

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Cease Fire Resolution
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:35:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from adrienne@sonomavillages.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council members and Petaluma Staff,

Please put a resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza on your agenda for the next meeting.

Twenty-two thousand Palestinians have died, and bombs have leveled entire Gaza neighborhoods. Think how it would be if this were to happen to us.

I know that our efforts in Sonoma County seem pretty puny compared to the giants of world industry and military might who are involved more directly in this. But, we need to do something. We cannot be bystanders and watch the carnage unfold. The least we can do is to take a moral stand and say, "no." Stop the killing.

Thank you.
Adrienne Lauby
Cotati, CA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Taryn Obaid](#)
Cc: -- [City Clerk](#); -- [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: what kind of human are you?
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 7:54:14 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from audrey.shimkas@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Very well said.

On Sun, Jan 7, 2024, 7:42 PM Taryn Obaid [REDACTED] wrote:

John Steinback posed this question in East of Eden:

"Humans are caught ... in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity in a net of good and evil.

A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left, only the hard clean questions: **Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well or ill?"**

City Council: please support an evolved human world society by passing a Cease Fire Resolution to support an end to the mass-killing of tens of thousands of innocent people in Palestine.

Most of the over 20,000 killed thus far are (were) children.

The human race must not tolerate regimes that oppress, deny basic civil rights; withhold clean water, food and medical supplies; or perpetrate mass violence against innocent people based on their skin color and/or religion.

In the 1980s, approximately 90 California cities voted to condemn Apartheid with 100% divestiture from South Africa-partnered corporations of our State retirement fund. The Governor then enacted law to divest.

Please lead our city, state, and country with support for righteous humanitarian action.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Taryn

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk; -- City Council
Subject: Support of resolution for peace
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:59:04 AM

thecaitlinquinn@gmail.com appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

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Dear City leaders,

Please do the bare minimum of voting to put the resolution on the agenda and then please do the decent thing and vote to support a ceasefire. It's truly the bare minimum you can do in the face of a genocide—Congress has failed to act and needs to see where the people stand. (And if you support the ongoing genocide, at least make that vote public record for us.)

Sincerely,

Caitlin Quinn

Advocacy Enthusiast

[she/her/hers](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Petaluma city council - comment on potential ceasefire resolution
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:14:54 AM

I am a resident of Petaluma ([REDACTED]). I am also a member of Petaluma's B'nai Israel Jewish Center.

I understand that there are activists that are requesting the city council weigh in on the war between Israel and Hamas.

I am opposed to the city council weighing in on this matter.

A preliminary question is whether the council's role and responsibilities include weighing in on international affairs. Has it done so in the past, will it do so in the future and, if it is so inclined, what will be the objective and subjective criteria that the council will develop to determine whether it should weigh in on an international matter? Weighing in on this international matter would set a precedent. My opinion doesn't really matter on this issue, but I believe it is important for the council to develop objective and subjective criteria, if it is amenable to considering a ceasefire resolution, so that supporters and opponents can provide applicable input to the council.

A secondary question, if the council determines that a ceasefire resolution should be considered is whether it should adopt such a resolution. I fear that a ceasefire resolution, no matter how benign, will stoke antisemitism within our community and will attract greater pro-Hamas activism in our city. The community, at large, will not read the resolution, it will simply absorb the headline that "Petaluma calls for ceasefire". While a ceasefire sounds benign, it is not. It paints Israel as the aggressor and Hamas as freedom fighters. As we have all seen across the United States in communities and on school campuses, calls for "ceasefire" have been linked arm-in-arm with antisemitism. The implicit message of a ceasefire resolution is one of hatred towards Jews. It leaves the Jews within that community feeling unsafe and unwelcome. I have never felt unsafe or unwelcome in Petaluma. In fact, since the Hamas massacre on October 7, I have felt embraced and supported by my Petaluma community - liberals and conservatives alike.

Before she passed away, my mother was a longtime resident of Cotati and owned a business on Main Street in Penn Grove. Many years ago, she told me proudly of the Jewish Chicken Farmers of Petaluma. I moved here, in large part, because of that rich history. I now live next door to Joe and Fran Piotrkowski, who have lived on that land for over 70 years and are part of that proud Petaluma Jewish Chicken Farmer legacy. Please support our place in the Petaluma community at this very critical time.

I ask the council to reject calls for a ceasefire resolution.

Kind regards,

David Saul
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Pocekay, Dennis](#); [John Shribbs](#)
Cc: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Resolution Calling for Peace in Israel and Palestinian Territories
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 1:58:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cabbot77@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Council Members,

We must act now! As individuals and as a community, we need to call for an immediate negotiated ceasefire and not send any more weapons to the Israeli military.

