel has conducted targeted murders of journalists (10% of journalists in Gaza have been murdered by the IDF), massacred thousands of children, decimated schools, hospitals, and residential blocks, and somehow think that this is justified in continuing. The brutalization of Palestinians did not begin on October 7th, and also occurs frequently in the West Bank. Hamas is not present in the West Bank, so please stop kidding yourself if you are justifying a genocide as a "defense against Hamas" when Israel is also slaughtering innocents in the West Bank. Israel's goal is the same as it has always been: expand illegal settlements to the largest degree possible (via forced displacement, mass imprisonment without trial, and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians). For any of you who do not study International Relations, this is called colonization.

On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans. History will not forget those who continue to justify the mass slaughter of innocent people and the desecration of graveyards, cultural sites, hospitals, and places of worship. You've had more than enough time to educate yourself. Now is the time to stand for humanity.

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:** Ferwana, Ibtihal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:57 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Ibtihal Ferwana and I am local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

Ibtihal



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Imran Khan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] Public input 1.8.2024

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Dr. Imran Khan and I am a local community member. I support a ceasefire in Gaza along with over 2/3 of Americans. I support the preservation of innocent life. More than 20,000 innocent people have been killed, many of them children while maternity wards have been bombed. These atrocities are directly funded by our tax paying dollars.

Please read my comment out loud.

Thank you

Imran Khan

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Andrew Ritchie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Andrew Ritchie and I am an Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Jeff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting (Supporting the ceasefire resolution)

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Jeff Putney and I am a local community member. I fully support the city council passing a ceasefire resolution. Given the complete transparency with which we are able to watch the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people, I feel it's imperative we speak out against it by all possible means and through all possible channels.

Thanks,  
Jeff Putney

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Irfan Shaikh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Irfan Shaikh and I am local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Regards,  
Irfan

Sent from my Galaxy

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Mohammed Ahmed <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:36 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting  
**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Mohammed Siddique Ahmed and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you,

Mohammed Siddique Ahmed  
Champaign-Urbana Local Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Hancock, Freddy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:36 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Fredric Hancock, and I am an Urbana resident. I support a ceasefire in Gaza. On October 13th, Gio Eiland--advisor to Defense Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council, and former IDF operations chief--said, "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of 23,084 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of all 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intentions for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire, as do the majority of Americans.

Thank you,

Fredric Hancock

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Fatimah Odeh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:44 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Sent from my iPhone

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Fatimah Odeh and I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of

Thank you

—

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Sharif.Nasr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:30 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Dr Sharif Nasr and I am a physician at Carle foundation Hospital and I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. As a physician, I am appalled at the medical situation in Gaza, the entire health system has been attacked, Forcibly and intently collapsed by Israeli occupation forces. They have deliberately attacked, and shelled hospitals, snipered medical professionals, displaced patients, and attacked and bombed patients while in their Hospital bed. This situation is ongoing, and only getting worse, with the stated intent of the occupation forces of complete suffocation and starvation of the population in order to gain political and military gains. The least that we can do, firstly, as a medical professional and an Urbana resident, is to Demand for a ceasefire In order for the catastrophe to be halted and allow for aid to

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

Sharif Nasr , Urbana Resident and Carle Physican



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Abu-Bakr Zafar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Dr. Abu-Bakar Zafar, a local physician, and I support a ceasefire. The Gaza Strip has been under siege by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, like the rest of mankind deserve human rights and self-determination.

Thank you,

--

Abu-Bakar Zafar, MD  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Carle Foundation Hospital  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Nehal Shamma <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi,

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Nehal Shamma and I am a local community member. The Gaza Strip has been under siege by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, just like the rest of mankind, deserve human rights and self-determination. I support a complete and immediate ceasefire.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you,  
Nehal Shamma

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lilly Wright <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Lilly Wright and I am an Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.

Thank you,  
Lilly Wright

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Alex Martell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:19 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Alex Martell and I am a community member. I support a ceasefire, and I hope the Urbana City Council will pass this resolution. From October 7 until January 7th, 93 days, at 23,084 Palestinians have been killed including 9,600 children, this does not include the more than 7,000 missing assumed to be under the rubble. Besides the indiscriminate bombing and shooting of Palestinians, many more will die from sickness, hunger, lack of water, and untreated injuries. This violence is unacceptable, and I demand all those in positions of power call for a permanent ceasefire immediately so that proper humanitarian efforts can take place.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Ammar Bhutta <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Ammar Bhutta and I am a business owner in Urbana, and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you  
-Ammar Bhutta

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Alexandra Chapman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:04 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT for 1-8-23 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

**Please read my comment out loud during public input at tonight's Urbana City Council meeting:**

Hello,

My name is Alexandra Chapman, and I am a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am writing to you to demand that the Urbana City Council call for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. Since early October we have witnessed mass displacement and genocide against Palestinians by the Israeli occupation forces. It is estimated that 30,000 Gazans have been killed, over 58,000 Gazans have been injured, and those who have managed to survive are experiencing thirst, starvation, and disease at the hands of the Israeli occupation, which has severely limited the aid that enters Gaza.

It is our responsibility to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian cause. This mass slaughter is made possible by the United States providing weapons and billions of dollars of aid to Israel every year. Our tax dollars are funding this, and the United States and Israel are isolated in carrying out this genocide while the rest of the world watches in horror.

The movement for Palestinian liberation is getting stronger every day. Two days ago, protesters in Chicago shut down Lakeshore Drive; today, protesters in New York shut down the Brooklyn Bridge. On January 13th there will be a march on Washington, DC. Urbana is part of this movement too. I have seen and participated in numerous pro-Palestine events on campus and in the broader Urbana community. It is absolutely necessary that federal, state, and local governments listen to the demands of their constituents and call for a permanent ceasefire and an end to the genocide in Gaza.

I appreciate you listening to me.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Chapman

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Israa Jarrar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is [INSERT NAME] and I am [Urbana resident OR local community member] and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Taha Baja <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:55 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Jamila hammoun and I am local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Hafiz, Aamir Ahmed-Abdul <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:36 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Ahmer H and I am an Urbana resident and community member. I support a ceasefire along with the vast majority of Americans.

Thank you,

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Ali Al <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:38 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Ali Alamen and I am local community member/local business owner and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Thanks  
Ali Alamen

Sent from my iPhone

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sandefur, Darcy  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** FW: public comment for city council meeting  
**Attachments:** JQ Hannah City Council statement 1-8-2024.docx

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**From:** JQ Hannah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2024 12:22 PM  
**To:** Sandefur, Darcy <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** public comment for city council meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Ms. Sandefur;

My name is JQ (Jacqueline) Hannah and I live at [REDACTED] Urbana IL.

I am requesting that the letter below (I've also attached a copy here in case that works better for you) be read allowed into the public record at the Monday, January 8th, 2024 city council meeting this evening. Thank you!

Best,  
JQ Hannah

letter starts below this line

\*\*\*\*\*

My name is JQ Hannah, I have been an Urbana resident for almost 20 years.

I am speaking up today as an Urbana resident, a parent of two Urbana High School students, and as just a human being with a heart, to ask for our city council to be a voice for sanity, compassion, and peace.

I am asking the Urbana City Council to pass a resolution calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank of Palestine.

Urbana is a city I have always been proud to be a resident of because we stand on our principles. Our city spoke up courageously when the 45th president of this country was hurling serious threats of loss of federal support and revenue, our council stood by its principles and named Urbana a sanctuary city, affirming the spirit of acceptance and compassion that have long defined our city.

As our local elected leaders, you can help our city be a part of steering our entire nation away from a future full of endless war and death for innocent peoples by joining Jewish Voices for Peace; 64 members of Congress, including IL Senator Dick Durbin; 2/3s of American voters; and the vast majority of nations across the world in calling for an end to this so-called "war" and all violence in Gaza and the West Bank.

