

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, CALLING FOR A BILATERAL CEASEFIRE AND IMMEDIATE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE ONGOING CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IMPACTING GAZA AND ISRAEL.

WHEREAS Part I of the City Charter states; We, the people of the City of Riverside believe in promoting an inclusive community with shared economic, environmental and cultural prosperity, equal civil and political rights, social harmony and cohesion, and opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside's Inclusive Community Statement reads; A city of considerable racial, ethnic, religious, and other types of diversity, Riverside has etched a complex history. That history has included both significant efforts to achieve greater justice, equality, and understanding, as well as unfortunate periods and events that have demonstrated the need for increased commitment, ideas, and action to work toward these goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside has a longstanding commitment to advocating for compassion, peace, social harmony, safety, and fostering a mutual respect and understanding for all people, regardless of religion, race or nationality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside pursues a responsibility to uphold the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and equality; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing conflict in The Middle East has resulted in the tragic loss of many thousands of innocent civilian Israeli and Palestinian lives, and increasing reports of Antisemitic, Islamophobic, Anti-Jewish and Anti-Arab incidents; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a terrorist attack causing the deaths of over 1,200 Israelis and the capture of innocent civilians as hostages; and

WHEREAS, in response, the State of Israel has engaged in a bombing campaign detrimentally impacting civilian populations including hospitals, schools, churches, mosques, refugee camps, and entire residential buildings has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, severe famine, and the displacement of over 1 million people of the Gaza Strip; and

1 WHEREAS, more than 27,000 Palestinian innocent civilians in Gaza have been killed by Israel
2 as of January 31, 2024. Over 10,000 of those killed in Gaza are children; and

3 WHEREAS, over 122 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza, which has led
4 to more journalists being killed in three months than in all of World War II or the Vietnam War; and

5 WHEREAS, we have seen increasing reports of Antisemitic, Islamophobic, Anti-Jewish and
6 Anti-Arab incidents in Riverside and the Inland Empire; and

7 WHEREAS, many of our community members have suffered from an alarming rise in
8 Antisemitism and Islamophobia; and

9 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside stands firmly on the foundations of peace, unity, respect,
10 understanding and the universal value and preciousness of all lives: and

11 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside U.S. Sister City program officially began in 1956, Riverside
12 has led the way in programs that foster friendship, understanding, and encourage trade and tourism.
13 Today, cities like Riverside are well-positioned to form international partnerships that will result in
14 shared benefits across the globe; and

15 WHEREAS, 7 of 8 countries where Riverside's sister cities are located voted on December 12,
16 2023, at the United Nations General Assembly to demand a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza. This
17 included the People's Republic of China, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, and
18 Vietnam, along with 146 countries; and

19 WHEREAS, our Riverside core values of engaged compassion recognizes that it is only
20 through action and application of our values that we can promote true peace and stand against the
21 perpetuation of violence by rejecting silence, apathy, and hopelessness; and

22 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside as a local government organization can continue to
23 contribute to the collective efforts of a global society to promote a culture of peace, understanding,
24 and cooperation, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond local borders.

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1 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside,
2 California, as follows:

3 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Riverside hereby unequivocally and without
4 prejudice, condemns; terrorist acts; every form of avoidable, unnecessary, unlawful violence that
5 results in the death, injury, displacement, or mortal endangerment of innocent civilians; intolerance,
6 racism and xenophobia, including Antisemitic, Islamophobic, Anti-Arab, and Anti-Jewish sentiments,
7 rhetoric, and attacks in our region, nation and across the world; and specifically the violent actions of
8 Hamas of October 7, 2023 and the violent acts committed by the Israel Defense Forces, and extremist
9 Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

10 Section 2. The City Council of the City of Riverside hereby supports Congressional
11 Resolution H.R. 786 and joins other cities in calling on Congress and the Biden administration to
12 demand: an immediate bilateral ceasefire; an immediate release of all hostages Hamas took on October
13 7, 2023; urgent safe passage and delivery of substantial and sufficient humanitarian aid to Gaza; and
14 a lasting political resolution that protects the lives, health, and security of all innocent civilians.

15 Section 3. The City Council requests that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 City's delegation of federal representatives and disseminated to any requesting interested parties.

17 Section 4. The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this
18 resolution, and it shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

19 ADOPTED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2024.

21 _____
PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON
22 Mayor of the City of Riverside

23 Attest:

24 _____
25 DONESIA GAUSE
City Clerk of the City of Riverside
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1 I, Donesia Gause, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the
2 foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City of
3 Riverside, at its meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2024, by the following vote,
4 to wit:

5 Ayes:

6 Noes:

7 Absent:

8 Abstain:

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the
10 City of Riverside, California, this _____ day of _____, 2024.

11 _____
12 DONESIA GAUSE
13 City Clerk of the City of Riverside
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