"This is the only way to stop Israel's mass assaults, war crimes, and genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. It is the only way to ensure the release of the Israeli hostages. It is the only way to rush desperately needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza who are being starved by Israeli siege. It is the only way to bring a plan for permanent peace in the middle east." JVP

Please support the RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PEACE IN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES so civilians, especially children, on both sides of the border can live in peace and free of fear.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Abbott
Petaluma

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk; [Kevin McDonnell](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Mike Healy](#)
Cc: [Peggy Flynn](#)
Subject: Public comment for January 8 meeting
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 5:37:22 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I ask again that you pass a ceasefire resolution. With each passing day, more innocent lives are taken, more people are displaced and the humanitarian crisis grows. Now Gaza is at grave risk of famine. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/01/world/middleeast/gaza-israel-hunger.html>.

I hope the wording in the proposed resolution before you (or about to be before you) will allay your concerns about dividing the community. So much has happened since October 25, when the Richmond City Council passed its controversial ceasefire resolution, which I know caused members of this Council to not want to enter the fray.

Please do not stay silent. There is nothing to lose by advocating for the dignity and safety of everyone. There is much to be gained by telling our federal elected officials we don't want to continue funding and supporting unprecedented violence against innocents.

I leave you with a moving video posted on Facebook by an Israeli performing artist and peace activist. I urge you to watch/read.



Dear friends A week ago I gave a speech in a rally in Tel Aviv organized by a group called "Standing Together".. Arab and Jewish Israelis working, and... | By Noa (Achinoam Nini) | Facebook

fb.watch

Thanks for your consideration,

Ellen Obstler

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Comment on Resolution for Palestine/Israel
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 11:44:31 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from erin4wmh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I want to share my support for adoption of the Cease Fire Resolution for Palestine:

"RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PEACE
IN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES"

The atrocities that have and continue to occur should not be condoned by our community or any other. We need to stand in solidarity with those who are being targeted with such horrific violence and seek to find an end to this unnecessary loss of life.

Erin Chmielewski
Pronouns: She/Her
Petaluma Resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: City Council Public Comment in support of a Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:43:16 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jeanyuger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing in support of the City of Petaluma passing an urgent ceasefire resolution in Gaza immediately.

Our tax dollars are funding a genocide abroad, and it is imperative that U.S. governments at all levels speak out against these ongoing human rights violations. More than 23,000 people have been senselessly killed, and we must do everything in our power to call for an immediate ceasefire and to allow unrestricted access to aid into Gaza now.

We have also witnessed an extreme rise in anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, anti-Semitic, and Islamophobic hate crimes domestically. The City of Petaluma must speak up against the violence occurring both at home and abroad — they are undeniably interconnected. We must center our collective humanity and demand a ceasefire now. And we must do this urgently — the cost is too high for the City to continue delaying a ceasefire resolution.

Thank you.

--

Jean Ger
Pronouns: She/Her

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Letter to City Council
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 9:06:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jenny@griffodistillery.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor MacDonald, Petaluma City Council Members and City Manager,

We can only express our absolute heartbreak for and solidarity with the victims of the last 100 days in both the Palestinian Territories and Israel. We can't fix the unimaginable pain of what has already been lost. And while we express that solidarity we must simultaneously condemn the unprecedented and indiscriminate violence that is still escalating against the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza.

It is a time like this where we as a free people must use our immense privilege to stand on the side of justice and equity and speak out against the hate that is increasingly spreading around the world. That hate is antisemitic, it is Islamophobic, it is anti-Arab, and none of it can be allowed in our community.

I respectfully ask each of you to be brave. To show our children what it looks like to stand up for the rights of Palestinians and for the rights of Jewish people. We do not need to know the very complicated answers of how we move forward to ensure peace and safety for all involved, but we do know it begins with a ceasefire.

Thank you,
Jenny Griffo

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: In favor of a ceasefire resolution
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 1:30:17 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from rhrantisi@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello my name is Mandy Rantisi. I have many family members in Petaluma city and love visiting often.

I urge you to take action and agendize the resolution calling for an immediate bilateral permanent ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian aid for Gaza, and a release of all hostages, Israeli and Palestinian.

A ceasefire resolution in communities promotes peace, reduces violence and hate, fosters dialogue, enhances community well-being, and creates an environment conducive to cooperation and collaboration among residents.

Please be on the right side of humanity.

