

December 15th, 2023 Submitted resolution to be placed on agenda for Monday.
December 16th, 2023 Submitted formal request to remove the resolution off the agenda, no longer available online.

The full text of the December 18th resolution is at --

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6454788&GUID=E0D2A9A2-879B-4165-BED1-751C47CFDB3A>

Here is the text of their resolution for Ann Arbor City Council to vote on:

Title

Resolution Denouncing Rising Hate and Discrimination in Ann Arbor and End to Violence in Gaza and Israel

Body

On October 7, 2023 Hamas terrorists killed over 1,200 Israelis and kidnapped 240, including 30 children, elderly people, and pregnant women. In response to the vicious October 7 attack, Israel launched a campaign with the stated aim of completely dismantling the Hamas infrastructure that controls Gaza;

Whereas, Israeli forces have killed an estimated 18,000 Palestinians and injured 50,000 in Gaza as of 12/14/23 - 70 percent of the total fatalities are believed to be women and children. According to United Nations Relief and Works Agency, approximately 1.9 million people in Gaza, or nearly 85 percent of the population, are internally displaced, many of them have been displaced multiple times;

Whereas, On December 13, the United Nations General Assembly called an emergency session and voted, by an overwhelming majority, for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire;

Whereas, On November 29, Debbie Dingell released a statement addressing *"the rising hate in the U.S., and calling for the continued release of all hostages, a bilateral ceasefire agreement to end the violence between Israel and Gaza, continued and significant humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in Gaza, and renewed efforts to establish a framework for lasting stability and peace in the region"*;

Whereas, As Congresswoman Dingell further noted, *"a ceasefire must set the framework for Israel, Palestine, the United States, and our democratic allies to work toward a durable two-state solution that achieves lasting peace and stability in the region, including removing Hamas from operational control of Gaza;"*

Whereas, Ann Arbor City Council has heard from our community calls for a ceasefire and development of a framework that leads to lasting peace and stability in the region and puts a permanent end to violence, built from parties committed to a two-state solution;

Whereas, On November 22, over twenty Michigan State lawmakers including Representative Rheingans, Representative Brabec, Representative Morgan, Representative Conlin, signed onto a letter urging President Biden to facilitate a lasting ceasefire between Israel and Hamas;

Whereas, Arab, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, and Palestinian members of the Ann Arbor community have long experienced fear, harassment, stigmatization, and threats of violence;

Whereas, Since October 7, these community members report heightened dehumanization, infringements on free speech, identity-based aggression, and vulnerability in Ann Arbor, fueling fear of harassment and violence;

Whereas, Disinformation and denials of violence and atrocities against Israelis voiced locally and online is harmful and antisemitic;

Whereas, Doxing of pro-Palestinian activists, distortion of the violence and atrocities happening in Gaza, and disinformation is harmful to the Arab-American community and is Islamophobic/hate speech;

Whereas, Our neighbors are being affected by this crisis, with Ann Arbor residents expressing grief over loved ones lost, harmed, injured, displaced, and held hostage in this conflict;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor will continue to work with local, state, national law enforcement and community organizations to protect the safety, sense of security, and full civic participation of all persons, including the Arab, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, and other members of our community; and

Whereas, The strength of Ann Arbor rests upon a foundation of plurality, a commitment to the unalterable truth that we are stronger when we see and seek to understand each other, even as we seek to be seen and understood ourselves.

RESOLVED, Ann Arbor City Council supports Congresswoman Dingell's November 29th statement and call for a bilateral ceasefire, additional humanitarian aid for Gaza, condemns the actions of Hamas, and calls for a release of all hostages;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council condemns all forms of antisemitism, anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobia; and

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council expresses its unwavering support for all Arab, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, and other members of the community, each of whom has the right to worship, gather, advocate, mourn, and celebrate free from intimidation, harassment, and fear of violence;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council urges community members to recognize the grief of others, and to honor the depth and diversity of community experience; and

RESOLVED, Ann Arbor City Council requests the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission to engage with affected communities during this crisis, to uphold the enforcement of Chapter 12 of the Non-Discrimination Ordinance, and to educate residents on how to file complaints of discrimination or harassment in our city; and

RESOLVED, Ann Arbor City Council directs the City Administrator to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Dingell, Senator Peters, and Senator Stabenow.