In Urbana, we have always strived to stand against oppression and to be clear we do not stand with any form of it – not antisemitism, not Islamapobia, not racism, and not illegal occupations – and it is critical we do so again now. Demanding the end to targeted attacks of schools, hospitals, press, homes, places of worship, and people displaced by violence is the humane, and morally necessary thing to do, and it must be done now.

Thank you,

JQ Hannah

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Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), any written communication to or from City of Urbana employees, officials or board and commission members regarding City of Urbana business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** CIMIC Imam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:51 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Ousmane Sawadogo and I am local community member. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you  
Imam Ousmane Sawadogo

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Hanan Jaber <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:51 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24  
  
**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Hanan Jaber and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you  
Hanan

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Diallo, Mamadu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Mamadu Diallo. I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Nour Ali <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Nour Odeh and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Iman Guiga <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:04 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input. My name is Iman and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud. Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Hooli Oglesby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:07 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Hooli Oglesby and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. This can no longer continue. We are not free until we are all free!

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

—

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Bara Saadah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:08 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Bara Saadah and I am a local community and physician at Carle and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing.

I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.

Bara Saadah, MD

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

---

**From:** Yusuf Sobh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:13 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Gaza Ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Yusuf Sobh, I am an Urbana resident and taxpayer and I support a ceasefire in Gaza along with the majority of Americans.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Jadzia Taborski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:16 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire Resolution Comment

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Jadzia and I am an Urbana resident, and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** shahana ahmed <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24  
**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi,

My name is shahana Ahmed and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

---

**From:** Said Mhaouer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:25 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public meeting 1-8-24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Said Mhaouer and I am a Savoy resident .  
I support a ceasefire. Like many Americans.  
Most of victims are kids and women.  
The Isreal army has targeted hospitals, schools and crowed neighbourhoods.

Thanks

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Autumn Powell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My

name is Autumn, I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire. The Gaza Strip has been under seige by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, just like the rest of mankind deserve human rights and self-determination. If you truly support

members of your community, you will recognize the importance of this to the many Palestinian residents that reside here in our town. Stand for human rights, stand for ending these atrocities.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Hannah Hopper <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Read Aloud Tonight

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the City Council of Urbana -

I am emailing to ask you to pass a resolution supporting a ceasefire in Palestine. What is happening to Palestinians is ethnic cleansing and we must take a stance against it. We must use our voices and power to help the innocent lives that need protecting.

Thank you for your time,  
Hannah Hopper

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Michael Stephens <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:32 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Read Aloud Tonight

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello, my name is Michael Stephens. I am messaging you tonight to ask you to support a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Palestine. What is happening in Gaza cannot be described as anything but ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and at times like this failure to act against is the same as active participation. Please stand on the right side of history and support a ceasefire.

Thank you for your time

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Sam Froiland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:47 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Samuel Froiland and I am an Urbana resident of Ward 4. I stand with the majority of Americans who support a ceasefire in Gaza. The war has killed tens of thousands of civilians, including thousands of children, and the continuing conflict is bringing about mass starvation and disease. I call upon the city council to support the resolution calling for a ceasefire.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Naima Toqeer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Naima Toqeer and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Alex Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:57 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Alex Taylor, I'm a math teacher in Urbana. I support a ceasefire resolution because civilians are being murdered in Gaza. Because for decades Palestine has been under military siege, intentionally deprived of access to water, electricity, and medicine. Because Israel's military occupation has caused the mass destruction of basic infrastructure, homes and hospitals. I support a ceasefire resolution because one is compelled by their moral conscience to affirm the existence and humanity of the Palestinian people.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** dana.hubanks <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** !City Clerk  
**Subject:** public comment 1-8-2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Dana Anastasia, and I am submitting the following into public comment. I will also be reading this at the city council meeting this evening.

Thank you.

"My name is Dana Anastasia, I am a resident of east Urbana, and I'm here to speak in favor of the ceasefire resolution being presented to the council this evening. I feel strongly that the City of Urbana should use what humble power it has to function as a voice for peace in this time of horrific violence.

I am a writer and an artist, and I come to my activism with sluggish reluctance. I do not relish the opportunity to speak out against the ongoing slaughter of tens of thousands, but I'm here because my soul compels me.

Although I have not worked alone or without guidance and inspiration from countless others, I am the author of the ceasefire resolution being presented later this evening. When I first drafted this resolution in November, the death toll in Gaza was approximately 11,000. When I updated the death count in the document today in preparation for this meeting, I had to double that number to 22,000.

I am neither Palestinian nor Israeli nor Jewish. My mother's family, however, fled genocide just over 100 years ago as Greek Christians living in their ancestral home in western Turkey. While most of my family escaped with their lives, millions of Greeks and Armenians did not. While most of my family escaped with their lives, they lost their homes, their belongings, their land, and much of their culture. As a person living within the legacy of genocide and displacement, I feel the unfolding events in Gaza on a visceral level.

My *proyiaia*, my grandmother, Anthoula, who escaped genocide, was a musician. Her granddaughter, my mother, is a poet. I am both. So, I leave you with a poem.

This poem was written by Hiba Abu Nada, Palestinian poet and educator, on October 7th, 2023.

"I Grant You Refuge"

1.  
I grant you refuge  
in invocation and prayer.  
I bless the neighborhood and the minaret  
to guard them  
from the rocket  
  
from the moment

it is a general's command  
until it becomes  
a raid.

I grant you and the little ones refuge,  
the little ones who  
change the rocket's course  
before it lands  
with their smiles.

2.  
I grant you and the little ones refuge,  
the little ones now asleep like chicks in a nest.

They don't walk in their sleep toward dreams.  
They know death lurks outside the house.

Their mothers' tears are now doves  
following them, trailing behind  
every coffin.

3.  
I grant the father refuge,  
the little ones' father who holds the house upright  
when it tilts after the bombs.  
He implores the moment of death:  
"Have mercy. Spare me a little while.  
For their sake, I've learned to love my life.  
Grant them a death  
as beautiful as they are."

4.  
I grant you refuge  
from hurt and death,  
refuge in the glory of our siege,  
here in the belly of the whale.

Our streets exalt God with every bomb.  
They pray for the mosques and the houses.  
And every time the bombing begins in the North,  
our supplications rise in the South.

5.  
I grant you refuge  
from hurt and suffering.

With words of sacred scripture  
I shield the oranges from the sting of phosphorous  
and the shades of cloud from the smog.

I grant you refuge in knowing  
that the dust will clear,  
and they who fell in love and died together  
will one day laugh.

Hiba was killed by Israeli forces during a raid in south Gaza on October 20th, 2023. She was 32 years old."



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Lawrence Maushard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:02 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Please read aloud the GAZA Ceasefire Resolution tonight!

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I hope the pending Gaza ceasefire resolution is passed tonight at the Urbana City Council meeting.

Please have the resolution read aloud before the vote is taken.

In Solidarity for Justice & Peace,  
Lawrence Maushard  
Peoria For Palestine  
Peoria, Illinois 61603  
[REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Fatima Ahmed <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Meeting 1/8/24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Fatima Ahmed and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

Fatima Ahmed

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:08 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1/8/24

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Dr. Matt Soyland and I am an Urbana resident and veterinarian. I support a ceasefire in Palestine along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Over 23,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7th, over 9,000 being children.

This is a genocide. Indiscriminately bombing civilians and children while holding thousands more prisoner is genocide. No amount of disinformation can change that fact.

Support a ceasefire now.

End the occupation; free Palestine.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Eva Ginsburg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I would like this email to be included in the public record.