Peace be with you all,
Mandy Rantisi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Cc: Karen Nau; Mike Healy; John Shribbs; Kevin McDonnell; Janicecader@gmail.com; b.barnacle.gsw@gmail.com; dpocekay@gmail.com
Subject: public comment for 1/8/2023 City Council Meeting
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:59:24 AM
Attachments: [south africa genocide complaint.pdf](#)

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from pbyrne@sonic.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Petaluma City Clerk,

I would like to enter into public comment by way of information for the City Council meeting on 1/8/23 South Africa's brief to the International Court of Justice (attached) requesting an investigation of possible genocide in Gaza by the state of Israel.

I submit that it is appropriate for the City Council to go on the record as supporting a Ceasefire in Gaza as the possibility of extended war, including the possible use of nuclear weapons, is spreading throughout the Middle East. The deleterious financial, political, and moral impacts already blowing back upon our Homeland for subsidizing and encouraging the continuous assault on Gaza, are increasing daily due to rising threats to international security rooted in the invasion of Gaza, and the correlated increase in attacks by Hizbollah and Israel on the border with Lebanon, and the strong possibility of a war between Iran and Israel, which would be a global catastrophe of unimaginable magnitude.

The suffering endured by the civilian population of Gaza is extensively documented by the ICC brief, and that suffering is not justified by any human rights metric or international law, despite the attacks on civilians by Hamas. It is well known that, historically, the federal government listens when state and local governmental jurisdictions raise their voice to weigh in on matters of tremendous importance to national security and the well being of all. While not all of the members of this Council may agree that the matter of calling for a Ceasefire is weighty and deserving of public attention, it is clear that substantial numbers of Petalumans are deeply concerned about the harm's caused to humanity and to our society by the ongoing war against Gaza. Calling for a ceasefire should not be controversial, it is simply an act of basic decency, and such a measure can contribute to the saving of thousands of lives, as many other Bay Area governmental jurisdictions are recognizing. Failing to act, is itself a statement of position. As a journalist covering Council meetings, I do not normally participate in comment and petitioning, but the issue of calling for a Ceasefire is of such historical weight and importance, that I cannot be silent.

Sincerely,

—Peter

Peter Byrne
Peter Byrne Ink
[REDACTED]
Petaluma, CA 94952

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Adopt Petaluma's Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:29:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sabrinadove1@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please put this letter on record for Monday's meeting

Dear City Council Members:

I strongly urge you to sign to adopt Petaluma's Ceasefire Resolution.

Signing the Ceasefire Resolution will signal to the rest of Sonoma County, the Bay Area and the world that Petaluma is a city that values all lives.

Signing the Ceasefire Resolution will signal to the rest of Sonoma County, the Bay Area and the world that Petaluma is now on board with 153 other countries with its desire to end the Israeli regime's excessive bombardment of Gaza, which has resulted in the death of more than 12,000 innocent children.

If the City Council does not sign the Ceasefire Resolution, you risk dividing our city.

Failure to sign not only jeopardizes our community's safety but also places us at a distinct disadvantage as neighboring cities rush to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to peace.

Let us not allow Petaluma to be left behind as other cities forge ahead in championing the cause of peace.

Lastly, this Ceasefire Resolution is not a binding law. Rather, it is a sentiment of our community's humanity.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Dove-Petrigh
Petaluma, California

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Peggy Flynn; -- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment for today's City Council Meeting- Please pass on
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 2:41:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from seitchiky@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Council and City Manager Flynn,

I am writing to you again and this time to ask for the Petaluma City Council to sign the resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza. I want to express that while some Jews in Petaluma are not ready to or are opposed to a ceasefire, I assure you that there are many others who do want an end to the massive amount of killing and destruction happening. I am one of those Jews and hope that you, as the representatives of all Petaluma citizens, will listen to all of us. I am asking for a Ceasefire.

I am far from an expert in the history of Palestine and Israel and I am taking time to read and learn from multiple primary sources so that I may be as informed as possible. Here is a [link to a growing list of resources](#) to learn from. It does not take any kind of expert, however, to see that the amount of death, destruction of infrastructure and damage to the history and culture of the Palestinian civilians is beyond anything that can be justified or supported. I say this as a person who was taught in my Jewish schooling and learned first hand from Jewish elders and Holocaust survivors our own history of generations of genocide and anti-Semitism. I say this as a person with family members who have studied, worked and lived in Israel. I say this with deep pain in my heart for those killed and harmed on Oct 7. I say this as a dedicated and practicing Jew who loves my culture, heritage and people. I say this as someone with deep privilege who is safe in my home and in my town and in my community. I say this as a person with a firm belief that never again should there be such destruction upon our neighbors and friends. I do not pretend to have solutions to the ongoing crisis and conflict in the region. I leave that to those who have studied and dedicated their lives to conflict resolution and international peace and diplomacy but I do know enough that we must Ceasefire now.

