
From: Adrienne Goldstein <arachgold2007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 12:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; BallBulletin
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi,
I am writing you today to strongly ask you to vote **NO** for Resolution CR22-2024 on February 5.

Liz Walsh is the councilwoman of the district where I live, and her opinion does not at all reflect mine.

The resolution calls for a ceasefire, but does not explicitly call for the release of all of the 130+ hostages (or remains of hostages) still being held in Gaza by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other associated terror groups. The ceasefire resolution also appears to be a one-sided ceasefire, which pins the blame for the devastating loss of innocent civilian life in Gaza and Israel solely on the actions of the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces. Further, the resolution makes no mention of the brutal events of the unprovoked attacks of October 7th, which claimed the lives of more than 1200 civilians – brutally murdered in their homes, in the fields, at a dance festival, on the road and in any place where the terrorists found them. Again, the details of these attacks have been chronicled by those who witnessed and survived, but also by the explicit body-cam images captured and disseminated by the Hamas terrorists.

Additionally, I am reading in the news that if the contentious resolution fails at vote, Councilwoman Walsh plans to reintroduce it every month until it passes. We now see the outcry of those who oppose the resolution in addition to those on both sides who want to testify on February 5 and have been silenced. Do we want to have the residents of the county focused on such contention month after month, especially since the international affairs topic is **nowhere** listed as a responsibility of the Howard County Council ?(From the Howard County Council website - “ **The County Council acts as the County’s legislative branch of government. It is responsible for making the laws that govern the County. The Council members also are the zoning authority and the licensing and enforcement authority for alcoholic beverages in the County.**”) Wouldn’t the Council rather focus its efforts and residents’ efforts on topics that relate to our county?

Instead of bringing people of the county together, the reintroduction of the resolution month after month is going to divide the residents of Howard Couty even more. Does the County Council want to be responsible for the violence that is sure to ensue about a topic that is outside of the Council’s purview? Funds for additional security will surely be necessary to monitor the outcry and keep people safe,. weeks leading to the vote and on the day of. Does the Council want to be responsible for taking away funding from other programs to provide the security necessary every time the resolution is reintroduced? It is inappropriate to use my tax dollars for topics outside the Council's purview.

Because of all the reasons I listed above, it is imperative that the Council vote **NO** for Resolution CR22-2024 on February 5.

Adrienne Goldstein
Middle Meadow Rd
Ellicott City

From: Aisha Khetib <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 11:18 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Humanity

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a student at UMBC and was born and raised here and lived in MD for 21 years, and Howard County for 20 of those years. I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Aisha Khetib

Aisha Khetib
aishakhetib@gmail.com
8009 Roland Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Alexander Prog <pro696@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 2:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposing CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County council members,

I am writing in opposition to CR22-2024, a call for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza that makes no demands of Hamas. While Jewish people in Howard County are safer than most places in this country, we have not been safe, either before this resolution or the war (what church needs to have an armed guard at the door?). This council has made no such ceasefire demands of other countries or the United States, including the wrongful war in Iraq that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. Meanwhile, Antisemites have linked Jews to Zionists, so that attacks on Israel are attacks on Jews, even though we are not the same. By passing this resolution, you are picking the easiest target – the country identified with a hated minority – to condemn. That makes Jewish people like my family and me less safe here. And it hurts.

Please do not pass this resolution.

Thank you

--

Alex Prog

From: Alice Gibson <gibbyhoot@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council people

As a resident of Howard County I ask the following for your consideration

1. Why is council voting on a resolution involving world situations how does this resolution help Howard County?
2. Why if you are compelled to think this resolution is in the best interest of Howard County residents are you NOT including in this resolution a request of the release of the innocent civilian children, women and men that Hamas cruelly captured & keep?

Voting YES for this resolution means you are alienating the Jewish community of Howard County. Why would you do that?

When you vote think of ALL the people involved will these words of this resolution bring peace to Howard County residents OR divide us against our Jewish neighbors. Your constituents are watching you represent ALL of us!

Alice Gibson
Ellicott City

From: Alice Gibson <gibbyhoot@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:18 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Resolution 22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

What are you trying to accomplish with this resolution? Why is this resolution that doesn't represent ALL citizens of Howard County even being introduced?

It won't make my life better it breaks my heart that my beloved innocent family is being targeted by your resolution.

Without asking for the release of ALL hostages you ignore the horrors Hamas has inflicted on innocent Jewish civilians. Your resolution ignores the Jewish hostages and appears the resolution takes the side of Hamas. How can any civil person be on the side of extreme evil?

You are dividing the citizens of Howard County and ignoring your Jewish constituents. If your resolution doesn't include release of the Jewish hostages and passes this County will face irreparable division caused by you. Reconsider this resolution and help repair the damage you alone have inflicted on the Jewish community of Howard County with this resolution.

Alice Gibson
Ellicott City

From: Arna Rubman <arnarb@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:16 PM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: CR 22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please reject the divisive, antisemitic resolution CR 22.

It ignores the atrocities and resulting death and harm to innocent people— Palestinian as well as Israeli. It asks for a ceasefire by a terrorist organization that is not willing to cease its genocidal terrorism. It doesn't bother to suggest the return of the Hamas hostages / their remains.

Such a resolution is beyond the purview of this — or any —city council.

Please think about why this has come up regarding this conflict, and not the many others in the world (Russia's invasion into Ukraine, for example).

People in Israel — and Gaza —are traumatized. Those of us in their respective diasporas — including here in Howard County — have already been living in pain and fear since October 7.

If you want to help facilitate mutual understanding, respect , and safety in Howard County, that would be what many of us would have come to expect per your local position. You were not elected to preventably — and so disappointedly — make our lives here worse.

This resolution has already done harm. I urge you to reject it firmly, publicly, and whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,
Arna Rubman
Council District 4

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ashleigh Baker <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:25 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Stand With Peace: Call For Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County, deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in Gaza. As our community stands for justice and humanitarian values, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution.

The conflict in Gaza is not just a distant issue; it resonates with us here in Howard County, Maryland. We have a proud tradition of advocating for human rights and peace. Supporting this resolution aligns with our commitment to these principles and showcases Maryland's role as a compassionate, globally aware community.

As a member of this community, I believe it is imperative that we raise our voices for those suffering. This resolution is more than a political statement; it's a beacon of hope for a peaceful future. By backing this resolution, the Howard County Council can demonstrate leadership and compassion that reflects the values of our community.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea and stand on the right side of history by supporting Councilwoman Walsh's resolution. Thank you for your time and for representing the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Baker

Ashleigh Baker
ashleighbaker1234@gmail.com
5652 Roundtree Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21045

From: Ashley Wang <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:09 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire in Gaza Now

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Ashley Wang

Ashley Wang
ashwang0803@gmail.com
3800 Plum Spring Ln
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: Beverly <bevpariser@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: County Resolution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I have to let you know that I am horrified by your resolution about the cease fire for Israel against Hamas. I am sure you have never had to justify your existence to divisive and ignorant people in this world we live in. Think about this attack and imagine your family being murdered by some one who thinks your religion and its people should not exist. For heaven's sake read history and know who have been the aggressors in the so called two state solution and the number of times proposals have been presented by many outsiders and who refused - the Palestinians have refused all proposals.

You need to demand that Hamas cease fire and release the hostages. You are being used by Palestinian propagandist and have not bothered to research the current situation. Israel has saved many more Palestinians with their medical system, jobs, the right to vote of who live in Israel and who takes care of all. I could go on but you need to be educated on who are the terrorist and who are the victims. Please notice that few Arab countries are providing relief to the so called Palestinians (not a people and never existed until told to remain where they were by other Arab nations so they could come back and destroy Israel). I can't believe I live in a county with leaders such as your council.

Perhaps at some point you will learn the reality of the history of Israel. I am also puzzled by your Resolution (apparently you have time on your hands to disparage many of your residents on issues that are not the business of the county other than creating divisiveness). May you one day understand why we say "never again" and not have to experience the lives and history of the Jewish people.

I am writing this quickly after learning about the resolution. I hope it will be dismissed as an error in judgement. It is with a heavy heart that I even I have to even write this.

Regretfully,
Beverly Pariser-Foster

Sent from my iPhone

From: bronia kogul <abroniakogul@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-24

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov, Cball@howardcountymd.gov, djung@howardcountymd.gov, ojones@howardcountymd.gov, dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov, crigby@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CR 22-2024

Dear Council and Executive Ball-

As a Howard County resident, I am writing to request that CR 22-2024 be withdrawn or rejected.

According to the official government website, Howard County Council is “responsible for making the laws that govern the County... [and is] the zoning authority and the licensing and enforcement authority for alcoholic beverages in the County.” CR 22-2024 has no basis in County governance and is a waste of taxpayer time and resources. If Liz Walsh wishes to propose legislation that impacts foreign policy, she should run for Federal office.

