



LEBANON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION

MARCH 5, 2024 - 6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

1. Call to Order

- A. The March 5, 2024, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) Special Meeting is hereby called to order.

2. New Business

- A. Ceasefire Resolution Discussion

3. Open to the Public

- A. Any member of the public who desires to speak on any item may do so when the item is taken up by the Commission and will be allowed to speak on the subject for not more than three minutes. (Note: Speakers are asked to state their name, ward of residence, and to use the microphone provided.)

4. Adjournment

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

**Agenda
Lebanon City Council
February 21, 2024**

10. New Business:

10.E – Citizen Request for Ceasefire Resolution

Background

On February 6, 2024, the City Manager's Office received a request from a resident of the City to have the City Council consider adopting the attached Ceasefire Resolution.

Action

City Council action shall be determined based on the discussion.

Included In This Section:

1. Proposed Ceasefire Resolution



City of Lebanon

Ceasefire Resolution

WHEREAS the Mayor of Lebanon and the City Council of Lebanon (henceforth referred to as “the Council”) affirm the human rights of all people regardless of race, skin color, national or ethnic origin, religious or political opinion or activity, and cultural group, in accordance with the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance;¹ and

WHEREAS violence anywhere, especially collective punishment against a particular group of people, gives rise to a dangerous logic of dehumanization that risks compromising the safety and dignity of residents of the City of Lebanon, and therefore must be opposed, both here in Lebanon and everywhere; and

WHEREAS Palestinian people and those who speak in favor of Palestinian human rights have been targeted by racist, anti-Palestinian, and Islamophobic hate in this country, including three Palestinian students who were shot while speaking Arabic and wearing keffiyehs, a Palestinian cultural symbol, only an hour and a half away in Burlington, VT;² and

WHEREAS many Americans are speaking up for Palestinian human rights, protesting in cities and towns across the country, including in various parts of New Hampshire, and the majority of Americans are calling for a ceasefire;³ and

WHEREAS the Council grieves the tragic loss of human life, both Palestinian and Israeli; and

¹ “City of Lebanon, NH: Welcoming Lebanon.” *City of Lebanon, NH Code*, <https://ecode360.com/37303347>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2024.

² Rathke, Lisa, and Holly Ramer. “3 Young Palestinian Men Were Shot in Vermont. Their Families Thought the US Would Be Safer.” *AP News*, 28 Nov. 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/shooting-burlington-vermont-palestinian-students-suspect-dd781a57f5d96cf591a1840db890b4ed>.

³ “Voters Want the U.S. to Call for a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and to Prioritize Diplomacy.” *Data For Progress*, 5 Dec. 2023, <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2023/12/5/voters-want-the-us-to-call-for-a-permanent-ceasefire-in-gaza-and-to-prioritize-diplomacy>.



City of Lebanon

Ceasefire Resolution

WHEREAS Israel has launched an unprecedented violent campaign against the Palestinian people, resulting in a genocide⁴ of over 27,300 Palestinians in Gaza, including over 11,500 children, and more than 8,000 missing under the rubble at time of writing;⁵ and

WHEREAS more than 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced, with many of their homes destroyed and no safe haven to turn to, and many are living without access to food, water, shelter, or other basic needs for themselves and their families, with the threat of death from starvation becoming a cruel reality;⁶ and

WHEREAS the current proliferation of violence, including the October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's siege on the Gaza Strip, comes in the context of 75 years of displacement of the Palestinian people,⁷ 56 years of unlawful Israeli settlements in the West Bank (deemed as such by the United Nations Security Council in 2016),⁸ and 17 years of an Israeli-imposed blockade of Gaza;⁹ and

⁴ Segal, Raz. "A Textbook Case of Genocide." *Jewish Currents*, 13 Oct. 2023, <https://jewishcurrents.org/a-textbook-case-of-genocide>.

⁵ AJLabs. "Israel-Gaza War in Maps and Charts: Live Tracker." *Al Jazeera*, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2024.

⁶ Bland, Archie. "The Numbers That Reveal the Extent of the Destruction in Gaza." *The Guardian*, 8 Jan. 2024. *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/08/the-numbers-that-reveal-the-extent-of-the-destruction-in-gaza>.

⁷ UN News. *UN Marks 75 Years since Displacement of 700,000 Palestinians* | UN News. 15 May 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136662>.

⁸ "Israel's Settlements Have No Legal Validity, Constitute Flagrant Violation of International Law, Security Council Reaffirms | UN Press." United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, 23 Dec. 2016, <https://press.un.org/en/2016/sc12657.doc.html>.