I implore you to take this Petaluma resident of nearing 20 years' word as representative of my family of 5 and others who I know support Ceasefire. I am asking for the City Council to sign the resolution for a Ceasefire. If you cannot sign as is, please set a time to sit with those who drafted it to find the words that can work. Please bring Jews and Palestinians and others who are involved to the table to work through it. We have worked through difficult conversations in the past and I believe you all to be brave and dedicated people who have the capacity to work together to find a way to move forward. Let Petaluma be a beacon of peace and an example of how to negotiate peace and understand that innocent lives matter. Palestinian lives matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope and pray that the Petaluma City Council is brave and can stand for life and peace.

To you all I say, Shalom (Peace) and L'Chaim (To Life)

In Community,

Sarah

Sarah Seitchik Sebastian
(ella:she/ elle:they)



December 4, 2023 Letter to City Council

Dear City Council and City Manager Flynn,

My name is Sarah Seitchik Sebastian and I have lived in Petaluma for 19 years. I am a mother. I am an active community member, I am a local realtor, activist and a Jew.

I am writing to you all this evening to ask you all, as my and my children and family's representative council, to adopt a permanent ceasefire statement to:

End civilian suffering,

Allow for unfettered aid into the region and

A return of all hostages.

The loss of life on October 7th was brutal and tragic and the continued bombing of the civilian people of Gaza will not bring back those who were murdered. The continued horrors and attacks will only breed more pain, suffering and war.

As a Jew I was raised to question everything; that no topic was left untouched by deep thought, debate and discussion. These principles included the topics of Zionism, questioning authority and an unending focus on values, what is righteous and above all else Life. During our holidays we learn of the tragedies and horrors done to our people so that we may never forget and NEVER AGAIN let genocidal acts happen.

It is winter now and during this time we learn and celebrate Hanukkah, when Maccabees who, it is argued, rebelled against the Greeks in a war of national liberation, had to hide in caves to stay safe to fight for freedom. How can we as a people celebrate that rebellion and then let the government of Israel inflict the same pain and suffering to the Palestinian people. How grossly and dementedly ironic. Have we learned nothing at all? As a Jew, I cannot, in good faith, look upon our Palestinian sisters and brothers and not see the pain and horrors that the Israeli Government is doing in our name and not be horrified and nauseous.

I cannot look at the families walking for miles and miles from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza in search of safety only to be bombed in the South and told to travel North and not cry, "These attacks must STOP!" How reminiscent this is of 1948 Nakba wherein Palestinian families were made to leave all they had, and how reminiscent is it of the Jews being forced to leave their homes in Germany, Poland and Austria during the Holocaust. So many use the genocide of the Jews and others during the Holocaust to justify these atrocities. It cannot be. Not in my name and not in the name of those who have been slain.

We cannot let this continue and while our city of roughly 60,000 may not have much say in international politics, we can stand for what is righteous and good. We can take a stand for LIFE and for LOVE of our neighbors and for peace. Please Please Please join the likes of the

Sonoma County Democratic Club and many others and take a stand for a ceasefire.

To you all I say, Shalom (Peace) and L'Chaim (To Life)

In Community,

Sarah

Sarah Seitchik Sebastian

(ella:she/ elle:they)



The many S's in my name –
I wonder, is that claim for fame?
From A A A to X Y Z
The letters are designed to see.
To advertise, I think my guess is
I'll sign my realty in S's.

A poem by Joseph Illick

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 12:45 PM sarah seitchik [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear City Council and City Manager Flynn,

My name is Sarah Seitchik Sebastian and I have lived in Petaluma for 19 years. I am a mother. I am an active community member, I am a local realtor, activist and a Jew.

I am writing to you all this evening to ask you all, as my and my children and family's representative council, to adopt a permanent ceasefire statement to:

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families were made to leave all they had, and how reminiscent is it of the Jews being forced to leave their homes in Germany, Poland and Austria during the Holocaust. So many use the genocide of the Jews and others during the Holocaust to justify these atrocities. It cannot be. Not in my name and not in the name of those who have been slain.