Regarding the merits of CR 22-2024, Liz Walsh proves herself to be woefully uninformed or anti-Semitic. There are currently innocent Israeli Jews (and Americans!) held hostage by Palestinian terrorists. In Gaza, Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists continue to endanger Palestinian civilians by using them as human shields, preventing their access to humanitarian corridors, and confiscating aid. Recall, it was these same terrorists that pilfered foreign assistance funds and supplies to build weapons and subterranean terrorist infrastructure. CR 22-2024 willfully ignores the two key variables that would in fact create an immediate ceasefire: surrender of the terrorists and safe return of the hostages.

War is a horrible tragedy—one that should be avoided. The People of Israel—both the Jewish Diaspora and citizens of the State of Israel—grieve the loss of innocent life, of Israelis, Palestinians, and other nationalities embroiled in this conflict. That said, what is the purpose of a performative local government resolution in a foreign conflict? Yes, there are many Howard County residents with family ties to this region. But, there are also many other Howard County residents with ties to other conflict regions. The Council of Foreign Relations has a useful tool to monitor global conflicts: you can find it [here](#). Why does Liz Walsh feel that this conflict is the one that merits a resolution?

As an American-Jew—and WWII/Holocaust survivor—I find Liz Walsh’s proposed resolution a direct attack on Jews. While the words of the resolution themselves are benign, the intention behind it is not. Of all the global conflicts, Liz Walsh chooses to single out Israel’s response to terrorism as her focus for a county resolution. She never expressed concern for any of the Jewish victims of rape, torture, and

murder; she never demanded Hamas cease fire. It is anti-Semitic to delegitimize Israel, demonize Israel, and apply double standards toward the only Jewish State in the world. Anti Zionism IS anti-Semitism.

If this resolution passes, a clear message will be sent to the residents of Howard County: Jews are not welcome.

Please rescind or reject this resolution.

Sincerely,
Bronia Kogul

Mother of Morey Kogul

*Author of *Running Breathless, an Untold Story of WWII and The Holocaust**

Sent from my iPhone

From: Daniel Weinberg <daniel.adam.weinberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:31 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilperson Walsh,

As your constituent, I am writing to express my disappointment and disgust with your introduction of CR22-2024 and my disagreement with its contents. Israel is defending itself against a recognized terrorist organization with terrorist infrastructure adjacent to Israel's borders. The United States would do the same and I'm sure you wouldn't recommend that we shouldn't. The conflict in Gaza is a direct result of Hamas's terrorist actions on October 7. The military action is intended to diminish Hamas's ability to destroy Israel (a stated goal in Hamas's charter), and it is Israel's responsibility to its citizens to defend its existence. It is tragic that many Palestinian civilians have suffered and died in this conflict. The responsibility for those tragedies falls squarely with Hamas for two reasons - precipitating the conflict due to the terrorist attack on October 7 and Hamas's well documented practice of using the people of Gaza as human shields (a war crime). Israel has gone above and beyond to warn civilians of coming military actions and to avoid loss of innocent lives.

It would benefit you, the rest of the council, and your constituents to remove CR22-2024 from further consideration. We'd all be better served if you introduced a resolution in support of Israel, an accountable democracy and staunch ally of the United States.

Daniel Weinberg

From: D C <conwaydavid22@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In support of public comment and a ceasefire resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County council,

I'm writing to express my support for a ceasefire resolution. I understand that there's not a lot we can do at the local level but I think we're obligated to do what we can.

I love living here in part because of the incredible diversity of this county, and I hope the council will step up and demonstrate to our Palestinian-American friends & neighbors that we support them and that they can feel welcome here.

I am also very disappointed to hear that the council will not be allowing public comment. The idea that the council is so willing to silence us--the people who live and work here in Howard county, the council's own constituents--is very troubling to me.

Additionally, if the goal of this choice is to "avoid controversy," I believe that this is a misguided way of attempting to do that; this type of silencing tactic has the opposite effect and inflames tensions in a way that is entirely unnecessary.

I intend to be at the meeting on Monday in support of my neighbors and I hope the council will reconsider its stance and allow public comment. I also urge the council to support the ceasefire resolution.

Best wishes,

David

From: Deborah Adler <dadler@aipac.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 12:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote NO on Res R22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to you today to ask that you **vote no** for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

I support a resolution that requires Hamas to lay down their arms, free the hostages, and then a ceasefire.

I also support the Howard County Council using time and funds to actually benefit the county. The UN already determined that an immediate ceasefire was not to be called and asked Hamas to release all hostages and guess what? Nothing has happened or changed. Because Hamas is a terror organization that must be eradicated to ensure the safety and future of both Palestinians and Israelis. The HoCo Council truly has no sway over any of it and im sure im not the only community member who feels this vote is performative at best and a waste of time at worst.

Please vote no to Res CR22-2024 & refocus on your community to ensure safety & religious freedom to those you serve!

From: Diane Goldbloom <dianegoldbloom@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: help

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

"I would like you to vote against CR22-2024,"
Diane Goldbloom

From: Erica Sweitzer <ericasweitzer@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:00 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Stand With Peace: Call For Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County, deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in Gaza. As our community stands for justice and humanitarian values, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution.

The conflict in Gaza is not just a distant issue; it resonates with us here in Howard County, Maryland. We have a proud tradition of advocating for human rights and peace. Supporting this resolution aligns with our commitment to these principles and showcases Maryland's role as a compassionate, globally aware community.

As a member of this community, I believe it is imperative that we raise our voices for those suffering. This resolution is more than a political statement; it's a beacon of hope for a peaceful future. By backing this resolution, the Howard County Council can demonstrate leadership and compassion that reflects the values of our community.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea and stand on the right side of history by supporting Councilwoman Walsh's resolution. Thank you for your time and for representing the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Erica Sweitzer

Erica Sweitzer
ericasweitzer@comcast.net
4902 Ten Mills Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21044

From: Fatima Khetib <fatimakhetib@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:37 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Stand With Peace: Call For Ceasefire Now

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County, deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in Gaza. As our community stands for justice and humanitarian values, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution.

The conflict in Gaza is not just a distant issue; it resonates with us here in Howard County, Maryland. We have a proud tradition of advocating for human rights and peace. Supporting this resolution aligns with our commitment to these principles and showcases Maryland's role as a compassionate, globally aware community.

As a member of this community, I believe it is imperative that we raise our voices for those suffering. This resolution is more than a political statement; it's a beacon of hope for a peaceful future. By backing this resolution, the Howard County Council can demonstrate leadership and compassion that reflects the values of our community.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea and stand on the right side of history by supporting Councilwoman Walsh's resolution. Thank you for your time and for representing the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Fatima Khetib
fatimakhetib@live.com
8009 Roland Ct
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

From: Fatima Khetib <fatimakhetib@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:34 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Fatima Khetib
fatimakhetib@live.com
8009 Roland Ct
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

From: Felicia Hulit <felicia.hulit@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: CB22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

>>

>> Dear Council Members,

>>

>> I have always appreciated your thoughtful approach to passing resolutions that are responsive to your constituents' concerns. In this case, I would like to protest your support of the language in CB22-2024 which does not include language requiring an immediate ceasefire by both Hamas and Israel, along with an immediate release of the hostages held by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. There are 136 hostages of all ages that continue to be held for over 115 days. This includes children, young women, men and seniors. Without adding this language, the resolution is very one-sided and does not adequately address the situation.

>>

>> As I am sure you know, there was a ceasefire in place prior to October 7th between the parties which was horribly violated by Hamas. Accordingly, to not call out the initial violaters and party to the war does nothing to achieve an actual ceasefire.

>>

>> Please vote NO on Resolution CB22-2024.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Felicia Hulit

>> 4236 Scarlet Sage Court

>> Ellicott City, MD

>>

>>

>>

From: Fern B <fernbab2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Important context

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please read this article by a famous progressive, Sam Harris.

<https://www.samharris.org/blog/5-myths-about-israel-and-the-war-in-gaza>

You will understand why it is so important to vote NO to the ceasefire resolution.
Hamas is responsible for the suffering of the Gazan people.

Respectfully,
Prof F. R. Freed
Ellicott City

From: Gail Lynn Goldberg <gailgoldbergconsulting@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reject CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I have lived in Howard County for 18 years in harmony with my neighbors of many races, religions, and ethnicities. I feel strongly that CR22-2024 is ill advised and is likely to only increase the growing antisemitism in the county and beyond. Please vote against CR22-2024.

Sincerely,
Gail Goldberg
Ellicott City, MD

Sent from my iPad

From: GLENN SILBER <gmsilber@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Hamas is a terrorist danger

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to you today to ask that you **vote no** for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

I support a resolution that requires Hamas to lay down their arms, free the hostages, and then a ceasefire. Remember there was a cease-fire before Oct 7th when Hamas started this war by slaughtering, raping and mutilating innocent civilians.

Please vote no to Res CR22-2024!

From: Heidi Rutzen <hrutzen@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:52 AM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: I oppose Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council member,

After reading the Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024, I want to let you know that **I strongly oppose the resolution**. I am a Jewish resident of Howard County District 4.

I oppose the resolution because there is no mention of Israel's right to exist and defend herself, and there is no mention of the condition that a ceasefire should only occur with the release of hostages. By calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the resolution reads as one-sided and entirely ignores the role that Hamas has played in the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023 and their calculated actions to maximize civilian suffering and loss of life inside of Gaza through its tactics in this war (and before).