⁹ Monitor, Euro-Med Human Rights. "- Suffocation and Isolation 17 Years of Israeli Blockade on Gaza." Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/gaza> Accessed 1 Feb. 2024.



City of Lebanon

Ceasefire Resolution

WHEREAS the U.S. government continues to unconditionally fund Israel, supplying funds amounting to nearly \$300 billion (inflation adjusted) , including over \$200billion dollars in military funding, since 1948;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS \$219,005 in annual military funding comes from federal taxes paid by residents of Lebanon;¹¹ and

WHEREAS cities across the country are speaking up for what is right, calling for a full and lasting ceasefire, including Atlanta, Seattle, Minneapolis, Detroit, Oakland, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, OR, Portland, ME, and Albany, exercising democratic process; and

WHEREAS the majority of countries, 153 nations, around the world have voted in favor of a ceasefire as part of a United Nations General Assembly resolution;

WHEREAS there is ample precedent for the Council to weigh in on global matters that also impact residents of Lebanon, for example the 2017 Resolution in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement;¹² and in light of the ways Israel's bombardment of Gaza gravely exacerbates the climate crisis,¹³ which endangers residents of Lebanon;

¹⁰ Masters, Jonathan, and Will Merrow. "U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts." Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2024.

¹¹ "U.S. Military Funding to Israel Map." US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2024.

¹² A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT. 10 Aug. 2017, <https://lebanonnh.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4542/Resolution-in-support-of-Paris-Agreement-PDF?bidId=>.

¹³ Lakhani, Nina, and Nina Lakhani Climate justice reporter. "Emissions from Israel's War in Gaza Have 'Immense' Effect on Climate Catastrophe." The Guardian, 9 Jan. 2024. The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/09/emissions-gaza-israel-hamas-war-climate-change>.



City of Lebanon

Ceasefire Resolution

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of Lebanon and the Lebanon City Council call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls for the release of all hostages, both Palestinian and Israeli; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the New Hampshire state government to pass a resolution of its own to call for a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine, and to urge President Biden and Congress to follow suit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls directly on our congressional delegation, namely Congresswoman Ann Kuster, Senator Jeanne Shaheen, and Senator Maggie Hassan, to pressure Israel to adhere to an immediate and permanent ceasefire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls on the U.S. federal government to both pressure Israel to lift its onerous restrictions on the border crossing at Rafah to allow the full capacity of humanitarian aid required to fully meet the food, water, shelter, and medical needs of the people of Gaza, and to resume funding to aid organizations including UNRWA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls on the U.S. federal government to cease all funding and arming of Israel as a consequence of its government's well-documented crimes against humanity, both historically¹⁴ and in the recent case against Israel presented by South Africa in the International Court of Justice,¹⁵ and to reinvest this money in helping Palestinians rebuild their homes and critical infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, roads, and water treatment, storage, and distribution infrastructure; and

¹⁴ Israel: 50 Years of Occupation Abuses | Human Rights Watch. 4 June 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses>.

¹⁵ Application Instituting Proceedings and Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures. International Court of Justice, 29 Dec. 2023, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>.



City of Lebanon

Ceasefire Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the U.S. federal government to reinvest funds that would otherwise have been appropriated as aid to Israel to address the needs of the American people, including the people of the City of Lebanon, through programs such as affordable housing and healthcare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council reinforces its commitment to the values of the City of Lebanon as stated in the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance, and encourages Lebanon residents to feel safe in practicing and expressing their cultural and religious identity freely without fear of discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council denounces the rise in anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism within the United States as a result of Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be printed and sent to the offices of all state and federal congressional representatives beholden to the residents of the city of Lebanon.

Dated this 21st day of February 2024 at Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Timothy J. McNamara, Mayor
On Behalf of the Lebanon City Council

From: Devin Wilkie <Devin.Wilkie@lebanonnh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 10:15 PM
To: Dona Gibson <Dona.Gibson@lebanonnh.gov>
Cc: David Brooks <David.Brooks@lebanonnh.gov>; Clifton Below <Clifton.Below@lebanonnh.gov>
Subject: My motion from tonight

Move that it be resolved that the Lebanon City Council call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Palestine; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls for the release of all hostages, both Palestinian and Israeli; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Call for humanitarian aid to the people who need it. Moved also, that the Lebanon City Council directs the DEI Commission, along with specific feedback regarding proposed changes, to examine the ceasefire resolution as presented in the February 21, 2024 packet, with a response to be provided to the Lebanon City Council no later than the end of March 2024.