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In Community,

Sarah

Sarah Seitchik Sebastian

(ella:she/ elle:they)



The many S's in my name –
I wonder, is that claim for fame?
From A A A to X Y Z
The letters are designed to see.
To advertise, I think my guess is
I'll sign my realty in S's.
A poem by Joseph Illick

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Public Comment for Jan 8 2024 meeting
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 12:02:54 PM

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Members of the City Council

Reasons for the Letter:

First, I contend that the argument that the City Council should only be involved in local matters is contradicted by the fact that the City Council has been and continues to be involved (and rightly so) in matters of importance, nationally. Second, in the next part of this email I make a case for a ceasefire resolution. Thank you for considering my views.

City Council is involved in National Matters, now:

There is no question that the City Council is directly involved in matters of importance to the nation as a whole. What else do programs like Cool Cities, like the Climate Action Committee, like the effort to ban new construction of gas stations in the city, and like Blue Zones represent? Each is designed to make our city an integral part of a much larger national space that enables all participants in it to have good quality, meaningful lives.

By taking part in these programs, we demonstrate our commitment to participate in the affairs of the nation as a whole, and not just constrain our sphere of activity to that of a small city in California. This reflects the fact that we are a progressive city, dedicated to doing our part in eradicating many of the things that threaten our well-being, both at the local and the national levels.

The Justification for the Petition for a Ceasefire:

What is the rationale for the ceasefire petition we would like to put before Council? There are several reasons, and I shall list them.

First, there is no justification to respond to an act of injustice with another injustice, when those most likely to be affected are innocent civilians. Hamas did a horrific thing: killing over 1200 Israelis and taking 240 hostages. But it is also terrible to retaliate in ways that cause the deaths of 22,000 people, seventy percent of whom are women and children.

It needs to be pointed out, as well, that responding to Hamas' brutality with Israeli brutality will always be counterproductive. In fact, taking this course will only create a huge supply of recruits to Hamas, leading to a situation in which even if Israel defeats Hamas, another version of this organization will certainly reappear, and it may be worse than the present one.

Second, listening to the Israeli government discuss its approach to the war clearly suggests that it is not on the same page with President Biden. The latter wants to have a two-state solution, one state for Palestinians and another for Israel, living next to each other in peace and

justice. But this situation is unlikely, given the annexation mentality of the current government. It seeks to annex as much Palestinian land as it can in the occupied areas of the West Bank and transfer it to Israeli control. On the vacated land the government of Israel would build new settlements that can only be occupied by Jewish Israelis. Not only does this approach violate U.S. law, since it supports exclusion from housing opportunities by ethnicity, but it violates the prospect of a Palestinian State with equal rights under law for each Jewish and Palestinian citizen.

Third, the war could expand beyond the current boundaries to include Iran and Lebanon, if not eventually Syria and Iraq. We must prevent the expansion of the war, and the best way to do this is with a ceasefire. If we fail, there could be American soldiers placed into harm's way, perhaps even losing their lives. It is a long known fact that often nations back their way into wars they would initially have preferred to stay out of. We are on the precipice of doing precisely that. A ceasefire resolution tells all parties to the conflict to stop now, before the war spirals out of control. It is only with a ceasefire that we can create a space for reasonable people to enter the picture and search for a just resolution.

Fourth, the war is in large part being funded with U.S. tax dollars, dollars which we give outright to Israel. But dollars provided exclusively to one cause may not allow dollars to go to other causes. It seems to me that Congress should at least discuss the expenditures we are providing Israel to support the war, as part of a broader discussion of how our American cities would like to see the money used. And this issue, in and of itself, makes it absolutely mandatory that cities must have a voice in the matter. A ceasefire resolution would communicate this message loudly and clearly to our leaders at the national levels. Thus, whether we like it or not, we are enmeshed (or at least should be) in policy planning that requires our city's immediate and direct involvement in national politics.

Fifth, Israel, as I said earlier, is killing predominately children and women, not only with 2000 pound bombs but with massive, all pervasive hunger and the ever more widening path of deadly diseases. As such, it is involved in an effort to prevent the Palestinians as a people from having a future. That crime against an ethnic group is, to use Raphael Lemkin's term, nothing short of genocide. I do not see how in the face of this situation that any of us can do anything but demand a ceasefire now.

In my view, this is not just a political question but a moral question of great significance. Having a discussion on a ceasefire is the least we can do to ensure that we have carefully weighed all the issues involved. People of conscience may disagree on the outcome, but given the gravity of this situation, how can anyone say it is in our city's best interest to avoid the issue?

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven DeLue

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the address information.

Petaluma, Cal 94954

From: [REDACTED]
To: [-- City Clerk](#); [-- City Council](#)
Subject: what kind of human are you?
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 7:43:01 PM

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

John Steinback posed this question in East of Eden:

"Humans are caught ... in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity in a net of good and evil.

