

Julie Dachtler

From: Valerie Rios <valerierios@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 4:28 PM
To: Oscar Villegas; Mary Vixie Sandy; Lucas Frerichs; Jim Provenza; Angel Barajas; Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Re: Gaza Resolution is Dividing Our Community

Dear County Supervisors,

Regarding my message to you earlier this afternoon (below), I stand corrected: that you are the Board of Supervisors, not the City Council who will be discussing this issue. I am relatively new to Yolo County and still learning where everyone fits in!

Thank you and kind regards,

Valerie Rios
District 4

On Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 3:15 PM Chis <gerkenlc@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Davis City Councilmembers,

I moved from San Diego to Davis three years ago. I envisioned a community whose citizens and leaders equally embraced and welcomed those from all faiths, cultures, and ethnicities.

So I was not only disappointed and surprised, but extremely saddened when I became aware that, in December 2023, every member of the Davis City Council called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza while remaining silent regarding the most recent assaults on Jews spreading throughout our community.

No decent human being likes war, nor the horror, destruction, and atrocities that it brings upon innocent people. But before you made that proclamation, did any of you have a plan or any forethought into what would ensue subsequent to a ceasefire? That it might lead to even further destruction, devastation, and death? Terrorists do not negotiate.

Would you have demanded a ceasefire after the bombing of Pearl Harbor? Or after 9/11? Or is an immediate ceasefire reserved only for Jews attempting to protect themselves, trying to ensure that the horrors of October 7 will never be repeated?

Did any of you express public outrage when the assistant professor at UC Davis posted vile threats, bloody images, and encouraged violence against Jewish journalists and their children subsequent to October 7?

How many members, before adopting this resolution, did extensive reading or research on the history of the Palestine-Israeli conflict before bowing to public pressure from those who have not?

I am not Jewish, but that matters little. And it matters even less what position I take in this global conflict. What does matter is that the Council, by publicly inserting itself into world affairs that are already highly contentious, is further dividing our already fragile community and inciting further hatred. Our Jewish community is living in fear.

At 70, I am too young to have personally experienced WWII, but I have participated in interviewing over 200 WWII veterans who had nightmares decades after witnessing the unspeakable horrors committed against Jews. My father, a 17 year old U.S. Infantryman, was one of those witnesses, and it affected him for the rest of his life. I'm thankful he's not alive to see the manner in which so many of our politicians remain silent while these assaults continue.

We all have opinions to which we are entitled and often play “armchair diplomat.” But I implore you to please refrain from going beyond the scope of city affairs. Whatever position you take, however well intended, will accomplish nothing on the world stage. It will only hurt our community. Instead, please devote your valuable time, resources, and efforts to local issues only, where you will have the most impact.

Sincerely,

Valerie Rios
District 4

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