Dear Council Members:

I understand there has been some discussion about enacting a resolution for a ceasefire in the Middle East. Although I am in favor of a ceasefire, I think a city council meeting is not the place to discuss this. Urbana does not need to be making foreign policy decisions. A resolution like this would not convince any leaders to change their course of action. It would, however, increase bitter feelings and divisiveness within our community.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is such an emotionally charged one. There are a number of groups in the area--student groups, religious institutions, nonprofit organizations--who have called for a ceasefire or otherwise taken a position about this conflict. I really think the City of Urbana should leave the discussion to these other groups, and stay focused on City issues.

best regards,

Eva Ginsburg

Sent from [Mailspring](#), the best free email app for work



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Isa Rahman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:37 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is [Isa Rahman] and I am a local community member and resident. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Thank you,

Isa Rahman

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Talha Al-Zoubi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Talha and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

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## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lexie V <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:53 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1/8

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Lexie Vogel and I am a constituent of Ward 3 in Urbana. I am writing today to show my support for the proposed ceasefire resolution. In this time of heartbreak and devastation, I have found strength in the work of Palestinian poets. I wrote this piece to join my voice with theirs:

### ***It's Not Hard* by Lexie Vogel**

**My government took my money  
and gave it to another government,  
halfway around the world,  
that used it to air strike a hospital.**

### **JUST LOOK AT THEM:**

**Palestinian mothers braid their daughter's long locks  
in case of untimely explosions  
and burials for children with unkempt hair  
Search parties sing  
for the bodies freed from the rubble  
their men gleeful and gay at rare recoveries  
Young vloggers-turned-journalists yawn  
dryly; there's literally no water**

**Conversely, for us, it's not hard to Google search.  
Or boycott McDonalds,  
Or, go to a protest,  
Or call your representatives  
Hell, you can even email them.**

**The real work  
is immersion in the struggle.  
The same one that impacts us all.  
Build and organize  
over and over again.  
Remembering their stories  
even if they break your heart to repeat.**

**If we could just unite  
our suffering with theirs,  
Surely there would be  
less pain to go around.**

- If time permits, please also read Maya Abu Al-Hayyat's poem, *Daydream* translated by Fady Joudah.

I'll write about a joy that invades Jenin from six directions,  
about children running while holding balloons in Am'ari Camp,  
about a fullness that quiets breastfeeding babies all night in Askar,  
about a little sea we can stroll up and down in Tulkarem,  
about eyes that stare in people's faces in Balata,  
about a woman dancing  
for people in line at the checkpoint in Qalandia,  
about stitches in the sides of laughing men in Azzoun,  
about you and me  
stuffing our pockets with seashells and madness  
and building a city.

—Jerusalem

Thank you,  
Lexie Vogel



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Kay Neal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input for Jan. 8, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Kay Neal, and I am a local community member. I support a ceasefire, along with more than two thirds of Americans. This carnage must stop.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

Thank you very much,

Kay Neal

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Nusrat Hawa <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:12 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Permanent Cease fire in Gaza

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello

Pease read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Nusrat Hawa and I am loval dentist and I support a ceasefire. The Gaza Strip has been under seige by Israeli forces for over 15 years and Palestinians, just like the rest of mankind deserve human rights and self-determination.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Eman Saadah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24  
**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello!

Please read my email out loud during public input. My name is Eman Saadah and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud. Thank you!  
Eman

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** mari altshuler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members,

It was brought to my attention that some members of the City Council hope to discuss a resolution in support of a Ceasefire in Israel/Palestine. As a Jewish community member and Urbana resident, I have deep ties to this issue and I wanted to share my voice. Please include this email in the public record.

On October 7, Israel, and the Jewish community around the world, suffered the terrible loss of more than 1,000 of our family. Children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, and friends, many of whom were in fact peace activists, were killed in a brutal, horrific attack by Hamas. More than 100 hostages are still being held, their lives no doubt in a painfully perilous state. I desperately hope their lives can be saved, and that Israelis and Jewish community members who have lost loved ones, and those who have lost their sense of safety and stability, receive the support and love they need to begin to heal.

Since then, the Israeli military has launched an unfathomably brutal response in Gaza. The military has killed more than 20,000 people. That massive number is not just a number; it is composed of children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, and friends. The military response has also created a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Almost 1.9 million people, more than 85% of Gazans, have been displaced ([CNN](#)). Their homes, their neighborhoods have been turned to rubble. At least half of Gazans are at risk of starvation, and 90% say they regularly go without food for a whole day ([NYT](#)). I desperately hope we, as a global society, can bring the massive amount of humanitarian aid needed to Gaza. I hope for the end of lost lives, of lost homes, of lost dreams.

My desperate hopes for the return of the Israeli hostages, for the massive influx of humanitarian aid to Gaza, for the support and healing for all those in need, and for no more lost lives can only come to fruition with a ceasefire. I care deeply and equally about the Jewish community, about my friends in Israel, and about my Palestinian friends and their families. There is no military solution in Israel/Palestine. Hateful ideologies cannot be bombed away. In fact, bombing does the opposite; from violence grows more desperation, determination, and hate. Jewish tradition teaches that to save one life is to save the world; how many lives could be saved with a ceasefire? How many worlds could grow from those lives that are saved?

We have to dream of a different kind of future, a future with a shared society where Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Muslims, and Christians can work, go to school, get jobs, and live out their dreams side-by-side. We have to dream of a future where every human life, every community, is treated as equally sacred and deserving of peace and liberation. I refuse to give up hope that it's possible. I've been heartened by organizations like [Standing Together](#), [Women Wage Peace](#), and the [Hand-in-Hand](#) schools, who also refuse to give up hope. But, we can't do that kind of dreaming until there's a ceasefire.

Some might say that the Urbana City Council has no place in this issue, or that our small city can in no way impact the desperate situation across land and sea. But, when the world feels like it's crumbling, I find myself returning to the famous Jewish line from our ancient texts that says, "It is not on you to finish a task, but neither are you free from trying." In other words, we do not have to solve all the world's problems in their entirety, but we can do our part. We can use our voices to show that we care, to support meaningful and productive dialogue, to support the wellbeing of our

community members, and to support the betterment of humanity around the globe. Small things can, eventually, down the line, have big impacts in unanticipated ways.

Thank you for caring about Israelis and Palestinians, about Jews, Muslims, and Christians, here in Urbana and abroad.  
Thank you for caring about humanity.

Thank you for listening,  
Mari Altshuler

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Chelsea Birchmier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:31 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi Urbana City Council members,

I'm reaching out to request that you please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Chelsea Birchmier and I am a local community member. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Thank you!  
Chelsea

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Mozhde Bagheri Hosseini <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Mozhde Bagheri and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Elise G <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

It is integral for Urbana to stand against the genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Enough lives have been lost.

Elise Gratz



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Siobhan Somerville <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:44 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my brief comment out loud during public input.

My name is Siobhan Somerville and I am a local community member and educator. I **strongly support** a ceasefire to end bloodshed in Gaza and to address the urgent humanitarian needs of Palestinians, including children.

Siobhan Somerville  
Champaign, Illinois

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt Turino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:45 PM  
**To:** !City Council; !City Clerk  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* QUARANTINE \*\*\*] Resolution to call for Ceasfire

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Esteemed Urbana City Government,

Please read my statement into the public record.

I am an Urbana resident, writing in support of the resolution to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. We as a community need to make a clear statement that we do not support this war and that we do not support the murder and destruction that Israel is committing in Gaza. We do not want these war crimes to continue and certainly not in our name and with our tax dollars.

Thank you,

Matt Turino

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Afeefa Ismail <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire now

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Afeefa Ismail and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Jack Cleary <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:20 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Jack and I'm a student at UIUC and I demand an end to senseless war. A ceasefire is necessary.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Fauzia Rahman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:53 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input 1-8-24 meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input. My name is Fauzia Rahman and I am an Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud. Thank you

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:** Hadjer Benkraouda <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:57 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Hadjer and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Aline Leite <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:58 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Aline and I am a local teacher and I support a ceasefire.