A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left, only the hard clean questions: **Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well or ill?"**

City Council: please support an evolved human world society by passing a Cease Fire Resolution to support an end to the mass-killing of tens of thousands of innocent people in Palestine.

Most of the over 20,000 killed thus far are (were) children.

The human race must not tolerate regimes that oppress, deny basic civil rights; withhold clean water, food and medical supplies; or perpetrate mass violence against innocent people based on their skin color and/or religion.

In the 1980s, approximately 90 California cities voted to condemn Apartheid with 100% divestiture from South Africa-partnered corporations of our State retirement fund. The Governor then enacted law to divest.

Please lead our city, state, and country with support for righteous humanitarian action.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Taryn

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Karen Nau](#); [Mike Healy](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Kevin McDonnell](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Pocekay, Dennis](#); -- City Council
Subject: Israel war crimes of killing entire families
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 7:02:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from toneeeeeee@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Council,

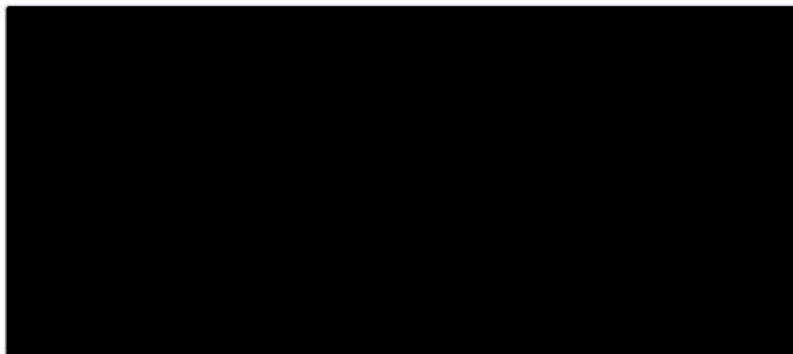
Please support a cease fire to stop the continued 'cataclysmic assault' of killing innocent families and children by Israeli military.

Amnesty International and the UN have cited horrific repeated war crimes, with 22,000 Palestinians (not terrorists) now killed since October. 'Israeli forces have shown a shocking disregard for civilian lives.'

It is our duty as human beings to not stand by and allow this atrocity. We must do all we can to help these innocent people and children.

To stand by and do nothing would signal to Muslims and Palestinians of all faiths within our community that City of Petaluma is not safe for them.

[Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza](#)



Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza

Amnesty International has documented damning evidence of war crimes.

Sincerely,
Tony

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Public Comment - Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:02:57 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from aguila.aura@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Hello, my name is Aura Aguilar and I live in Petaluma along with my husband who was raised here.

I am the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants who fled violence in their home country which was perpetuated by U.S. military aid. I was raised to be in solidarity with people fighting injustices and I am outraged by the atrocities that Israel is committing against the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank.

I implore the City Council to stand on the right side of history and adopt a resolution calling for an urgent and immediate ceasefire now. An immediate and permanent ceasefire is supported by over 66% of Americans.

Israel's war against Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank is also a local issue because:

The United States government funds Israel's war on Palestinians with our tax dollars, and we do not consent. This tax money could be used to fund much needed resources in our local community.

Congresspeople Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman have not signed onto the ceasefire resolution in Congress, and so we call on our local city government to set an example that can be followed by our congresspeople. Many local leaders, including the Richmond and Oakland City Councils, have called for a ceasefire already.

There are many Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Jewish residents of Sonoma County. With Israel's genocidal war continuing, we have also, unfortunately, seen an increase in hate crimes targeting these communities here locally.

WE CALL ON THE CITY OF TO LEAD WITH MORAL CLARITY. As the community continues to mobilize more and more each day, we invite you to join us as our representatives - in demanding justice for Palestinians and oppressed people everywhere. Not passing a resolution would be akin to normalizing genocide and condoning the murder of thousands MORE civilians.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Aura Aguilar

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Council
Subject: Support for downtown upzoning
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:34:15 PM

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Hello Councilmembers,

I know many of you are concerned about the affordability of housing in Petaluma. Please read the two blurbs under the "must read" section of the below newsletter because they perfectly show how upzoning (in appropriate areas) is the climate-friendly way to create more housing inventory and therefore more affordable housing (because any new housing, even if it is all new luxury housing, lowers the cost of housing overall).

By definition, downtowns are the best place for density. It is possible to respect the amazing historic character of our downtown while still allowing the town to grow, ameliorating the housing supply crunch that is currently pricing-out average citizens.

Locally, downtown Napa has done a great job of drastically increasing density while preserving historic buildings and the streetfront experience of the town (look at the [Google street view](#) of the Archer Hotel).