I also want to add that I feel that this incredibly complex geo-political issue is something that my own County Council should not be spending their time on. I would rather my County Council focus on the most pressing local issues of our community.

Sincerely,
Heidi Rutzen
7040 Loganberry Ln
Fulton, MD 20759

From: Howard Gurwitz <howardg@chadsworthhomes.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:42 AM
To: CouncilMail

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Liz Walsh is an idiot and if there was a way she could be censored or shut down you the council should do it

If the resolution has to come up it should be entered, voted on and repelled in one minute to show how stupid it was

From: Jean Grinspoon <jeangrins@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR-22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this email to you to express my deep concern and my opposition to the Resolution CR-22-2024. I have lived in Howard County for 53 years and before my retirement, I worked in this county for over 30 years. My husband and I have raised our two children here. In fact, my son chose to move back to Howard County to raise his own children here. I have always been most appreciative of the fine work you, and those Council members before you, have done to ensure the safety and well being of the citizens of our county. And now, I am asking you to do the right thing and vote against this one-sided resolution. It has no place in this peaceful, progressive county and it goes against the true embodiment of what this county stands for! I oppose this Resolution CR-22 and I respectfully ask each of you to VOTE IT DOWN.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

Thank you,
Jean Grinspoon

Sent from my iPad

From: Jeanie Lazerov <jlazerov@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR 22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

as voting residents of Howard County, we urge you to vote against CR-2024. The resolution is one-sided, calling on only one party on the conflict to cease fire. The other party and its allies are not called on to cease their hostilities and return hostages taken in their unprovoked attack on Oct 7. There was a cease fire prior to Oct 7; however rockets have been launched at Israel continuously during the time before Oct 7 and continue to this day. We believe Israel has every right to defend itself, and take actions to bring about security for its people. A cease fire now would leave the job undone, without any corresponding actions by the perpetrators of the Oct 7 massacre, whose stated purpose is to push Israel and its Jews into the sea. We cry for the loss of life and displacement of so many Israelis and Gazans. We wish there were a diplomatic solution to the current crisis. However when one party has openly stated that they will attack again and again now and in the future to achieve their aim of annihilating the Jewish State, it is impossible to see how any cease fire can provide any sense of security for Israelis or Gazans.

Thank you for considering our views as you deal with this fraught situation.

Jeanie and Manuel Lazerov
6150 Shadywood Rd, #202
Elkridge, MD 21075.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jenny Walkin <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:45 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: No funding for Israel and ceasefire now

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Jenny Walkin
serials-mantel0p@icloud.com
8343 governor run
Ellicott City, 21043

From: jandikaplan@verizon.net
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 1:18 PM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Reject terrorism, reject CR 22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Jung,

Please reject CR 22-2024. Supporting this resolution condones terrorism and does not align with the values of the United States, Maryland, Howard County, or my family. Let's focus on uniting the county on local issues.

I'd welcome the opportunity to have a conversation about this matter. Many thanks for your consideration,

Julie Kaplan

Fulton, Maryland

[Watch: Hamas Leader Vows to 'Sacrifice Martyrs' in Another Oct. 7-Style Attack \(msn.com\).](#)

[Gaza Strip - The World Factbook \(cia.gov\)](#)

[Hamas in 2017: The document in full | Middle East Eye,](#)

[Hamas Orders Limited Interactions with Christians - International Christian Concern \(persecution.org\)](#)

[Top 11 gay-friendly cities in the world - Wise](#)

[Exclusive: Gay Man Who Fled Gaza Speaks About Hamas Repression - I24NEWS](#)

[Environmental Innovation in Israel: A Laboratory for Climate and Sustainability Solutions - Medika Life](#)

The UN on Palestinian Child Soldiers: [AHRC46NGO42_050321.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

From: K. L. Allen <kblaslp@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:42 AM
To: CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CR22-2024-

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning

I am writing to express my strong opposition to CR22-2024 being introduced by Councilmember Walsh. The resolution calls for a ceasefire but makes no mention of the hostages still being held by Hamas, nor of the unfathomable and brutal attack by Hamas on October 7. Omitting these facts makes the resolution one-sided and can be interpreted as Anti-Semitic. I do not understand why the Howard County Council would even consider this resolution.

I am a Jewish constituent of Councilmember Walsh; her resolution makes me feel that I am not being represented by her and that she supports only select members of her constituency. I would hesitate to seek her assistance in the future, knowing her one-sided views against the Jewish people. **We are all aware of the international rise in anti-Semitism. Acceptance of CR22-2024 will only serve to promote anti-Jewish sentiment.**

I pray for a quick end to the Gaza war and pray for peace for ALL innocent Palestinians and Israelis. I hope you do the same.

Thank you for your consideration in the important matter.

Karen Allen
Ellicott City

From: Latifa Azzami <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:07 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Stand With Peace: Call For Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County, deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in Gaza. As our community stands for justice and humanitarian values, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution.

The conflict in Gaza is not just a distant issue; it resonates with us here in Howard County, Maryland. We have a proud tradition of advocating for human rights and peace. Supporting this resolution aligns with our commitment to these principles and showcases Maryland's role as a compassionate, globally aware community.

As a member of this community, I believe it is imperative that we raise our voices for those suffering. This resolution is more than a political statement; it's a beacon of hope for a peaceful future. By backing this resolution, the Howard County Council can demonstrate leadership and compassion that reflects the values of our community.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea and stand on the right side of history by supporting Councilwoman Walsh's resolution. Thank you for your time and for representing the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Latifa Azzami
latifaazzami2015@gmail.com
15612 Everglade Lane
Bowie , Maryland 20716

From: Lori Levine <lorishelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 3:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony AGAINST CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members:

I would like you to vote against CR22-2024. I don't understand why the Howard County Council is pursuing this performative nonsense. It's misguided and misinformed. There was a cease-fire until October 7, 2023. Hamas broke it when they invaded Israel and massacred, raped, mutilated, and burned alive 1200 people and kidnapped hundreds more. I support Israel and its right to defend itself. It's appalling that the Council is even bringing this up as an issue to vote upon. Please get back to worrying about things that are happening in the county and leave foreign policy to the experts.

Sincerely,
Lori Levine
20723

From: Mahika Juneja <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:34 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Call for Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Mahika Juneja

Mahika Juneja
mjunej5959@gmail.com
10244 tuscany road
ellicott city, Maryland 21042

From: Marcie Sivakoff <marciesivakoff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 2:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR 22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am strongly opposed to CR 22-2024. I support Israel's right to exist and to defend herself. This resolution is entirely one-sided and not only doesn't condition the ceasefire on the release of hostages, but entirely ignores the role that Hamas had played in initiating this cycle of violence with the horrific attacks of October 7th. Please reconsider.

-Marcie Sivakoff
Howard County Voter

From: rdnrma <rdnrma@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Charliecell Bernhardt; Marilyn Bernhardt
Subject: Vote against CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I do not understand why this so divisive issue is being voted on, behind closed doors, by the County Council.

I moved to here knowing how diverse and accepting Howard County is. I'm not feeling that way right now.

Marilyn Bernhardt
2444 Sophia Chase Drive
Marriottsville, Maryland

Sent from my iPad

From: Mindy Sperling <mindytsperling1221@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Council Proposed Resolution CR22-2024 Demanding Immediate Cease-Fire in Gaza

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council Proposed Resolution CR22-2024 Demanding Immediate Cease-Fire in Gaza

Legislation has been introduced to the County Council demanding that President Biden pursue an "immediate cease-fire in Gaza." The proposed resolution does not condemn the October 7 attacks on Israeli citizens by the Hamas terrorist organization, nor does it advocate on behalf of hostages that continue to be held in Gaza by Hamas.

It also does not condemn UNRWA for providing aid to and support for Hamas a terrorist organization that runs Gaza. UNRWA needs to be restructured to not continue to act in support for the October 7 massacre.

Please fix and fight this injustice, this October 7 massacre. Provide remedy for this intolerable situation by including legislative support for Israel and to free the captives being held in captivity.

MTS
Sent from my iPhone

From: Nainika Kadabha <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:53 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Supporting Ceasefire Now

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Nainika Kadabha
naini.kadabha@gmail.com
3612 Chateau Ridge Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: pjpress pjpress.com <pjpress@pjpress.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 4:01 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Vote No on Resolution No. 22 -2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Howard County Council and the County Executive,

Council Resolution 22-2024 introduced by Councilwoman Liz Walsh is uninformed and extremely biased. THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST WHOLEHEARTILY REJECT THIS RESOLUTION.

The first paragraph of the resolution accurately states that all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith and ethnicity is a violation of humanitarian law. However, the resolution fails to condemn Hamas, who violated all norms and human laws by violently killing, raping, torturing and taking hostage over 1,200 innocent Israelis on October 7th. It fails to put the blame on Hamas for locating their rockets, missiles and ammunition in hospitals, schools, mosques and civilian homes, and building their tunnel entrances in those locations. It fails to condemn Hamas for using its Gazan citizens as human shields. Hamas knew exactly what would happen from their brutal attack and revels in the death and displacement of the people they are supposed to protect, in order to attract worldwide condemnation of Israel.

