

## Julie Dachtler

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**From:** Thomas Frankel <thfrankel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:49 PM  
**To:** Clerkoftheboard  
**Subject:** Israel-Hamas

Clerk:

Please pass this email on to each of the members of the Board of Supervisors.

Dear Supervisors:

I understand that you are being asked to consider a resolution calling for a cease fire in the Israel-Hamas fighting. I urge you to not do this for many reasons. These include the following (which are far from including everything):

This is a controversy that is outside the purview of your function. You were not elected to deal with foreign policy. The Federal Government is charged with that function and it is clearly dealing with the topic.

The subject matter is so controversial that any resolution cannot possibly deal with all of the issues. They are far more complex than can be handled in a local resolution. For example, Hamas started this war. They invaded Israel, were beyond brutal. (I will not repeat what we have all heard about their raw brutality), and now want the fighting to stop so that they can regroup and repeat their actions. How many times does this chapter need to be repeated? Hamas and its supporters want to stop the Israeli actions to rid the Middle East and the world of their forces. How many times do we have to read that Hamas, supported by Iran, indiscriminately attacks innocent people, including their own people?

Any resolution certainly should condemn building tunnels under hospitals, schools, homes and religious institutions. Also, condemn placing fighters, munitions, and weapons in hospitals and other institutions. They should also be condemned for diverting materials destined for their own civilians and use them for grossly immoral purposes. This includes materials to help their current civilians with food, medical supplies, and other items.

If a militant group said to each of you that they wanted every member of your religion or other identifying character to be dead, what would you do? Hamas and its supporters want Israel completely cleared of Jews, "from the river to the sea". What do you think this quote from Hamas and its supporters means? It is clear. What should Israel do in response to this position?

Hamas uses Palestinian civilians as human shields with the expectation that they will suffer. Israel certainly has made mistakes, but they have tried to warn civilians to move out of the battle areas.

Hamas has Israeli and American hostages ranging in age from 1 to 80+. They are being tortured, raped, and murdered. Where is the condemnation of their actions?

Any resolution should condemn Iran for its encouraging and supplying Hamas and others with the means to do what they have done.

Why single out this controversy? There are numerous wars going on all the time. Should the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution condemning the U.S. for killing some 70,000 civilians in Afghanistan? How about China and the Uyghurs? There are numerous wars going on in various places in Africa. How about condemning Russia for its actions in Ukraine? Yemen should be condemned for indiscriminately shelling ships with no reason other than to make life difficult for Israel and other countries. If you want a list of many other current conflicts just Google the question. I could go on with other

examples. My point is that the ugly head of antisemitism has again raised up because this controversy is the only one that you and other governmental bodies are being asked to deal with. If a resolution condemns Israel or asks it to stop fighting behind it is based on explicit hatred of Jews and Israel.

Any resolution must also condemn Hezbollah in Lebanon because it is shelling and killing innocent civilians. Lebanon should also be condemned for currently shelling Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan.

When a cease fire resolution was being considered by the Davis City Council the chambers were packed with a well orchestrated yelling, banner and flag waving group of people, many of whom were from outside the area. People anywhere were told on social media that they should come to the council meeting. The mayor even commented to the effect that the numbers of people showed that democracy is working. What a joke. If numbers were all that mattered Israel would have been destroyed long ago.

Again, what is happening in Gaza and Israel is extremely complex. It involves many countries. It is terribly sad for all concerned. However, the Board of Supervisors has more important local issues to deal with. You have the facts to deal with these local matters but you do not have the facts to weigh into a matter of foreign affairs. Governor Newsom declined to do so and so should you.

Sincerely Yours,

Tom Frankel

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