For more than half a century Palestine is under occupation by the state of Israel. During that time, Palestinians were continuously oppressed and humiliated. Israel's military rule disrupts every aspect of daily life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It continues to affect whether, when and how Palestinians can travel to work or school, go abroad, visit their relatives, earn a living, attend a protest, access their farmland, or even access electricity or a clean water supply.

From October 7 until January 7th, 93 days, at 23,084 Palestinians have been killed including 9,600 children, this does not include the more than 7,000 missing assumed to be under the rubble.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dante Dabaghian <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Dante. I am an Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire. On October 13th, Gio Eiland - advisor to Defence Minister Gallant, former Head of the National Security Council and former IDF operations chief, said: "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf." Israel has already achieved the first part of that statement with the massacre of more than 30,000 Palestinians, the collapse of the medical infrastructure, the destruction of more than 70% of residential buildings, and the collective starvation of the entire 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. I demand a ceasefire as do the majority of Americans.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Derek Briles <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Derek Briles, I am an Urbana resident, and I support a ceasefire in Palestine. From October 7 until January 7th, 93 days, at 23,084 Palestinians have been killed including 9,600 children, this does not include the more than 7,000 missing assumed to be under the rubble. If 30,000 people died or went missing in Urbana, the city would simply cease to exist.

I hope that my elected representatives see the logic in Urbana being on the right side of history and making an official public statement calling for a ceasefire. This will go a long way in building a community welcoming to marginalized residents, particularly Palestinians.

Please do the right thing and call for a ceasefire.

Thank you.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Josue David Cisneros <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:47 PM  
**To:** !City Council; ! Kolisetty, Jaya  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Read Aloud: Urbana City Council 1/8/23

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is David, and I am a resident of Ward 4 in Urbana. I would like to express my support for the Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution.

As you have probably already heard by now, the Israeli siege on Gaza has killed 30,000 civilians, and 60,000 people have been wounded. 12,000 children have been killed during this assault. Almost 2 million people have been internally displaced, meaning they have no place to stay. All food, water, and medical care has been cut off for months. These statistics are all confirmed by international human rights organizations <<https://twitter.com/EuroMedHR/status/1742910421659754845>>.

The level of suffering is unimaginable. Just a week ago, several news outlets reported that, because of the continued bombing and lack of humanitarian relief, over one thousand children have had to undergo amputations without anesthesia or other proper treatment <[https://www.democracynow.org/2023/12/28/palestinian\\_children\\_gaza](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/12/28/palestinian_children_gaza)>. That's more children than attend Urbana Middle school who have had to have arms or legs cut off without anaesthesia.

The United States is actively funding and supporting this genocide. Without the approval of Congress, the Biden administration has given over \$200 million dollars in military aid to Israel just over the last month. This doesn't include all of the bombs and tank shells that are killing tens of thousands of Palestinians, which all come from the USA. This is all on top of billions in yearly military aid that our government provides. The US has also been the sole veto on multiple United Nations resolutions calling for a ceasefire.

We are asking Urbana to join other municipalities and multiple Congress members in urging the Biden Administration to call for an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine. Reps Bush, Tlaib, and many others have called for a ceasefire. Multiple cities have passed similar resolutions, including Oakland, Minneapolis, Portland, and Chicago. This is also supported by multiple Jewish-lead organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace. A ceasefire is necessary to stop the immediate genocide and to allow sending humanitarian aid and assistance to Gaza to save as many lives as possible. This is a simple choice. Urbana can pass this resolution calling for a ceasefire and be on the side of calling for an end to slaughter, or it can sit by and let the killings and amputations and starving continue. I hope you will vote for the resolution.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Miriam Larson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:24 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Greetings Urbana City Council,

Please read my comment aloud during public input.

I support a ceasefire and urge you to support a resolution calling for a ceasefire on behalf of the City of Urbana.

I cannot stand by and do nothing as this war continues without an end in sight. The United States is among a very small minority of countries that continue to support drawn out Israeli violence; 153 countries around the world voted to pass a resolution demanding a humanitarian ceasefire at the UN General Assembly meeting on December 12th, 2023. The US was one of only 10 who voted against it.

Without action, these numbers will continue to rise needlessly:

More than 20,000 Palestinians (that's about half the residents in Urbana) have been killed including 9,600 children  
1 out of every 10 journalists in Gaza have been killed since October 7th, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health.  
1.9 million people in Gaza have been displaced since October 7th (85% of the total population) according to the United Nations

About 65,000 residential units have been destroyed and another 290,000 have been damaged according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

And 54,536 or more Palestinians have been injured but health care facilities and health care providers are in dire straights; 76 health facilities are out of service and 310 doctors have been killed (from October 7th to December 26th), according to [Visualizing Palestine](#)

My name is Miriam Larson and I am an Urbana resident. I hope you'll stand with me for peace.

--

Miriam Larson, MLS (she/her/hers)

"I don't study to know more but to ignore less" -Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Irfan Ahmad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:24 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Vote for the Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

Kindly read my email aloud during the public input portion of the meeting.

I am Irfan Ahmad, Urbana resident. I support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, Palestine along with more than two-thirds of fellow Americans.

Thank you for reading my email aloud.

—

Irfan Ahmad.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Toqeer Israr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:32 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Toqeer Israr and I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

—

BEST REGARDS

Toqeer Israr

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Lesley Owens <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

My name is Lesley Owens, and I am a homeowner in Urbana. I am strongly in support of a ceasefire in Palestine.

Since October 7, Israel has massacred more than 30,000 Palestinians. The IDF has destroyed Palestine's medical infrastructure, leveled more than 70% of residential buildings, and enacted the collective starvation of 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing.

Along with a majority of Americans, I demand a ceasefire, along with an end to the US's unquestioning support of this genocide.

I strongly support the Urbana city government calling for a ceasefire.

Sincerely,

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

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Bryan Savage <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Body Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm a former resident of Urbana and a current resident of the wider CU community. I'm writing to express my support for the Gaza cease fire resolution. Enough is enough. This has to stop now, and we all need to speak up in support of it.

Sincerely

Bryan Savage  
[REDACTED]  
Champaign, IL 61820

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Christopher O'Brien <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Christopher O'Brien and I support a ceasefire. Since the war started, over 23,000 Palestinians have been confirmed dead, with thousands more missing. Numerous high-ranking officials in the Israeli government have publicly stated their aim to ethnically cleanse Gaza of its Palestinian population, and the Israeli government is currently working towards this genocidal goal by creating a humanitarian crisis, making the vast majority of Gazans homeless and and subjecting two million people to an intentional, man-made famine. The United States government is supporting these crimes by giving massive diplomatic and military support to Israel's extremist government. That's why it's imperative that we in the US condemn Israel's crimes in the strongest possible terms and push for an immediate ceasefire. Thousands, if not millions, of lives are at stake.



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Faruq Nelson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:41 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 2024-01-08 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Faruq Nelson, and I am a member of the Champaign-Urbana community.

The wholesale slaughter and wanton destruction wrought by Israel upon Palestinians in the past three months — out of all proportion to any injury suffered by Israel, and coupled with Israeli leaders' clear statements of intent to complete their long-sought erasure of indigenous life from every inch of Palestine — is not self-defense by any stretch of the imagination. It is textbook genocide.

Please support an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Shahram Maroof <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:43 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input 1.8.24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Meeting Body: Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Dr. Shahram Maroof and I am local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud. Thank you

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sobh, nahil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:48 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input.

My name is Nahil Sobh and I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of fellow Americans.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:48 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 MEETING

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input. Please do not use my name for safety reasons.