Yes, a cease-fire in order to release the hostages and to provide aid to displaced Gazans is important. But an extended cease-fire will only enable Hamas to regroup and repeat their horrific actions in the future. Hamas must be destroyed.

I would also like to know why Ms. Walsh introduced this resolution. Has she introduced resolutions to condemn and call for a cease fire in Myanmar, in Somalia, in Ethiopia, where killing rape, torture and ethnic cleansing has been going on for some time? Has she introduced resolutions condemning China for its treatment of the Uyghur people or Russia for its brutal bombardment of innocent Ukrainian civilians? If not, she stands accused of parroting the Hamas line and being antisemitic. She needs to be more informed before she introduces resolutions, or she should confine herself to solving Howard County problems.

Philip Press
Howard County resident for over 50 years.

From: Rachel Greenberg <rachel.anne.greenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR 22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County Council & County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the Resolution (CR 22-2024) introduced by Councilmember Walsh.

The heart of my opposition to CR 22-2024 is that the resolution calls for an unconditional ceasefire.

- There is no mention for the immediate release of the 130+ hostages (or remains of hostages) still being held in Gaza by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other associated terror groups.
- This ceasefire resolution also appears to be a one-sided ceasefire, which pins the blame for the devastating loss of innocent civilian life in Gaza and Israel solely on the actions of the State of Israel. There is zero mention of the deliberate and calculated tactics of Hamas that make them responsible for substantial percentages of the civilian deaths that have occurred throughout Israel's war on Hamas. When presenting a resolution only calling for one side, in this case Israel, to put their arms down, think about what you are actually calling for- Hamas has repeatedly vowed to conduct attacks worse than October 7th again and again. Passing a resolution for Israel to ceasefire unconditionally is putting rhetoric into play that gives permission & acceptance for Hamas to continue carrying out these vile attacks.

The decision to consciously omit these points from the resolution presents as a deliberate decision to erase the existence and legitimacy of the lives of these hostages and, since I am being frank here, creates deeper divisions between people who genuinely care for one another, and who may have deeply divergent assessments of the Israel-Hamas war. No good comes from the introduction of this deeply flawed resolution.

Our hearts break for the civilian population of Gaza who are unsupportive of Hamas. I pray for their liberation from this brutal terror group. I also pray for peace and the end of suffering of ALL innocent civilians who have been thrust into this war.

I vehemently reject this resolution and am ONLY in favor of strides to help heal the divisions that this resolution has already caused.

Sincerely,
Rachel Greenberg and Makhan Singh
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rachel Greenberg <rachel.anne.greenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose CR22

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Rachel Greenberg, I live in Ellicott City in Howard County. I **oppose CR22** and ask that the county council vote it down.

Best,
Rachel Greenberg and Makhan Singh

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rebecca Carter <rebeccacarter83@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 6:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to CR22

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Rebecca Carter, I live in District 1 in Howard County. I **oppose CR22** and ask that the county council vote it down.

Thank you,
Rebecca Carter

From: Richard Wasserkrug <rmwasserkrug@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members:

County Council Resolution CR22-2024 omits the egregious role Hamas played and continues to play in the on-going humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. The barbaric attack on innocent men, women, children and babies in Israel by Hamas terrorists on October 7 is the worst atrocity against Jews since the Holocaust and its specific condemnation must be addressed in any such resolution. It also omits a call for the release of approximately 136 hostages and the dead bodies Hamas is holding as part of any cease-fire.

The devastation and loss of life in Gaza is horrific and must end. But this is not a one-sided conflict. It was started by Hamas and they must be held accountable for their role in the deaths of the citizens of Gaza.

We ask that you consider the unbalanced nature of this resolution and that you vote against it on February 5.

Sincerely,

Rene and Richard Wasserkrug
9414 Book Row
Columbia, MD 21046

From: Laub4 <Laub4@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:07 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Liz Walsh

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening,

I wrote once before, and received no response as to where you stand on this blatantly antisemitic resolution being put forth by Liz walsh. Please respond.

S.Laub

Laub4@verizon.net

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: Sarah A. <sarahericadler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 12:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote NO for HoCo Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to you today to ask that you **vote no** for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

I support a resolution that requires Hamas to lay down their arms, free the hostages, and then a ceasefire.

I also support the Howard County Council using time and funds to actually benefit the county. The UN already determined that an immediate ceasefire was not to be called and asked Hamas to release all hostages and guess what? Nothing has happened or changed. Because Hamas is a terror organization that must be eradicated to ensure the safety and future of both Palestinians and Israelis. The HoCo Council truly has no sway over any of it and im sure im not the only community member who feels this vote is performative at best and a waste of time at worst.

Please vote no to Res CR22-2024 & refocus on your community to ensure safety & religious freedom to those you serve!

From: Scott Berkowitz <scott_berkowitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jeremy Eldridge; Scott Berkowitz
Subject: Comment on Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

February 3, 2024

We write this letter to the Howard County Council as two former elected members of the Howard County Democratic Central Committee, who among others on our team, were elected on a platform of “cultivating the next generation of community leaders standing for equity and inclusion.” We spent countless hours knocking on doors, making calls and handing out literature to constituents to help usher in this “next generation” of Council members. As two Jewish members of the Howard County community we have never previously felt or witnessed the level of exclusion and division that is now readily apparent in the aftermath of the horrific events of October 7th, and while we considered standing on the sideline through this process, we cannot in good conscience watch this occur without raising objections.

The resolution put forward by Councilwoman Walsh, while on the surface is calling for peace, at its very core, is a one-sided, anti-Israel and antisemitic statement, that absolves, rather than condemns, Hamas, a known terrorist organization, for mercilessly killing 1200 Jews on October 7th. It says nothing about the release of the over 100 hostages that remain in captivity today, four months later. Of course, the Councilwoman must be knowledgeable of these facts, and the idea that she has chosen to disregard them, can only be viewed as intentional, and this conscious choice is incredibly hurtful.

The Council has been silent on this situation since October 7th, and is now considering weighing in, in a manner that fails to reflect the complexity of the situation and the totality of circumstances. To do so is both dangerous and irresponsible.

Israel has a right to defend itself from terror. Human life of Jews and Palestinians alike is precious. Terrorists hiding among schools, mosques, hospitals, and the community to provoke further casualties of law-abiding civilians is pure evil. We hope for an outcome where the hostages are returned, the ending of human life stops, and there is an enduring peace with stable and law-abiding actors that believe in a shared better future.

The Council should rescind or vote against this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Berkowitz

Jeremy Eldridge

From: Sommer Wahab <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:25 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: No more

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Sommer Wahab

Sommer Wahab
sommer.wahab@gmail.com
8705 Lost Spring Way
Lanham, Maryland 20706

From: Stacey Freedman <mahjchick70@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:59 AM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: please vote AGAINST CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Stacey Freedman, I live in District 1 in Howard County. I oppose CR22 and ask that the county council vote it down.

Thank you,
Stacey Freedman

From: STACEY STIRMER <stirmer@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Truly disturbing

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a 40 year resident of Howard County, I would like to express my strong opposition to the Resolution (CR 22-2024) introduced by Council member Walsh. And why on earth is it being fast tracked without public comment? Please don not allow this!

Stacey Stirmer
Fulton, MD

From: Stephanie gurwitz zurier <sgurwitz1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:11 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Opposition to CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing in opposition to Resolution [CR22-2024](#)

I am very disappointed and disheartened that the Howard County Council would seriously consider resolution CR22-2024. I have always thought that we, in Howard County, were not absolute reactionaries, that as a whole we were a thoughtful community. And I have always voted for council members that I believed were thinking listeners who understood complexities.

The resolution introduced is absurdly one sided; a blind reaction, no different than other acts of extremism and exclusion we have seen across the country urged on by the hatred that has spread since Oct. 7.

I wholly agree that the violence in Israel and Gaza needs to end, that civilians need to be protected and that families should be allowed to live in peace.

The first step to that is returning kidnapped hostages to their families including the remains of those who have died. I wish I could say unharmed but we have already witnessed that that is not possible.

A true cease fire cannot be a one sided arrangement. What of the hostages? What of the rockets continuously sent into civilian areas of Israel where there are no military munitions facing Gaza? What of the Hamas command and control centers placed under Palestinian civilian centers? What of Hamas' rocket launchers placed inside civilian communities so that attacking the combatants means killing innocents? What of Hamas' lack of value of human life? What of the use of human shields? What of the horrific violence Hamas did on Oct. 7 and its continued promises for more similar events?

This resolution ignores the detonator that began this crisis. It ignores the barbarism perpetrated by Hamas on October 7. It ignores the total disregard for all human life, Palestinians, Israelis and foreign nationals. It ignores Hamas' masterminds' knowledge that their plan would lead to the destruction of Gaza and the killing of Palestinian lives. And, it ignores the pain, alienation and fear for safety that Howard county members of the Jewish community are experiencing.

