



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
January 31, 2024

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email adrianasquez2001@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 01/31/2024

Item # Oral Communications

Subject Pass a Resolution Supporting Palestine

Position In Favor

First and Last Name

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Last week, I heard members of our community oppose the Resolution to Cease Fire in Palestine whether it be due to the misconception of pro-palestine being equate to anti-semitism or questioning its relevance to the Escondido community. Being pro-palestine does not mean anti-semitism for there are jewish, christian, & muslim palestinians dying and starving everyday. Supporting a permanent cease fire, means being anti-genocide, anti-war, anti-displacement of indigenous people from their land. According to the Congressional Research service, Israeli military occupation has been supported by US aid with \$3.8 bn a year paid for by US tax dollars since 2016 for the next 10 years. Why should we talk about Palestine if it doesn't seem like a local issue? We should care because it's about safeguarding our Palestinian neighbors, supporting our Muslim, Jewish, & Christian communities, standing against the use of our tax dollars that are funding genocides, and fostering an environment where we can all feel secure in being our authentic selves. Imagine your family, friends, loved ones, pleading to live. Pleading for food. Pleading for water. Pleading for the violence to end. Escondido supporting a Cease Fire means we support the liberation of Palestinians and all people who continue to face violence caused greedy imperialists, every single day.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email merchant.michael@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 01/31/2024

Item # N/A

Subject Requesting Consideration of a Ceasefire Resolution

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Michael Merchant

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear City Council members,

Numerous municipalities have begun to make their voices heard across the country[1]. As the city of choice, let us represent the voice of the people. 50% of voters believe our President is complicit in genocide[2].

Currently, 30,000 Palestinians have died since October 7th. The majority of them are women and children. And now millions are displaced as bombs are continuing to fall on them. All the while, our federal government is trying to put a \$14 billion military funding package over to continue supporting the genocide, while cutting off UN humanitarian relief programs in Palestine.

Without food, water, and shelter, millions will die. The United Nations and the International Criminal Courts have both demanded a ceasefire. Yet, President Biden has chosen to use veto measures to go against over 100 Countries who demand a ceasefire.[3]

We know that violence abroad on our hands will eventually mean a cost to American lives. We have so many veterans suffering in our streets. We must have the

We must publicly call for a ceasefire, to pressure Israel to allow more humanitarian aid into Gaza, and vote NO on sending more weapons for this war. A "humanitarian pause" is not good enough. Our state representatives should cosponsor the ceasefire resolution, House Resolution 786, introduced by Representatives Cori Bush and Rashida Tlaib.

Our president should stop supporting the genocide abroad and withhold the \$14 Billion funding package so that those resources can be used to allocate funds to our community services, hospitals, schools, and parks here in Escondido and around the country.

As our city council members, you have the capacity to send a strong message to Washington to ensure safety for our citizens and our children. You have the capacity to tell Washington that we need American tax dollars to help Americans here, at home.

I urge to follow your colleagues in 5 other municipalities in the Southern California region that have passed resolutions demanding that President Biden support a ceasefire, so that we citizens and residents of Escondido can have a better tomorrow.

With gratitude for your labor and foresight,
Michael