

Resolution XX of 2023

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK TO ADOPT A MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION CALLING ON REPRESENTATIVES TO SPONSOR, CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINE, ENDING MILITARY FUNDING TO ISRAEL, LIFTING THE SIEGE ON GAZA AND CONDEMNING APARTHEID IN ALL ITS FORMS, AS PER ATTACHED

Sponsored By:

Committee: Aldermen:

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, residing on occupied Haudenosaunee and Lenape lands, is home to people with ancestral roots from all over the world, including Palestine; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston recognizes the urgency of human rights abuses in occupied Palestine and Israel and the need for immediate action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian and anti-Indigenous sentiments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston believes all sovereign nations in pursuit of self-defense must comply with international humanitarian law regardless of geographic context; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston expresses concern over the ongoing violence on innocent civilians in Palestine; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston also emphasizes the importance of a cease-fire, humanitarian corridors, and essential services for Gaza and the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston believes that no human should be deprived of water, food, healthcare and medical supplies, energy (e.g. fuel and electricity), and other basic needs, and decries the deprivation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston also stresses that collective punishment and violence against civilians, including the use of white phosphorus, are contrary to international law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston also highlights the tragic loss of over 16,000 innocent lives and the dire humanitarian crises unfolding in Gaza and the West Bank, including the destruction of civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, houses of worship, schools and residential homes as of December 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston is gravely concerned and affirms that there is no military solution, recognizing that a lasting resolution that recognizes human rights can only be achieved by peaceful and diplomatic means; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Richmond and Oakland of California, Providence of Rhode Island, Ypsilanti and Detroit of Michigan, Wilmington of Delaware, Akron of Ohio, Seattle of Washington, and Atlanta of Georgia, have adopted similar resolutions calling for a ceasefire, condemning apartheid everywhere, and/or expressing solidarity with the humans of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, violence and direct targeting of individuals and groups expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people in the United States has escalated to a harrowing degree, such that Wadea al-Fayoume, aged 6, was stabbed 26 times in his home Plainfield Township, Illinois and college students Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Ali Ahmad were shot for wearing keffiyehs, traditional Middle Eastern headdress; and

WHEREAS, the Carter Center, a world-renowned non-profit organization founded by President Jimmy and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, works to improve the lives of people round the world through peacebuilding, democracy promotion, human rights protection, disease prevention, and mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the Carter Center has urgently called for a cease-fire in occupied Palestine and Israel, the establishment of humanitarian corridors, and reinstatement of essential services; and

WHEREAS, Palestine's water, electricity and food access are restricted by Israel, compounding several humanitarian crises of thirst, starvation, health care, sanitation and mass displacement; and

WHEREAS, thousands of unindicted Palestinians, including minors as young as 14, have been imprisoned under administrative detention for years before 2023, amounting to severe crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2030 Kingston Climate Action Plan published in December 2021, the city of Kingston adopted Resolution 60 of 2015, legislating its support for local and global environmental conservation and climate resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston adopted Local Law 3 of 2021, enabling CCA in the City, emphasizing the power of local government persistence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston adopted Resolution 179 of 2017, Committing to 100% Clean Energy by 2050 and Continuing Support of the Principles of the Paris Agreement, which underscores the goal of limiting a global temperature increase to 1.5* Celsius by 2025, which is incompatible with the bombardment and destruction of Palestine, to be followed by Israeli and

American exploitation of Palestinian lands to extract liquified natural gas, which will certainly abet man-made climate catastrophe.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Kingston calls upon our leaders in Albany to sponsor and support resolutions calling for a permanent ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine to protect and save human lives, ending military funding to Israel, funding and supplying humanitarian aid, condemning apartheid in all its forms, and lifting the siege on Gaza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kingston calls on elected Congressional officials to co-sponsor and support H.Res. 902, affirming Palestine's right to exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kingston supports the urgent appeal for the establishment of humanitarian corridors to ensure the unimpeded delivery of much-needed aid and the reinstatement of essential services to the beleaguered region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kingston passionately urges the swift and secure return of all hostages and administrative detainees, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding their well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kingston declares the ecocide and gross environmental abuses to Palestinian lands is incompatible with internationally set climate goals, including the Paris Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. House Representative Patrick Ryan, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha, County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Legislative Chair Tracey Bartels, Ulster County Legislator Phili Erner, Ulster County Legislator Abe Uchitelle and Ulster County Legislator Brian Cahill.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, THAT THIS RESOLUTION THEREUPON BE ADOPTED.