I would have hoped that if the Howard County Council wanted to take a position on this international crisis, that all experts agree has no simple solutions, it would have reflected the multitude of issues and perspectives. I would never have imagined the Council's resolution would be the same rants and language being used in communities urging hatred against all Israelis and the Jewish community.

Please let me know how you plan to vote and why you choose this position.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gurwitz Zurier [6246 Deep River Canyon 21045, District 2]

From: Susan <skerbel5893@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Liz Walsh proposed resolution CB22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

This is the email we submitted against the referenced bill.

Susan and David Kerbel
10608 Glass Tumbler Path
Columbia MD 21044

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Kerbel <skerbel5893@gmail.com>
Date: January 28, 2024 at 9:12:14 AM EST
To: djung@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Liz Walsh proposed resolution CB22-2024

Dear Council Member Jung;

We have been very distressed about all the pro-Palestinian, antisemitic comments posted by one council member in a county forum. It has not been an appropriate use of resources but we have been loathe to complain until now upon learning of the proposed resolution. Howard County officials were elected to run the functions of this county, not to comment on world events. Should the council feel compelled to pass a resolution on this topic then it should call for the immediate return of all Israeli hostages captured on October 7 in exchange for any type of ceasefire. Please note that the resolution also grossly simplifies Congressman Raskin's and Senator Van Hollen's statements on the matter.

We appreciate your taking the time to read this note and remain grateful for the time and effort you spent on the issues concerning the Hickory Ridge Village Center.

Sincerely,
Susan and David Kerbel
10608 Glass Tumbler Path

From: Susankupper <susankupper@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Howard County Council members:

Please vote against Resolution CR22-2024. It is inappropriate for a county council to be involved in international politics, and the situation and war in the Middle East is particularly complex. If you feel you must pass a resolution calling for a cease fire, you must also include a requirement for a release of all hostages held by Hamas and other terrorists.

However, I believe that it is best that as a body you limit yourselves to matters pertaining to Howard County.

Susan Kupper
11155 Chambers Court, Unit N
Woodstock, MD 21163

From: Adina Levitan <adinayehudit@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reject Ceasefire!

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

I am incredibly disheartened to see that Howard County Council is voting on Resolution CR22-2024 introduced by Council President Liz Walsh, demanding that the Biden administration "immediately call for and facilitate a cease-fire in Gaza." The resolution, which claims that "hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a cease fire is not achieved," is oblivious to and completely fails to consider the millions of Jewish lives which are at risk if the war ends without Hamas' complete defeat.

On October 7th Hamas INVADED Israel without provocation and MURDERED RAPED AND KIDNAPPED HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT ISRAELIS INCLUDING CHILDREN. A ceasefire without the return of the hostages and without dismantling Hamas will only encourage MORE violence against Israel. This resolution is incredibly harmful and damaging. Demand the release of the hostages. There was a ceasefire before October 7th which Hamas broke. The citizens of Gaza are being put in harm's way by Hamas who uses civilians as human shields in their terrorist efforts against Israel. The only people who should be called for a ceasefire is HAMAS and RETURN THE HOSTAGES.

--

Adina Yehudit Levitan

410-487-4880

From: Ahmed <abdurahman12er14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:23 PM
To: CouncilMail; Harrod, Michelle
Subject: Hearing and testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As Hoco Residents, We demand that you please reinstate the public hearing and testimony for CR22-2024. We will not accept any attempts to shove this under the carpet. This is not something that will just be let go. History will be ruthless and merciless to those who tried to expedite this bill and get it forgotten about or worse, stood idly by. This won't be overlooked, or forgotten nor will there be any forgiveness. You have a responsibility and duty as public servants to be answerable to constituents! Not attempt to forego their voicing of opinions!

End the siege and starvation in Gaza now!

From: Alexander Englander <englander.alexander@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Comments on CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi,

I am a Howard County resident (District 2), and am writing to express my strong disagreement with CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

This resolution does not contain any verbiage with respect to the fact that US citizens as well as Israelis are still being held hostage by Hamas [1], a foreign terrorist organization [2]. I note that while the resolution references similar statements by, for example, Congressman Jamie Raskin and Senator Chris Van Hollen, each of these representatives has mentioned the hostages being held by Hamas in their statements [3,4].

A cease-fire is not a permanent solution by any means to the existing problems facing Gazans, and the single-page resolution does not reflect the complexity of the situation. It is especially concerning to see the call for a cease-fire given that Hamas has stated that it will repeat the October 7th attacks again if given the opportunity [5].

While I would appreciate a resolution that does not have omissions of fact and presents a more nuanced view of the problem, I do not believe it is in the best interest of the Howard County Council or its constituents to spend time crafting such legislation, and that it would be a much better use of the Council's time to focus on local legislative issues.

I strongly urge the members of the Howard County Council to reject this resolution in its current form.

Very respectfully,

Alexander Englander
6307 Short Wheel Way
Columbia, MD 21045

1. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jake-sullivan-national-security-adviser-israel-hamas-hostages/>
2. <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>
3. <https://raskin.house.gov/2024/1/congressman-raskin-renews-calls-for-the-release-of-hostages-bilateral-ceasefire-and-humanitarian-surge-in-gaza>
4. <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-schatz-reed-release-statement-following-white-house-meeting-on-situation-in-israel-and-gaza>
5. <https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/hamas-official-vows-to-repeat-deadly-israel-attacks-there-will-be-a-second-a-third-a-fourth-israeli-terrorist-fight-invasion-october-7-palestine-war-jerusalem>

From: Allan Rutzen <allanrutzen@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:37 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: I strongly oppose HCC Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council member,

I want you to know that **I strongly oppose Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024.**

I oppose the resolution because there is no mention of Israel's right to exist and defend herself, and there is no mention of the condition that a ceasefire should only occur with the release of hostages. By calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the resolution reads as one-sided and entirely ignores the role that Hamas has played in the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023 and their calculated actions to maximize civilian suffering and loss of life inside of Gaza through its tactics in this war (and before).

In my opinion, this incredibly complex geo-political issue is something that my County Council should not be spending their time on. I would rather my County Council focus on the most pressing local issues of our community.

Sincerely,

Allan Rutzen

7040 Loganberry Ln
Fulton, MD 20759

From: Amin Shehata <ashehata@gwmail.gwu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:28 PM
To: CouncilMail; Harrod, Michelle; CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov;
cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Constituent Concern

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As Hoco Residents, We demand that you please reinstate the public hearing and testimony for CR22-2024. We will not accept any attempts to shove this under the carpet. This is not something that will just be let go. History will be ruthless and merciless to those who tried to expedite this bill and get it forgotten about or worse, stood idly by. This won't be overlooked, or forgotten nor will there be any forgiveness. You have a responsibility and duty as public servants to be answerable to constituents! Not attempt to forego their voicing of opinions!

End the siege and starvation in Gaza now!

From: lilannie1@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE NO on CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to let you know that WE DO NOT support CR22-2024.

The terrorist attack on Israel carried out by HAMAS on October 7, 2023, was a horrific event. HAMAS is a terrorist organization whose official stance calls for the destruction of Israel, a sovereign and legitimate nation. The immediate release of the hostages must occur. We strongly support Israel's right to exist and defend herself.

The resolution completely ignores the events of October 7. We are saddened by the current situation in Gaza but cannot support a one-sided cease fire without, first and foremost, calling for the release of all hostages including Americans citizens that remain hostage.

The fact that the Council will introduce and vote on CR22-2024 on Feb. 5, 2024, while legal, is totally unacceptable. The resolution has not only caused a divide among the residents of Howard County, but also the manner in which it is being voted on, without the residents' ability to testify is unjustifiable.

We hope as representatives of the County you will be sensitive to the deep feelings of all residents and NOT SUPPORT this resolution.

Sincerely,
Anne and Mike Seiler
District 2

From: Asma palmer <apal5785@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello, I am writing to you as a resident of Howard county

I am writing to you because you are in a position of power. With great power comes great responsibility. I am addressing the painful torment, utter destruction, unrest, sadness, and humiliation beyond all bounds playing out in the 21st century under our eyes in Gaza Palestine. Some of the scenes we are witnessing are:

According to the UN, 90% of people in Gaza have been displaced and now are fleeing on foot for the third for forth time. We are witnessing now approximately 27,100 Gazans civilians killed. We are witnessing 25,000 children orphaned. About 17,000 unaccompanied children, about 11,500 children killed, starvation for every innocent man, woman and child, A collapse of the healthcare system, Doctors forced to perform of amputations without anesthesia, 20 out 22 hospitals damaged or destroyed.

The best thing to do is to call for a ceasefire. If you don't this means complicity. There is no reason not to vote for a ceasefire which will help everyone on both sides.

Thank you,
Asma Palmer

From: Ben Zingman <bzcom@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Vote No on CB22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am a constituent writing to express my opposition to CB22-2024 and ask you to please vote against this resolution. Please note that Hamas – a terrorist organization - is sworn to destroy Israel and the Jewish people. The October 7 attack on Israel occurred while there already was a “cease fire,” a strong indication of how Hamas views such declarations. (Throughout the earlier “cease fire, Hamas continued to lob rockets at Israel.) Moreover, a cease fire now without a release of the hostages would both leave Hamas in power and Israeli hostages stuck in their tunnel prisons. In the opinion of military and foreign affairs experts, including the current and former secretaries of state, a new cease-fire will allow Hamas to re-arm, reorganize and attack again, as they publicly have sworn to do.