I am an urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than 2/3 of Americans. More violence is never the solution to violence. Targeting women and children is unjustifiable. Supporting Palestine is not just about the self determination of one community, it is also a protest of war. Contrary to public rhetoric, this is not about hate against jewish folks, and organizations like the Jewish Voice for Peace understand this with over 700,000 followers who all believe that standing against the violence in Palestine is about standing for justice, peace, liberation and human dignity.

As a city that has recently become a "welcoming city," what message will the devastation abroad send to our muslim and Palestinian community members? How can we say we welcome immigrants when we don't challenge the conditions that force them to migrate? When our children ask what our role was in the debate of whether we should support continuing attacks on Palestine or ceasefire, what answer can you live with? How will you explain to them that you believe they had to die? Think about that. Who gets to choose whose lives are worthy?

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Asraa Ibrahim <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my email out loud during public input. My name is Asraa Ibrahim, and I am a local community member and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud. Thank you

**Asraa Ibrahim**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Dua Aldasouqi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 7:23 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this out loud during public input.

My name is Dua Aldasouqi, a community member, and I support a ceasefire. Like many Americans, I draw a hardline at hostages. Prior to 10/7 there were 5,000 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, primarily from the West Bank. More than 1,200 of these are hostages being detained without charge or trial. These numbers are up to >7,500 detained and more than 2,000 held without charge or trial. These Palestinians are often abducted from their homes by Israeli forces during night raids where they terrorize not only the abductees but also their families and sometimes entire neighborhoods.

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

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

Thank you,

**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:** Emma Velez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Emma Velez and I am a local community member and educator. I urge the members of the Urbana City Council to act with courage and to stand on the right side of history today and call for an immediate ceasefire to end the devastating violence in Gaza that has been ongoing for over 90 days.

This matter is urgent given that the US government continues to deny that Israeli military is committing acts of genocide against Palestinian civilians despite numerous current and former Israeli officials making public statements that express that as the intent of the current conflict, as documented in South Africa's recent International Court of Justice lawsuit charging Israel with genocide and war crimes. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths recently described the death and destruction in Gaza as the worst situation he had seen in his entire career, which includes dealings with the Khmer Rouge. Raz Segal, a historian of the Holocaust and genocide studies, calls the situation in Gaza "a textbook case of Genocide unfolding in front of our eyes."

Indeed, the current death toll of 23,000 Palestinians (as reported today by the Gaza Ministry of Health) now surpasses the 1948 Nakba (meaning "Catastrophe"). As Rabea Eghbariah recently wrote in "The Ongoing Nakba: Towards a Legal Framework for Palestine,"

Some may claim that the invocation of genocide, especially in Gaza, is fraught. But does one have to wait for a genocide to be successfully completed to name it? This logic contributes to the politics of denial...**But naming injustice is crucial to claiming justice.**

You were elected to represent the interests of your constituents and our community. Polls from both Reuters and Data for Progress show that the majority of people across the country support a ceasefire.

U.S. complicity in the genocide of Palestinians through our direct financial and military support of the Israeli occupation must end. I unequivocally denounce genocide and voice my full support of the Ceasefire Resolution of the Urbana City Council.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Amina Alamin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Amina Alamin, I am a local community member. Since October 7, at least 23,084 Palestinians have been killed including 9,600 children, this does not include the more than 7,000 missing assumed to be under the rubble. I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Elbashir Araud <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 8:08 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 1.8.24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting Body:

Please read my email out loud during public input. My name is Elbashir Araud and I am Urbana resident and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you,

Elbashir Araud

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Imad Rahman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 7:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council Member,

Please read my email out loud during public input.

I was born and raised in Central Illinois, and I am a proud graduate of the University of Illinois and a resident of Urbana and Champaign for a total of 22 years.

I support a ceasefire in Palestine as do the vast majority of my fellow Champaign community members and neighbors, and Americans in general. I regularly speak with fellow community members, and no one actually believes the continuous destruction of infrastructure and killing of civilians in Palestine is serving any reasonable strategic interest.

Furthermore, it was clear during the previous ceasefire that when Israel stopped its offensive, all parties in the area and region were willing to stand down.

For the sake of humanity and for the sake of long term American interests, we need a ceasefire immediately.

Please read my comment aloud.

Thank you,  
Imad Rahman

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** M Rasheed <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 7:48 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

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

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

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

Mehmoodur Rasheed

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Isaac Inskeep <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting (Supporting the Ceasefire Resolution)

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Warren Inskeep and I am an Urbana resident. I support a ceasefire resolution. The Gaza Strip has been under seige by Israeli forces for over 15 years, and thousands and upon thousands of Palestinians have been killed -- and will continue to be killed -- unless we do something about it. There have been egregious and ongoing human rights violations in Gaza for many years, and a ceasefire is a first step toward ending this crisis. Palestinians, like all people, have the right to life and safety.

Thank you.  
Warren Inskeep

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Zayn Beg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

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

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

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

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ruth Kantorovitz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 10:41 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT ; meeting date: January 8, 2024; topic: International Ceasefire

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution" was added at the request of Council Members Grace Wilken and Christopher Evans, and the presentation will be given by Ben Joselyn.

Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism.

The City of Urbana is home to many Jews, muslims, Israelis, Palestinians, and expats of Arab countries, many of whom are coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the Middle East. The residents of Urbana are trying to navigate peaceful daily life with the neighbors while constantly receiving news from the armed conflicts that are currently tearing through the middle east.

A discussion about a ceasefire in the Urbana City Council will form a toxic and divisive environment in Urbana that will bring disagreement between our residents and council members. Such discussion at the City Council will only result in negative effects on our city and no positive effects for those that are suffering from the war.

The Israel-Hamas war began on October 7th after the terrorist organization Hamas invaded the state of Israel, brutally murdering, raping and kidnapping hundreds of Israelis. This attack represents the deadliest single attack on a Jewish population since the Holocaust. At this time 136 Israelis and other nationals are still held in Gaza as hostages.

Hamas publicly stated in the media that it will repeat an October 7th attack till Israel is destroyed.

Since the terrorist organization Hamas took control over Gaza in 2007, they have launched tens of thousands of rockets on Israeli cities and civilian targets, including Israeli hospitals and schools.

Hamas, as stated in its Covenant, is committed to the destruction of Israel and to the creation of an Islamic state in Israel's place. The slaughter of Jews is explicit in the Hamas Covenant: "The Day of Judgement will not come about, until Muslims fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Muslims, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him."

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced as a result of the war, while the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah continue to shoot rockets into civilian centers in Israel.

As Israel is fighting for its existence, Hamas is using Gaza's population as human shields, placing rocket launchers and terror infrastructure in and under hospitals, schools and homes, causing the death of so many Palestinian civilians. As part of its defense tactic, Hamas prevents Gazan civilians from fleeing into safe zones or crossing into Egypt to wait out the war.

The city of Urbana has much work to do to enhance the safety and security of our own community, it's time should not be hijacked by political activists who try to buy time for the Hamas terrorist organization. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

Sincerely,

Ruth Kantorovitz  
Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sariel Har-Peled <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:00 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT January 8, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution". Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism. Such pointless decisions were met with widespread ridicule, and interpreted, correctly, as public shows of antisemitism, as larger crises around the world (not involving Jews) were mysteriously ignored (Ukraine and Sudan, to name two going on right now).

The city of Urbana has much work to do for our own community, it's time should not be hijacked by such discussions on world affairs. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

thanks

Sariel Har-Peled

Urbana

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Sariel Har-Peled, CS Dept, UIUC, Urbana, IL.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Inbal Elazar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:31 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT: January 8, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution". Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism. Such pointless decisions were met with widespread ridicule, and interpreted, correctly, as public shows of antisemitism, as larger crises around the world (not involving Jews) were mysteriously ignored (Ukraine and Sudan, to name two going on right now).