Please don't let unreasonable concern for historic preservation prevent us from moving forward on the downtown upzoning.

Thank you,

Brianna Wolf
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: City Observatory [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 9:54 AM
Subject: The Week Observed: January 5, 2024
To: [REDACTED]

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more



The Week Observed: January 5, 2024

JAN 5





What City Observatory did this week

A \$9 billion Interstate Bridge Replacement Project? Just 13 months after raising the price of the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) project by more than 50 percent, the Oregon and Washington DOTs say it will cost even more. We estimate project costs are likely to increase 20 percent or more, which would drive the price tag to as much as \$9 billion, almost double the 2020 estimate..



While the DOTs blame “inflation” their own estimates show construction cost disinflation, with expected increases of no more than 3.5 percent per year for the rest of the decade. The likely increase in costs will more than wipe out the \$600 million in federal funds awarded to the project in December. The cost of the IBR is increasing faster than the DOTs can find money to pay for it.

The “Cost Estimate Validation Process” (CEVP) that state DOTs implied would remedy future cost increases utterly failed. The use of lowballed construction cost estimates to sell highway megaprojects is part of a consistent pattern of “strategic misrepresentation.” It’s the old bait-and-switch: get the customer to commit to buying something with a falsely low price, and then raise the price later, when its too late to do anything about it.

ODOT has a consistent track record of lowballing pre-construction cost estimates, and recording huge cost overruns, with the average price of a major project doubling between pre-construction estimates and final costs.

Must Read

Housing is up, rents are down. Jay Parsons of **Realpage** reported that 2023 was a banner year for apartment completions. In 2023, the US completed nearly 440,000 new apartments, the highest number in about 35 years.



The surge in apartment construction has been a key factor in bringing down rental price inflation--something that will increasingly show up in the national inflation numbers in the coming year. But real estate markets are local, and the big improvements in supply are producing the greatest rent relief in those markets that are building the most. As Parsons writes,

. . . there remains a clear link between supply and rent change by market. Rents fell in 2023 across 40% of U.S. metro areas – and nearly all of those saw significant new supply entering the market. By comparison, nearly one-third of U.S. metro areas produced rent growth of 3% or more in 2023, and nearly all of them had little supply to work through.

The good news is that the surge in apartment completions is likely to continue through 2024, with more than 650,000 new apartments expected to be finished. There's clear evidence that expanding supply helps making housing more affordable.

Upzoning increases supply and lowers rents. The principal policy tool that local governments wield to regulate housing supply—zoning—turns out to be a critical way to improve housing affordability. Todd Litman summarizes the growing global literature showing how upzoning leads to more housing construction, and in turn, improves housing affordability. Writing at Planetizen, Litman surveys a series of careful academic studies documenting the positive effects of upzoning. One of the most striking examples comes from Auckland, New Zealand, which saw big increases in housing following its upzoning in 2016:



Whether the present surge in apartment construction continues, and whether it reaches the markets that need additional supply the most, will hinge in important ways, on whether local governments upzone for more supply.

Some state DOTs are climate deniers. More than 20 states are suing the US Department of Transportation over regulations that would require state Departments

of Transportation—which receive billions of dollars of federal funds—to measure and report the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their transportation systems. Streetsblog reports that this dirty dozen and a half don't want to have to even discuss the fact that the systems that they run are now the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the US. As Transportation for America's Beth Osborne says, the state DOTs are either dishonest or climate deniers (or both):

"They're saying they don't have the capacity to measure greenhouse gas emissions, and in the same [document], they're saying they do; I'd like to know which it is," Osborne said. "Do they have the information, and they *could* share it, but they just don't want to? Or are they unable to determine the carbon impacts of their investments? ... Because if they can't, maybe we shouldn't entrust them with this money in the first place — and give the money to the cities, which could."

This lawsuit is just part of a pattern and practice in the transportation engineering industry to deny climate change: As we've pointed out, they're content to build us a [highway to hell](#).

In the News

[Streetsblog](#) also pointed its readers to our critique of the flawed USDOT claim that the latest National Household Travel Survey shows a decline in travel.

Writing at [Planetizen](#), Todd Litman cited our [debunking](#) of USDOT's infographic purporting to show a decline in trip making, based on a flawed comparison of two very different household travel surveys.

The Week Observed is City Observatory's weekly newsletter. Every Friday, we give you a quick review of the most important articles, blog posts, and scholarly research on American cities.

Our goal is to help you keep up with—and participate in—the ongoing debate about how to create prosperous, equitable, and livable cities, without having to wade

through the hundreds of thousands of words produced on the subject every week by yourself.