- CB22-2024 fails to mention the use of rape as a weapon of terrorism. Nor does it address Hamas’ use of hostages and Gazan civilians as human shields. Both actions are war crimes. Why doesn't the resolution address them?
- The Council’s role is to address county issues, improve the quality of life and bring our residents together. CB22-2024 will divide rather than unify our county, and reflects an issue area in which the council has neither experience nor jurisdiction.
- If the resolution passes, the Council must answer the question about its own antisemitism because it has ignored years – in some case decades – of conflict, ethnic cleansing and mass murder involving the Kurds, Uyghurs in China, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Yemen, Iran and Syria. Why is the Council solely focused on Israel and Jews?

War is terrible. Period. And, as even the recent U.S. retaliation for the deaths of our soldiers shows, civilian casualties are inevitable. A cease fire at this time is neither impartial nor valid. It only aids Hamas.

Please vote "No."

Thank you,

bz

Ben Zingman
6989 Silent Dell Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410.531.3458 - h/o
443.802.8809 - c

bzcom@aol.com

From: Beth Hima <bethhima@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 12:36 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CR 22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member Walsh,

I am writing in regards to Resolution CR 22-2024 which is coming up for a vote on Monday February 5.

I am not in favor of this resolution, nor do I favor our County Council officially opining on a complicated international conflict, as this is far outside the scope of what we elect county council members to do.

The citizens of Howard County have a range of opinions on the conflict in Israel and Gaza. I personally cannot take seriously any call for ceasefire without a demand in the same breath for the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza. Therefore, CR 22-2024, which makes no mention of the hostages held in Gaza, does not represent my feelings on the conflict, and is in fact offensive.

But this is beside the point. The bigger issue for me is that County Council exists to represent the interests of the citizens of the county and to legislate on local issues directly affecting their welfare. It is not the forum to resolve or legislate international issues. Any citizen of the county or of the country, including any Council Member, is free to make their opinion known to the President of the United States and to their Congressional representatives whose purview includes international affairs. But I do not want my County Council speaking for me on these issues.

I expect the County Council to be focused on issues that affect daily life directly in Howard County. In my opinion, it is a misuse of the Council Members' platform to promote a resolution such as CR 22 -2024 and an unnecessary loss of focus on the work Members were elected to accomplish.

Thank you for listening.

Beth Hima

Ellicott City MD 21042

From: Robert Dreyfuss <rdreyfuss326@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:07 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Resolution 22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Representative Walsh,

First, let me say that I am for a two state solution; I support much more aid going into Gaza; and, I think the Netanyahu government is bad for Israel, bad for the Palestinians, and bad for the United States.

However, I urge you to please, please withdraw the resolution that you introduced. I know that your intentions were good, but the resolution does not support a major constituency of Howard County or of your district for the following reasons:

- 1) It has no mention of the Hamas attacks on the kibbutzim on October 11th and the mutilation of hundreds of people, including women and children. I am sure you have seen pictures of the mutilation and savageness of the attacks. Think if that was your family.
- 2) The stated goal of Hamas is the elimination of Israel and the killing of all Jews. I highly doubt that is what you want for Israel or for Howard County. The resolution does not mention that, except very broadly in terms of all faiths. Neither the vast, vast majority of Israelis nor the Jewish citizens of Howard county want the destruction of all Muslim countries or of the Palestinian people.
- 3) No mention is made of the hostages, such as supporting the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. Again, think if your family member were being held hostage.
- 4) You need to recognize Hamas as a terrorist organization, not innocent Palestinians. The radical settlers on the West Bank need also to be called out. Not all Gazans support Hamas, but Hamas is using all Gazans as human shields.
- 5) How did your parents and grandparents feel about the bombing of Tokyo (not to mention Hiroshima or Nagasaki) and the bombing of Germany during World War II? Many innocent civilians were killed just because they lived in a country that was at war with the United States and its allies. Unfortunately, Gaza is ruled by a terrorist organization that achieved power through the ballot box just as Hitler did.
- 6) I recommend a book to you. *The Arc of a Covenant: The United States, Israel, and the Fate of the Jewish People* by Walter Russel Mead. He is not Jewish and the book is a terrific history published in 2022.

As an aside, I was in Israel in 1962 (yes, that makes me old). That was 14 years after Israel became a country. Israel was a vibrant and modern society even at that time. Israel left Gaza in 2005 and Hamas has ruled Gaza since 2007. What has Hamas done to improve the conditions in Gaza with the hundreds of millions of dollars they have received from Iran and others? Build tunnels and built munitions to attack Israel?

Another aside, I have a flag of the US and Ukraine on my front lawn. I am afraid to put an Israeli flag on my front lawn. Why do you think that is?

Again, I know your intentions were good and admirable, but the current resolution needs to be reworded. Please withdraw the current resolution until you can work on wording with both the Jewish and Muslim communities in Howard County.

Thank you for reading this, which I hope you do.

Respectfully,

Bob Dreyfuss, one of your constituents

From: Bob G <bob.ginsburg@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Sincere Request to Cancel CR 222 - 2924

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Honorable Council Members;

In the Sanctified names of the universally recognized American martyrs; James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, who were murdered as they worked together for justice and peace 60 years ago this year, a request is respectfully made:

Withdraw Resolution CR 22 - 2024. It will not effect any situation in the Gaza area. It is more likely to encourage the haters in our County, and elsewhere, who are against **ALL** minorities, anyone who is "different" in appearance, or thought, or belief.

Or, if this is not possible, please add the following condition as a requirement for a ceasefire:

Any Ceasefire process must include the return of all hostages, alive or not, who were kidnapped by Hamas agents in October 2023.

Thank you for reading this appeal to help reduce hatred and violence.

Here are a few comments to justify the above request:

Simply calling for a ceasefire in Gaza (as does Resolution CR 22 - 2024 as it now stands) may seem a harmless humanitarian gesture defending free speech, but, any solution that keeps Hamas, the October '23 attackers of Israel, in power guarantees that rape, torture, murder or kidnapping of innocent civilians can be repeated anywhere else, with no penalty to the attackers. Hamas has repeatedly shown no mercy for the innocents who are suffering in Gaza. Women and children and the elderly have been, and are being, used as involuntary sacrifices to gain Hamas goals.

Where will Hamas' often stated and documented intent to kill people who are different end?

Racists are racists. They are the haters who seek out any divisive issue to spread fear and hatred to justify violence against **ALL** minorities.

Thank you for reading this appeal to help reduce hatred and violence.

Toward lasting peace,

Respectfully,

Bob Ginsburg,
Village of Oakland Mills

PS: Kindly excuse the "test" email sent to the Council earlier today at 1:45 PM in error.

Truly sorry for any inconvenience.

-
-
-
-
-

From: Bobby Zirkin <zirkin2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:25 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution is a gift to Hamas

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Walsh,

This is former State Senator Bobby Zirkin. I am writing to urge you to heed the words of senator Cardin when he said a Resolution similar to yours that was defeated in Congress was nothing more than a gift to Hamas and terrorists around the world.

I understand that you are concerned about the suffering of innocent lives. As are we all. But a ceasefire without the elimination of the terrorists is nothing more than a death warrant for Israel and Jews.

These issues are complex, religious, deep-seated, and emotional. But this Resolution at this time is reckless and strikes of hypocrisy and anti-semitism - traits that I believe do not and should never apply to well-meaning public servants.

I urge you to reconsider this action or risk the reputation of Howard County as being a friend to the worst perpetrators of death against Jews since the holocaust.

This resolution is a slap in the face of the scores of beheaded babies, raped and tortured women, and 1200 innocent lives snuffed out by evil on October 7.

Never Forget is right now.

Bobby Zirkin
410-236-6088

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carla Tevelow <perlpubl@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:05 PM
To: CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote for CR22

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilman Yungmann,

Please support CR22, calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. At this time, over 25,000 Palestinians have been killed during this war.

As a nation, dedicated to democracy and peace, Israel is displaying neither. Our country's tax dollars support this inhumane torment of a war which lacks any relief for the innocent people living in Gaza. We need to take a stand and let the federal government know, Howard County MD is a peaceful citizenry which is against the killing and funding of this war.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peace,

Carla Tevelow

From: Charles Goldstein <charlesggg999@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:50 PM
To: BallBulletin; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Ms. Walsh's recent repost

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Walsh - I just read your recent repost below:

"More than 100 days and 75 years of genocide. A person's stance on Palestine says everything about their moral compass. You are for or against genocide. For or against ethnic cleansing. For or against violent illegal occupation, inhuman siege & vicious apartheid. There is no middle ground. Palestine is fighting for all of our humanity and for the world's justice. #Stopthegenocide #FreePalestine"

Well, there is a middle ground. Let me pose a no-name hypothetical question:

Assumptions:

- Country 1 has in its charter the destruction and the killing of the overwhelming majority of the population of Country 2
- Country 1 then carries out its promise and slaughters and rapes (sometimes both for some) citizens of Country 2. In addition, Country 1 takes many hostages. Right after this action, leaders of Country 1 say they will do this over and over again until all of the citizens of Country 2 are killed.