The city of Urbana has much work to do for our own community, it's time should not be hijacked by such discussions on world affairs. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

Thanks,  
Inbal Elazar

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Reut Berkson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 11:45 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input - January 8th, 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I'm an Israeli jew who's lived in Urbana for the past 4 years. My dad was born in Iraq and had to flee his country with his family in 1948, due to riots against jews after Israel was established. He lived in a refugee camp in Israel for 12 years with many other jews who seeked refuge from the countries they fled from. My mom was born in Iran and was persecuted for being a jew her entire life. She was attacked every day on her way to school and with her family had to face periodic riots against jews, until she made it to Israel at the age of 16.

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution" was added at the request of Council Members Grace Wilken and Christopher Evans, and the presentation will be given by Ben Joselyn.

Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism.

The City of Urbana is home to many Jews, muslims, Israelis, Palestinians, and expats of Arab countries, many of whom are coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the Middle East. The residents of Urbana are trying to navigate peaceful daily life with the neighbors while constantly receiving news from the armed conflicts that are currently tearing through the middle east.

A discussion about a ceasefire in the Urbana City Council will form a toxic and divisive environment in Urbana that will bring disagreement between our residents and council members. Such discussion at the City Council will only result in negative effects on our city and no positive effects for those that are suffering from the war.

The Israel-Hamas war began on October 7th after the terrorist organization Hamas invaded the state of Israel, brutally murdering, raping and kidnapping hundreds of Israelis and other nationals. This attack represents the deadliest single attack on a Jewish population since the Holocaust. At this time 136 Israelis and other nationals are still held in Gaza as hostages.

Hamas publicly stated in the media that it will repeat an October 7th attack till Israel is destroyed.

Since the terrorist organization Hamas took control over Gaza in 2007, they have launched tens of thousands of rockets on Israeli cities and civilian targets, including Israeli hospitals and schools.

Hamas, as stated in its Covenant, is committed to the destruction of Israel and to the creation of an Islamic state in Israel's place. The slaughter of Jews is explicit in the Hamas Covenant: "The Day of Judgement will not come about, until Muslims fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Muslims, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him."

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced as a result of the war, while the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah continue to shoot rockets into civilian centers in Israel.

As Israel is fighting for its existence, Hamas is using Gaza's population as human shields, placing rocket launchers and terror infrastructure in and under hospitals, schools and civilian homes, causing so many Palestinian civilians to die. As part of its defense tactic, Hamas does not let Gazan civilians flee into safe zones or Egypt, to wait out the war.

The city of Urbana has much work to do to enhance the safety and security of our own community, its time should not be hijacked by political activists who try to buy time for the Hamas terrorist organization to launch another attack on Jews. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

Sincerely,

Reut Berkson  
Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Yuliy Baryshnikov <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1.8.24

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members, dear Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk,

the item K-1 on the proposed agenda deals with an "Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution." Unfortunately, the packet does not contain the proposal. Below is a proposal that, I believe, can serve as the basis of the discussion.

Sincerely,  
Yuliy Baryshnikov,  
Urbana.

---

### **Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution**

*Whereas*, Gaza strip is ruled politically since 2007 by the Islamic Resistance Movement (popularly known as Hamas), which is responsible for all aspects of civilian life there, while militarily it is assisted by other groups, most notably, Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

*Whereas*, the founding documents of the forces forming current Gazan government declare it in the state of war with the Jewish State (which they refer to as the "Zionist entity"), said war being waged continuously, with series of ceasefires punctuated by outbreaks of violence;

*Whereas*, the last such major outbreak before the events of October 7th 2023 started in May 10, 2021, when Gazan military breached the previous ceasefire by firing multiple rockets into the civilian communities in Israel, and ended eleven days later, with yet another ceasefire brokered by Egypt;

*Whereas*, that last ceasefire was, again, infamously breached on October 7th, 2023 by the Gazan military forces which committed well-documented atrocities, and unleashed yet another bloodbath;

*Whereas*, the Islamic Resistance Movement and its allies in Gaza, and other states continue to justify its militaristic, expansionist goals with references to Quran, taken out of the context, and reinterpreted to maintain the warring posture, thus denying the Gazan civilian population a peaceful future and planting seeds of Islamophobia and anti-Aran sentiments worldwide,

#### **We Resolve:**

- 1.
- 2.
3. Squarely condemn the militaristic

4. posture of the Gazan government, refusing to accept peaceful paths to a better future for Gaza's long-suffering population.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Request an immediate, complete
9. and unconditional surrender of military units of the Gazan government.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. Request the removal of the
14. current political and military government of Gaza.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. Request an immediate return
19. of all hostages captured during the raids on October 7th.
- 20.

These conditions would enable an immediate cessation of hostilities and would provide the surest way forward to a peaceful resolution of the bloody conflict brought upon the civilian population of Gaza.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lilyan Levant <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:37 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin,

I wish my email to be included in the public record.

City council is not the forum for a Middle East cease fire resolution. It will not impact the conflict in the Middle East. It will serve to foster a divisive and toxic environment for our Urbana city residents, many of whom are Palestinians, Israelis, expats from Arab countries, members of the Jewish community, all of whom are attempting to peacefully navigate life here while also coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Lil Levant  
Carle Avenue

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** stav sher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 12:43 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 01/08/24: City Council Resolution Calling for Cease-Fire in Gaza

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution". Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism. Such pointless decisions were met with widespread ridicule, and interpreted, correctly, as public shows of antisemitism, as larger crises around the world (not involving Jews) were mysteriously ignored (Ukraine and Sudan, to name two going on right now).

The city of Urbana has much work to do for our own community, it's time should not be hijacked by such discussions on world affairs. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

thanks

Stav Ashur

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Esther Patt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 1/8/24: City Council Resolution Calling for Cease-Fire in Gaza

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am resubmitting this message with a request that it be included in the public record for the January 8, 2024 meeting. My previous submission had the wrong meeting date.

Thank you.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members:

Some local activists will be asking the city council tonight to pass a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. I have not seen any proposed language and wonder whether the resolution would be calling upon Hamas and Hezbollah to cease fire and for Hamas to return the hostages – or if it will just be a call for the U.S. to pressure Israel to cease fire.

My downstairs neighbors who are graduate students from Israel hung an Israeli flag outside their window right after the October 7 attacks. The flag was vandalized. So too was a display on campus with photographs of some of the hostages who had been taken. My neighbors hung another flag in their window and it was quickly vandalized as well. A third flag is now hanging in my window and it has not been vandalized because I live on the second floor which cannot be reached from the ground without a ladder.

A lot of my neighbors in west Urbana hung Ukrainian flags at their homes after Russia first attacked Ukraine and I have not seen any of those flags vandalized.

I write to add my name to the statement that is being sent to you by people in our community who ask you to REFRAIN from adopting any resolution on this matter. Here is the text with a few of my personal changes.

**The Israel-Hamas war began on October 7th after the terrorist organization Hamas invaded the state of Israel, brutally murdering, raping and kidnapping over 1,500 Israelis and other nationals. This attack represents the bloodiest single attack on a Jewish population since the Holocaust.**

**At this time 136 Israelis and other nationals are still held in Gaza as hostages under extreme conditions. In Israel, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced as a result of the war, while the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah continue to shoot rockets into civilian centers in Israel.**

**The Palestinian population is also experiencing incredible strife and suffering while Hamas holds Palestinian women and children as human shields and uses tunnels and basements under hospitals and schools as locations for its headquarters in Gaza.**

**The City of Urbana is home to many Jewish, Palestinian, Israeli and Muslim people coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the conflict. The residents of Urbana are trying to navigate peaceful daily life with the neighbors while constantly receiving news from the armed conflicts that are currently tearing through the middle east.**



**A discussion about a ceasefire at the Urbana City Council meeting will not make a difference for Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering in the war against Hamas. Nor will it provide much comfort to most of the people who are locally affected by the war.**

**What it will do – is form a toxic and divisive environment in Urbana that will bring disagreement between our residents and council members.**

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of this compelling concern.

