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From: Russ O <russ.osterman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:36 PM
To: Oscar Villegas; Lucas Frerichs; Mary Vixie Sandy; Jim Provenza; Angel Barajas
Cc: Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Yolo Country ceasefire resolution feedback - from a Yolo county resident

Over 1,200 Israeli civilians were murdered, raped, and tortured on October 7, 2023, which took place during a ceasefire. To put things into perspective, the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack is equivalent to the killing of 40,000 Americans or 13 times the number of victims from the 9/11 terrorist attack. Hamas also kidnapped men, women, and children—even babies, into Gaza. The atrocities committed by Hamas were shockingly celebrated in Davis and in communities across the United States.

As I am sure you are aware, the Oakland, CA City Council considered a resolution on the Israel/Hamas War. The meeting featured over five hours of public comment plagued by antisemitic jeering and the perpetuation of revolting and dangerous conspiracy theories.

Despite this, on December 12, 2023, Davis City Council made the same mistake of bringing forward a resolution regarding the Hamas/Israeli war, over the protest of the Jewish community. Activist groups advertised the meeting outside of Davis and transported their members from the Bay Area and Sacramento to Davis to flood the City Hall chambers. The meeting took hours and the resulting resolution did nothing to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis abroad. Instead, it resulted in splitting an already divided community further and creating a platform for antisemitism and bigotry. It was an extremely painful event for the Jewish community in Davis and pitted neighbor against neighbor. Do not make this mistake in Yolo County.

These resolutions and these messages do not align with American values. They absolve Hamas, an organization recognized by our government as a terrorist organization, of any wrongdoing, and attempt to strip Israel of the basic right to self-defense that every nation has. These resolutions are designed to promote antisemitic vitriol, agitate the community, and will exacerbate the rhetoric that has already led to the meteoric rise of antisemitism. Study after study demonstrates that the vast majority of the American public supports Israel in this war against terror. While we all want hostilities to end, just 20% of Americans believe in an unconditional ceasefire that does not include removing Hamas from power and freeing all the hostages. Please do not waste public resources on this divisive, time consuming, and pointless exercise.

Thanks,

Russ Osterman
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