

Worcester Ceasefire Resolution

A RESOLUTION TO END THE WAR ON GAZA

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Worcester, in City Council assembled, as follows:

WHEREAS on October 17th, 2023, the Worcester City Council voted 8 to 2, with one abstention, in favor of a resolution condemning the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel that took nearly 1,200 lives,

AND WHEREAS the ongoing war on Gaza has resulted in over 42,000 Palestinian lives lost, more than 50% being women and children,¹

AND WHEREAS Israeli hostages in Gaza and Palestinian detainees in Israel have died in custody and face ever-increasing risks of dying,

AND WHEREAS the United Nations reports that over a million Gazans face starvation and life-threatening diseases as a result of the present blockade of desperately needed medical supplies and the staples of life itself;²

AND WHEREAS the International Court of Justice ruled in July 2024 that Israel's occupation of the Gaza strip and the West Bank is unlawful, and that Israel's legislation and actions violate the international prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid,³

AND WHEREAS US law proscribes the sale or transfer of American munitions to systematically carry out indiscriminate attacks on civilians and prevent the transport and delivery of US humanitarian aid,

AND WHEREAS the United States has backed a ceasefire plan passed by the United Nations Security Council,

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Worcester calls on the US government to facilitate and demand:

1. An immediate and permanent ceasefire to end the violence
2. Immediate release of hostages and detainees on all sides
3. Immediate resumption of the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza unhindered
4. Enforcement of US laws, including the Leahy Law of 1997, the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy , and the Arms Export Control Act, which would halt US weapon sales and transfers to Israel that make us accomplices to the present mass slaughter of innocents

¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/>

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/experts-hail-icj-declaration-illegality-israels-presence-occupied#:~:text=The%20ICJ%20mandated%20Israel%20to%20return%20of%20displaced%20people.>