Esther Patt  
Urbana IL

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Frances Harris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:49 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and members of the Urbana City Council,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, but I would like my comments to be included in the public record.

I understand that a resolution is being introduced regarding an international ceasefire. I assume this resolution is about the current conflict in Gaza. As a proud Urbana resident and a proud Jew, I would like to voice my opposition to such a resolution. Our city government is not the forum for such an action. It will not impact the conflict in the Middle East. Instead, it is much more likely to foster a divisive and toxic environment for our Urbana city residents, many of whom are Palestinians, Israelis, ex-pats from Arab countries, and members of the Jewish community. All of us are attempting to peacefully navigate life here while also coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the Middle East. **We are all hurting.**

Usually it tickles me to say that I live "on this side of the Birkenstock curtain." I love Urbana's quirkiness, liveliness, and compassion for its residents. But this gesture strikes me as purely performative. Worse than unproductive, it is likely to cause a lot of unnecessary collateral damage. I can't believe I have to say I feel like I'm looking over my shoulder these days. Here. Of all places.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,

Frances Harris  
[REDACTED] Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ross, Richard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:23 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** Ross, Richard  
**Subject:** Public Input on Proposed Resolution on Ceasefire in Hamas-Israel War

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am a resident and voter in Urbana. I am writing to provide input for the Mayor, Council Members, and clerk. My email may be included in the public record.

I strongly oppose the resolution for a ceasefire in the Hamas-Israel war for two reasons: (1) a ceasefire is a bad idea at this time; (2) the Urbana City Council will do more harm than good in pronouncing on foreign policy.

- (1) Ceasefire is a Bad Idea: This war began with Hamas breaking the ceasefire that obtained until October 6. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Hamas sent over 2,500 terrorists across the border to attack Israel. They killed about 1,200 people, mainly civilians. The terrorists conducted mass rape, murdered 260 young people at a music festival, beheaded toddlers, and burned people alive. Over 240 Israelis were taken as hostages in Gaza. October 7<sup>th</sup> was the largest single-day killing of Jews since the Holocaust.

Since Israel completely left Gaza in 2005 and turned it over to the Palestinians, Hamas has caused four wars. Hamas largely used missile fire in three previous wars (in 2008, 2014, and 2019) and in a variety of conflicts of lesser scale. In each case, Israeli retaliation was meant to degrade Hamas' military and terroristic capacities and deter Hamas, but leave it intact as the government of Gaza. This policy was a failure as the horrific bloodletting of October 7<sup>th</sup> showed. Hamas took the time in between conflicts to build more concrete-reinforced tunnels and bunkers, which shielded their fighters and served as factories for building missiles and other weapons. It has become clear that only the elimination of Hamas as a state can prevent further wars and attacks on Israel. The Israeli objective is not to destroy the "idea" of Hamas or to kill all Hamas fighters (neither goal is possible). Rather, the objective is to destroy Hamas' ability to act as a state. Only a state can build and store thousands and thousands of missiles; create and maintain hundreds of miles of underground tunnels; and train and equip over 2,500 terrorists for a cross-border attack and slaughter. If a ceasefire is declared now, Hamas will retain control of perhaps half of its tunnel system and a majority of its fighters. It will remain as the government of Gaza. Once more, aid will flow in and Hamas will divert part of that aid to rebuild its military and terror capabilities. Inevitably, there will be a new round of violence in the future; and then another. Only the destruction of Hamas as a government will bring the possibility of peace for Gazans and Israelis in the future.

Advocates of a ceasefire point to the civilian casualties in Gaza and say they want to stop more deaths. Nobody wants civilian deaths, whether in Gaza or Israel (and Hamas, by the way, is continuing to fire large numbers of missiles at Israeli towns). But the short-term goal of stopping casualties now will guarantee larger numbers of casualties in the future. Consider other historical

cases. Advocates of a ceasefire in the American civil war in spring of 1863 may have represented themselves as humanitarians, but they would have insured the splitting of the Union and the continuation of slavery for decades or more. Advocates of a ceasefire in World War II in spring 1942 may have thought themselves to be humanitarians, but they would have insured the continuation of Japanese control over much of East Asia and Nazi control from the coast of France to the middle of Russia. Only the defeat of the Confederacy and the Axis, a defeat that required lengthy wars and vastly more casualties than in Gaza/Israel, allowed the emergence of a better world. A premature ceasefire would have led to a worse world. So too in Gaza/Israel.

- (2) The Role of the Urbana City Council: Whatever one thinks of the case for or against a ceasefire in Gaza/Israel, the Urbana City Council is not the forum for a resolution. Urbana will have no effect on the conduct of the parties in the Middle East. All Urbana can do by announcing a foreign policy is to embitter city residents. Our town contains residents with many different views on the Middle East, including Jews, Israelis, Muslims, and Arabs who feel closely connected to the conflict. Whatever policy the city adopts will alienate some residents and set one against the next, leaving bitter scars. A city-endorsed foreign policy will drive some residents away from productive engagement on local issues where we need cooperation. And all of this for nothing, since nobody in the Middle East will listen to what Urbana has to say on foreign affairs. A debate on Gaza/Israel will do no good abroad and will open up lasting wounds within Urbana.

Yours, Richard Ross  
Urbana, Illinois

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Marc Snir <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1/8/24

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

For incorporation in the public meeting record.

Re: Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans

The murder or close to one thousand civilians, men, women and children, the desecration of their bodies, the multiple rapes and the hostage taking on Oct 7 were a horrible act of barbarism. The deaths and suffering inflicted on the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip by the subsequent Israeli attack, and by the willingness of Hamas to sacrifice civilians to advance its cause, are terrible. The Hamas terrorist organization has the goal of eliminating the State of Israel and getting rid of Jews in between the river and the sea. Many politicians in Israel express the desire to get rid of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. This race for mutual destruction cannot be allowed to continue. However, a ceasefire that leaves in place Hamas' reign of terror in Gaza will only be a lull preceding the next round of violence, a prelude to the next descend into the heart of darkness.

A ceasefire resolution by the city of Urbana will not help the victims of the conflict in any way. Its only possible effect is to further inflame the tensions between communities in Urbana, and further encourage antisemitism and Islamophobia. The city of Urbana has many inhabitants that care deeply about the ongoing conflict: Palestinians and Arabs, Israelis and Jews. Each community feels the need to do something in support of its side in this conflict. But the conflict will not end with the victory of one side, but with a dialogue and a compromise. The city of Urbana can help, not by taking sides in the conflict, but by promoting the dialogue between communities in Urbana. If Jews and Arabs cannot create bridges in Urbana, then what chance is there for a dialogue in the Middle East?

Marc Snir

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** lindab709 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ceasefire discussion

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I would like this statement added to the public record:

It is totally inappropriate for the Urbana City Council to vote on a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. The Council has no influence over such actions in the Middle East.

Hamas needs lay down their arms and release the hostages.

Linda Bauer  
Past Director, CU Jewish Federation

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S23 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Elliot Weinberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Members of the Urbana City Council:

I write as a citizen of the City of Urbana since 1960 and a member of the Jewish community of the twin cities.

It is my understanding that the City Council is going to discuss a resolution to call for a ceasefire in the current conflict between Israel and Gaza. It is important to understand what is really at stake here so I would like to try to give some perspective to the situation.