Question:

- Faced with this situation, and you are a leader of Country 2, what would you do?

Back to the real world - when you say that Palestine is fighting for all of humanity, they are not. They are not fighting for me. The Palestine that is found in your repost is Hamas (overwhelmingly supported by the citizens of Gaza), an Iranian supported terrorist group (as classified by the United States and other countries).

My conclusion is that you are not seeking to find a resolution to this issue. It appears you support the Hamas charter that Israel must be eliminated and all Jews living there killed or at best relocated.

Please reconsider your position. Both sides in this conflict will need to compromise to achieve peace.

Thank you for reading this.

Charles Goldstein
9820 Middle Meadow Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: Cheryl Cooperstein <clcooperstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:13 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Feedback on CR 22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

2-4-2024

Dear Councilwoman Walsh et al.,

I am writing to you today to express my horror at your proposed Resolution (CR 22-2024). From what I know of you, I hope that my assumption that you do not truly understand the complexity of this resolution and the implications it could have for the county locally is true.

I have lived in Howard County for over ten years and served in leadership positions in the county. I have taught Hebrew, Jewish Studies and Jewish history for many years and know that even I do not have a full understanding of the nuance of Middle East politics. I am currently serving as Cubmaster for one of the county's largest Cub Scout Packs and am a substitute with HCPSS. Additionally, I have a JD, an MA in international politics, and a BA in History with focuses on Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, and International Relations.

I know that after October 7, you came to Shabbat services to show your support to the Jewish community. An "immediate ceasefire" means that Israel (and the Jewish people) has no right to defend herself. It means that the 1200+ innocent civilians who were ripped out of their beds, had their children or parents raped and murdered before their eyes, watched as the terrorists came in and after killing their neighbors, dismembered their bodies, decapitated them, burned them including infants and elderly. And that was only the information released to the public; other actions that are unimaginable to me are said to have occurred as well. These people were literally in their beds sleeping. Over two hundred of those people, including children as young as nine months old, women, the elderly and non-combatants, Israelis, Americans, Thai, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze, etc. were snatched from their homes and forcibly taken into Gaza. While held in underground tunnels with no light, minimal air circulation, and barely enough food to survive, the hostages were subjected to rape, torture, and being forced to watch these horrors occur to others around them. One hundred thirty-nine individuals, including children and women, and the elderly, are still being held at the will of the monsters who abducted them. To make it worse, the Hamas terrorists recorded and released videos showing these crimes against humanity, while many Gazan citizens and other Palestinian supporters around the world cheered and celebrated. The atrocities that occurred on October 7 are unparalleled in human history.

The proposed Resolution is a blatantly antisemitic and anti-Israel statement. Full stop.

The closest thing we, as Americans, have to understand this was 9-11. Did we allow al-Qaeda and ISIS to remain in power after the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon? Absolutely not! A sovereign nation has the right to self-defense. When the U.S. fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, did they take triple precautions to prevent the death of bystanders? Not at all--they had a mission and completed their mission at any cost. And just how did the Americans treat the terrorists they captured? They brought them to Guantanamo Bay and practiced horrific means of torture on

them.

My considerations against this resolution are four-fold:

- I. The overreach of a County Council into foreign affairs;
- II. The consequences of such a statement locally;
- III. The history and culture of the Israelis/Jews and their right to exist;
- IV. The war itself and the need to protect Gazan residents

I. JURISDICTION

Under the Constitution, Articles I and II foreign relations are explicitly delegated to the Federal Government, specifically the President and his agencies, and Congress. These powers include making treaties, waging war, and sending foreign aid. Under the Bill of Rights, Tenth Amendment, powers not explicitly given to the Federal government is reserved for the States. The Supreme Court confirmed in *United States v. Pink* (1840), *Zeschernig v. Miller* (1968), and *American Insurance Association v. Garamendi*, Insurance Commissioner, State of California (2002) that the reciprocal of the Tenth Amendment also holds: States do not have the right to participate in any kind of foreign affairs, whether trade issues or foreign policy ones.

If States do not have the right to participate in foreign affairs, it logically holds that a local government, such as a County Council, has absolutely no role in them, nor does it have any business making statements on complex international situations. This is out of the Council's scope and such a resolution should not even be on the table.

The Council's jurisdiction is to focus on local issues and we have plenty of things that need to be fixed--schools, budgets, local crime and poverty, etc.

II. LOCAL CONSEQUENCES

Although a County Council cannot participate in international affairs, if it does make a statement, that statement can have a powerful impact on the local constituents. Approximately 20,000 Jews reside in Howard County. While not worded in such a manner, the actual impact of the statement will have extremely serious antisemitic consequences. By calling for an immediate ceasefire, in essence, what you are saying is that, "Israel does not have the authority to rescue the 139 hostages still being held and abused in Gaza, nor does it have the right to conquer an invading group who committed unthinkable crimes including murdering 1200+ individuals. Moreover, their enemy has continued to bombard Israel with rockets on a daily basis, even four months after they started the war. The perpetrators directly state that their objective is to commit genocide against the Israelis, Jews, and Americans in order to establish a Jihadist Caliphate around the world. It is fine to leave them in power, leave the hostages there, and allow for the continued dangers to Israel. Israel and the Jews have ZERO RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE."

While you may not think this is what your statement says, I guarantee you that the anti-Semitism that lies just beneath the surface in Howard County will explode should such a statement be made. It would give permission to anyone to attack the Jews and Jewish establishments without recourse.

Even before October 7, Maryland as a whole has seen an increase in antisemitic hate crimes. See: <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/maryland-has-had-dramatic-increase-in-anti-semitic-incidents-report-shows/>

Across Maryland, the number of hate crimes reported doubled between 2021 and 2022, with crimes against Jews begin the second-highest category at 15.2% of all those reported

The problem has become so severe even within Howard County that the Jewish Federation of Howard County needed to create a reporting form for residents. See: <https://www.jewishhowardcounty.org/antisemitism>

Additionally, the Howard County Police Department has a special procedure for investigating hate-based crimes and incidents.

These antisemitic hate crimes are here in our county. This is not something on which we can turn a blind eye.

The Resolution gives this underlying message: “It is fine and justifiable to harm the Jews. They do not have the right to defend themselves. If they do, we will immediately require them to stop. Then, you can attack them again and again and again.”

I fear for my safety and the safety of my children. This is not a “the statement MAY” be interpreted this way, but “the statement WILL” be. In and of itself, a call for a ceasefire is granting permission for any and all antisemitic, anti-Israeli, and anti-Jewish crimes or acts.

One of the things I love about living and teaching in Howard County is the great diversity of the area. My classrooms have children of all backgrounds, races, religions, and colors. The children learn from a young age to embrace those differences and to learn from each other. In the elementary schools where I have worked, the youth are truly blind to those differences and judge others based on their behavior, not their appearance or familial practices.

The message the Council will send by approving this Resolution is that it is 100% acceptable to attack Jewish neighbors and facilities, and no repercussions will occur. Our history is replete with antisemitic attacks and persecution, and the need to move constantly to protect ourselves and our families.

The Council must not send this message out. Instead, the message should be, “Here in Howard County, we embrace our differences and become better people by learning about different cultures.” Roundtables and interfaith discussions should be set up, programs for children to learn about different cultures should be organized, and a zero-tolerance policy must be implemented for any kind of antisemitism, racism, gender discrimination, etc. When the “Black Lives Matter” campaign came out, the Jews were there saying the systemic racism in the country has gone too far, we have your backs. But no one does that when the Jews are the victims.

III. The History and Political Situation of Israel

The complexity of the history of the Levant takes years of study to understand. Even with a degree in the area and

having followed Israeli news for decades, I still only have a superficial understanding of the situation and rely on others with more direct information.

Have you, personally, been to Israel? Do you know what it is like on the ground there? Do you know what it is like to fear for your life every second of every day--will the bus be blown up? What about the pizza shop? Will rockets rain down on your house? Living on a tiny sliver of land surrounded by enemies means that this is the reality for every Israeli and has been for the past 75 years.

Have you, either personally or as a group, had access to intelligence from a reliable source (CIA, Shin Bet, another country's intelligence) that would allow you to make an informed statement? Do you look at various new sources or only the "mainstream" ones that repeat what Hamas reports to them without further investigation (e.g., number of deceased) or are known to be antisemitic and anti-Israel (e.g., BBC)? How many hours have you spent trying to unravel the situation by looking at all sides of the issue including the extremely complex history? Do you challenge what you see stated by both sides? Which side has produced more accurate media and which one produces mostly propaganda?

While in no way comprehensive, I want to give you a brief history of the region to understand the long-standing Jewish connection to the land, and just how young the Palestinian nation is.