If you have ideas for making The Week Observed better, we'd love to hear them! Let us know at jcortright@cityobservatory.org or on Twitter at [@cityobs](https://twitter.com/cityobs).



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COMMENT



RESTACK

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1424 NE Knott Street, Portland, OR 97212

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From: [Revelle M](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:31:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from revelle.mast@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Hello, my name is Revelle Mast. I grew up in Petaluma and I live here now.

I am a voter, a community organizer, a German American who grew up saying Never Again. A Christian by heritage but a secular humanist in life. A peacemonger.

I am outraged by the atrocities that Israel is committing against the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank. I've watched extensive footage and seen countless dead Palestinian civilians. 34,000?? We can't even know. Those who survived bombs with scrapes and minor wounds now are dying from lack of treatment, medical supplies, and because they are refugees in a warzone with no escape.

The United Nations states that "grave violations committed by Israel against Palestinians in the aftermath of Oct. 7th, particularly in Gaza, point to a genocide in the making"

I implore the City Council to stand on the right side of history and adopt a resolution calling for an urgent and immediate ceasefire now.

Israel's war against Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank is also a local issue because:

The United States government funds Israel's war on Palestinians with our tax dollars, and we do not consent. This tax money could be used to fund much needed resources in our local community.

Congresspeople Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman have not signed onto the ceasefire resolution in Congress, and so we call on our local city government to set an example that can be followed by our congresspeople. Many local leaders, including the Richmond and Oakland City Councils, have called for a ceasefire already.

- Across the world, millions of people are engaging in demonstrations and organizing major marches in solidarity with Palestine. Locally, between 100 to 300 people have been showing up every week in Old Courthouse Square to demand a ceasefire. Our demands for a ceasefire and lifting the siege on Gaza have broader support than ever. An immediate and permanent ceasefire is supported by over 66% of Americans.

There are many Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Jewish residents of Sonoma County. With Israel's genocidal war continuing, we have also, unfortunately, seen an increase in hate crimes targeting these communities here locally.

WE CALL ON THE CITY OF TO LEAD WITH MORAL CLARITY. As the community continues to mobilize more and more each day, we invite you to join us as our representatives - in demanding justice for Palestinians and oppressed people everywhere. Not passing a

resolution would be akin to normalizing genocide and condoning the murder of thousands MORE civilians.

From: [Raney E](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Ceasefire Now!
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:00:18 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rnkbrooks@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As a resident of Petaluma, I ask you to put a ceasefire resolution on the agenda for the next meeting. The killing of innocent Palestinians must stop and passing a resolution is an excellent step to show that the communities of Petaluma want freedom for all!

Never Again For Anyone!

Free Palestine!!

Ceasefire Now!!!

Raney

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Genl Public Comment-Support Permanent Cease Fire Resolution
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:47:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from susankirks333@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Across the world, people have been calling for the IDF to cease the Genocide toward Palestinians. The Oct. 7 Hamas brutal attack in Israel is not being denied by those in Petaluma appealing to you to support a Resolution. That horrific event is being acknowledged. You as our elected representatives are asked to embrace responsibility to adopt a Permanent Cease Fire Resolution related to the Middle East conflict and the IDF's ongoing bombing and slaughter of innocent civilians.

I note Peter Byrne's comment with the inclusion of South Africa's brief to the International Court of Justice.

I acknowledge the submitted, heartfelt comments of today's General Public Comment section and join in requesting the agendaing and consideration of adoption of a Permanent Cease Fire Resolution. It is true, this Resolution is appropriate to consider and pass, with submission to the CA Governor and the US Secretary of State.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: General Public Comment- Virtual Meeting Access
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:59:25 PM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

The ability for members of the public to participate in the City's public meetings is important.

Post COVID, virtual meeting access was provided for most meetings

The new COVID variant is causing severe illness and death. The COVID impacts continue.

Please resume virtual meeting access as soon as possible for all public meetings. Please designate overage of last fiscal year's Measure U revenue if needed for funding of this important public benefit

I understand recent hate speech public comments resulted in a complete shutdown of virtual meeting access

Please be proactive, actively managed communication in meetings, and serve your public, dismissing and cutting off any perceived hate speech and continuing with the public's business

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

On Mon, Jan 8, 2024, 3:47 PM susan kirks <susankirks333@gmail.com> wrote:

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Susan Kirks

Petaluma

From: [REDACTED]
To: [-- City Clerk](#); [-- City Council](#)
Subject: what kind of human are you?
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 7:43:01 PM

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