Israel is a sliver among a heavily populated region of mostly Muslim countries. Israel is a democratic country of about 9 million with an Arabic citizenship of about 2 million. Israeli Arabs have the right to vote and there are Arabic political parties in Israel. By contrast the population of the other countries of the mideast and North Africa is about 400 million, about 90% of whom are Muslim. Gaza, to the west of Israel has a population of two million and what is commonly known as the Palestinian West Bank to the east of Israel has another two million. The Middle East and North Africa is considered the least democratic in the world. Israel sits in the midst of potential and often real enemies. Gaza itself is/has been governed by the terrorist group Hamas which is dedicated to not just the destruction of Israel but the killing of all Jews.

Conflict comes naturally to the region. If Israel didn't exist, the struggle between Shia and Sunni alone would dominate this discussion. And there are a number of distinct terrorist groups in the region besides Hamas: Hezbollah, al-Qaeda, Isis, the Islamic State, and various offshoots of these.

Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 after a coup-d'etat unseated the Palestinian government. It has been shelling Israeli cities ever since. And the conflict there has continued.

The current conflict followed a brutal and inhuman attack on Israeli citizens on October 7, which led to the current retaliation against Hamas. The brutalities that were inflicted on that day are unbelievable. How would we behave if a thousand Americans at a peaceful 'rave' were raped, tortured, and killed? And the numbers are incredible for one day - if proportioned to the US population it would amount to 120,000. Remember that 3000 deaths in the US on Sept 11 led to an attack on Afghanistan which resulted in the deaths of some 70,000 civilians. The terrorist attacks which preceded these retaliations doesn't excuse us and it doesn't excuse the Israelis.

The suffering of the ordinary citizens of Gaza that has resulted from this conflict cannot be denied. It is intolerable. I wish that the war had been conducted differently.

*But Israel knows that these battles are a part of an ongoing struggle for its very existence. The country came into being as a result of the attempt in the 40s to destroy all Jewry.*

A ceasefire now would allow the attempt to destroy this tiny nation a step towards its goal. We should allow Israel the freedom to defend its existence. We can do so while pressing them to be more judicious in its decisions and activities.

I hope that you will keep this in mind as you act to speak for the entire community, Jews, Moslems, Christians, Arabs.

You are also speaking for me.

A son of a family that fled persecution and possible execution just because they were Jewish,  
Elliot Weinberg

PS:  
I would like this letter to be included in the public record.



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Inna Zharnitsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:20 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 Urbana City Council Members,

On the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution". Following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

In cities around the country, similar resolutions have been used to spread false information about Israel, promote hatred and fuel antisemitism. Such pointless decisions were met with widespread ridicule, and interpreted, correctly, as public shows of antisemitism, as larger crises around the world (not involving Jews) were mysteriously ignored (Ukraine and Sudan, to name two going on right now).

The city of Urbana has much work to do for our own community, it's time should not be hijacked by such discussions on world affairs. Please call to remove from the agenda Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans".

thanks

Inna Zharnitsky

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Erin Mangurten <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

The Israel-Hamas war began on October 7th after the terrorist organization Hamas invaded the state of Israel, brutally murdering, raping and kidnapping over 1,500 Israelis and other nationals. This attack represents the bloodiest single attack on a Jewish population since the Holocaust.

At this time 136 Israelis and other nationals are still held in Gaza as hostages under extreme conditions. In Israel, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced as a result of the war, while the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah continue to shoot rockets into civilian centers in Israel.

The Palestinian population is also experiencing incredible strife and suffering while Hamas holds Palestinian women and children as human shields and using the basements of hospitals and schools as locations for its headquarters in Gaza.

The City of Urbana is home to many Jews, Palestinians, Israelis, expats of Arab countries, many of whom are coping with loss and concern for family and friends in the Middle East. The residents of Urbana are trying to navigate peaceful daily life with the neighbors while constantly receiving news from the armed conflicts that are currently tearing through the middle east.

A discussion about a ceasefire in the Urbana City Council will not make a difference for Palestinians and Israelis that are suffering in the war against Hamas. Nor will it provide much comfort to most of the people that are locally affected by the war. What it will do – is form a toxic and divisive environment in Urbana that will bring disagreement between our residents and council members.

The city of Urbana has much work to do to enhance the safety and security of our own community, its time should not be hijacked by political activists who try to buy time for terrorist organizations. I attended UIUC and my son is currently a student there. The amount of hate-filled and threatening behavior has increased on campus since October 7<sup>th</sup> and this discussion is sure to increase any tension that is already there. As a parent, I fear for my son's safety on campus, and this will only increase the fears that have been present since October 7th. I cannot think of any benefit to this discussion, but I can certainly think of many potential threats. I strongly encourage you to reconsider and remove this from your agenda.

With gratitude,

Erin Kerpel  
Director of Programming for Gratitude Generation  
[www.gratitudegeneration.org](http://www.gratitudegeneration.org)

FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gratitudegeneration/>

Board Member of Furever Home Dog Sanctuary  
[www.fureverhomedogsanctuary.org](http://www.fureverhomedogsanctuary.org)

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/fhdsdogs>

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:17 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 01/08/2024 -removal of agenda item

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I just learned that the agenda for the City Council Meeting tonight, 01/08/2024, includes Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution" and that following the presentation, the council members might request that the Urbana City Council draft and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

This proposed resolution and related discussion does not belong in Urbana's city council (or any other city council) whose time and resources should be focused on local community efforts, not on world affairs. Any resolution on world affairs is largely a symbolic gesture and in this case, will cause considerable strife and waste the council members valuable time. In addition, resolutions for calls for ceasefire fail to capture the totality of a complicated and nuanced situation, inevitably results in the spread of false information about Israel, promotes hatred, and fuels antisemitism.

Please do not allow the important and productive work of the city council to be hijacked by this proposal and please call for the removal of Item "1. Proposed Urbana International Ceasefire Resolution - Ben Joselyn, CM's Wilken and Evans" from the agenda.

Thank you,

Leslie Landman  
Parent of UIUC student

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Fredman, Nathan Isaac <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 1/8/2024

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I wish this email to be included in the public record.

**I strongly and unreservedly oppose the issuance of any official resolution by the Urbana City Council regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, whether pro- or anti- ceasefire.** It is the height of hubris and a trivialization of a bewilderingly complex and incredibly heated situation, to think that a press release by our local municipal government on this subject could have anything other than negative repercussions.

America, and Urbana especially, are made strong by their diversity. Our community is strengthened by the fact that included in its midst are Palestinians and Israelis, Jews and Arabs peacefully living together. We in Urbana attempting to armchair adjudicate what *should* ideally happen eight thousand miles away in some best of all possible worlds can only result in the exclusion and othering of one of those forementioned historically marginalized groups, who will be rightfully upset that their elected government threw away its promise of impartiality to all its citizens for nothing more than a momentary public relations buzz. Creating needless strife and turning Urbanian against Urbanian for nothing more than hollow words is not the purpose of our governmental institutions.

Calls for a statement reek of patronizing paternalism and a white savior mindset. The testimonies of lived experiences of the people in Palestine and Israel should not be diluted by us preaching futile diatribes at them from our privileged perches on stolen indigenous land. We should tend to our own gardens, especially considering that in our city in particular and in our state in general, there has been a resurgence of antisemitism and islamophobia, issues that the Urbana City Council can tackle directly without the need to spend ten billion apiece on outfitting our personal Urbana fleet of Ford-class Aircraft Carriers to patrol the Mediterranean.

My personal inclination is very much inclined to pacifism and opposed to unjust war in principle, but often a just war can be waged with reckless violence. **I strongly oppose the current, and future resolution of the Urbana City Council supporting a ceasefire in the current Gaza-Israel conflict, just as I would oppose a resolution supporting the expansion of the conflict.**

Best,  
Nathan Fredman