Approximately 3,000 years ago, a couple settled in the Levant, west of the Jordan River. They had a son (Isaac) who had a son (Jacob) who had a bunch of sons who sold their second youngest brother (Joseph) to traders going to Egypt. When the wife (Sarah) died, the husband (Abraham) purchased land in Hebron to bury her. Later on, their grandson Jacob instructed his sons to go to Egypt to get food during a famine. Eventually, Jacob brought his three living wives and all of their children down to Egypt where their son/brother helped them settle in Egypt out of necessity.

After several generations, a new Pharaoh came and felt threatened by this strong and powerful family-turned-nation. He enslaved them and tried to kill their sons. This was the first of many, many times the Israelites/Jews were persecuted. Several generations later (either circa 1446 BCE or circa 1186 BCE--I personally think the second is more compelling) a leader named Moses led the people out of slavery and in the wilderness for 40 years. Before his death, Moses appointed Joshua to lead the people. As was very typical for that era, Joshua entered the land and conquered land stretching from parts of the Sinai Peninsula to far north of the Golan Heights into what is now modern-day Syria and Lebanon, and from the Mediterranean Sea passed the Jordan River and covering much of the modern-day country of Jordan.

All of the civilizations in that area at the time of Joshua's conquest fell. Just as you cannot find an ancient Egyptian, Roman, or Greek today, neither can you find Amorites, Moabites, Hyksos, or Philistines. From the time that Joshua entered this land, there have ALWAYS been Israelites/Jews living in the region, i.e., the Jewish nation has had a presence in the area since 1150 BCE at the latest.

First, the area was ruled by tribal leaders called Judges. Then, the people demanded a King. Saul was appointed but he was vengeful, so his lineage lost the kingship. David was anointed king, followed by his son Solomon. Due to David's leadership in the conquest of the land (again, a perfectly normal action at that time), he was not permitted to build a Holy Temple for the Israelites to use for worship. However, his wise son Solomon built the first permanent Temple on Mt. Moriah.

While this is all reported in Holy Scripture (the Torah and the Prophets), archeological evidence supports and strengthens the stories that have been passed down from generation to generation.

After King Solomon's death, the unity of the Israelite tribes split and two kings ruled: one in the North (Israel) and one in the South (Judah). In 722 BCE, the Assyrians conquered the Kingdom of Israel. In 586 BCE, the Babylonians conquered

Judah and exiled the vast majority of the people. The Persians conquered the Babylonians and the next major persecution of the Jews occurred when King Ahashveros allowed his vizier Haman to issue an edict to kill all Jews. Esther and Mordechai thwarted this plan and the Jews were permitted to fight back and prevent the genocide of the Jewish people. After several years, Cyrus the Great permitted the Jews to return to their homeland--Judea and Samaria where they built the Second Temple in 516 BCE.

In 322 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered the Levant on behalf of the Greeks. For well over a century, the Greeks allowed the Jewish people to live and worship as they pleased in their homeland--as long as they paid taxes. However, in 167 BCE, under the Greek Syrian King Antiochus, the next planned genocide occurred. Once again, the Jews, led by Mattithius and his sons (the Maccabees), fought back and despite their small size, they overcame the Greek army and reclaimed their desecrated Temple.

In 63 BCE the Romans took control of Israel and Jerusalem. Herod was appointed King of Judah in around 37 BCE where he expanded the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, the retaining wall of that Temple stands as the holiest place that Jews can access. At some point during Herod's reign, Jesus was born and died. The Jewish people were splitting into different sects during his lifetime: rabbinical (Pharisees), Temple/Priestly (Sadducees), fighters (Zealots), and esoteric men (Essenes) who lived in caves in the mountains (e.g. Qumran and other Temples where the scrolls they wrote in understandable Hebrew have been found). While Jesus lived, he mostly followed the philosophy of the Pharisees as he preached as a Jewish rabbi.

In 70 CE, Roman Emperor Titus conquered the city of Jerusalem and destroyed the Holy Temple. Even today, there are piles of rubble from the destroyed Temple around the Temple Mount. Titus and the Romans renamed the region of Israel, "Syria Palaestina" and the city of Jerusalem, "Aelia Capitolina." This referenced Israel's ancient enemy, the Philistines, in order to add salt to the wound that was the destruction of their Holy City and Holy Temple.

The Jewish resistance to the Romans until 132 CE with the Bar Kochba revolt. Although many Jews were exiled and moved throughout Europe, some stayed in and around Israel and Jerusalem. In fact, between 200 and 350, the scholars living in Jerusalem compiled a version of the Talmud, the Jewish oral law.

Over the next several centuries, Israel was under foreign rule: the Persians, the Byzantines, the Muslims (638) who built the Dome of the Rock atop the ruins of the Holy Temple, the Seljuk Turks, the Christian Crusaders, Saladin, and the Mamluk Empire, and in 1517, the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire allowed and encouraged Jews to settle in Judea and the Jews lived peacefully and flourished under the Ottoman rule. Due to their common language and culture, the Ottomans used the Jews for trade and commerce, allowing them to become one of the more prosperous peoples in the Empire. With the expulsions from Spain and other Western European countries, more Jews were welcomed into the communities throughout the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire fell to the British in 1917 after World War I. Using the ancient Roman name for the region, the British received the "Palestine Mandate" for this region by the League of Nations in 1920. Under the Balfour Declaration, both the Palestinian Jews and the Palestinian Arabs were promised land for independent nations in the region known as Palestine. Both peoples were called Palestinians at the time because they were living in Palestine.

As a result of the pogroms in the 1880s and 1890s, as well as the post-war political climate and the rising power of fascism in Europe, many Jews immigrated to Israel. There, they built up the land, created irrigation systems to enable agriculture in the marshes and deserts in the region, and built infrastructure including homes, schools, synagogues, and other community centers.

After Hitler's genocide attempt on the Jews, the need for the Jews to return to their indigenous, ancient, ancestral homeland became apparent to everyone. Nonetheless, the British continued to play political games between the

Palestinian Arabs and the Palestinian Jews. The British established the Arab state of Jordan on the East side of the Jordan River and the West Bank including Jerusalem. At the moment the British Mandate expired on May 14, 1948, David ben Gurion stood up in Tel Aviv and declared Israel to be an independent state. Quickly, many countries confirmed their autonomy. On that very night, however, Egypt (which at the time included all of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza), Jordan (including Jerusalem and the West Bank), Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia invaded the infant state. Israel defeated all of the invading Arab countries and conquered the West Bank and Jerusalem, parts of the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula including Gaza. Israel again fought for its survival in 1967, 1973, 1982, and throughout the 1990s and 2000s. In the 1960s, the Arabs in the region united becoming what is now known as the Palestinians. Let me repeat that: the Palestinians have been a nation for less than sixty years; the Jewish people have been a nation with claims to the land for 4000 years.

IV. But what about the Palestinians/Gazans?

A. Establishment of a State of Palestine.

The Palestinian people in Gaza have shown themselves to be unwilling to have their own state. According to their charter, their aim is that, Palestinians were those who resided in the region before 1948, including Jews, however, the entire area must be only under Arab rule, and the Jews are an invading force (although I'm confused as to how it is possible a region that your people has occupied for millennia).

The People of Gaza have been offered the opportunity to have a state of their own, even up to 97% of the land area in the region leaving Israel on the tiniest sliver of undesirable land (hard to farm or build on).

Nonetheless, the Palestinians have rejected every single proposal where even a square inch of land went to the Jews to establish their national homeland in their ancestral home. Over the next hundred years, to this day, that has been the case. Offers and discussions of the two-state solution, almost always accepted by the Israelis and dismissed by the Palestinians, include: 1920 (Balfour Declaration), 1937 (Peel Commission), 1939 (British White Paper), 1947 (UN Discussion), 1979 (Israel-Egypt peace negotiations), the 1990s (Oslo Accords--no agreement reached due to Palestinian Terror attacks on Israel including on buses, cafes, busy streets), 2000 (to include giving 97% of the West Bank and all of Gaza to the Palestinians), 2008 (offer to fully withdraw from the West Bank and divide Jerusalem), 2013-14 (intentional sabotage of the Kerry Initiatives by the Palestinians), and 2020 (Trump Peace Plan).

Many people who chant, "From the River to the Sea, Palestine must be free," have no clue what this actually means. Which river? Which sea? Free from what? The river is the Jordan River, currently the Eastern border of Israel; the sea is the Mediterranean Sea, currently the Western border of Israel. Does this make sense yet? The only way Palestinians will be "free" in a land that had been ruled by Muslims from the 600s, is to completely remove the people who have resided in that land permanently since around 1160 BCE, nearly a millennium longer.

These are only some of the times that the Palestinians rejected the two-state proposal. In fact, in 2005, Israel attempted to grant the Gazans an independent region. The Israelis created infrastructure including buildings, water purification systems, schools, greenhouses, and everything needed to build Gaza into a beautiful Mediterranean destination. Instead, in 2007, the Gazans "elected" Hamas to lead them. Rather than supporting the civilians and building a prosperous region, Hamas destroyed all of the infrastructure, squandered foreign aid, and created an extensive system of tunnels to hide weapons and their own leadership while allowing their people to live in squalor, starve, and not have their basic needs met. The priority of Hamas, according to its charter, is to claim all of the land for Islam through jihad. They directly state, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam obliterates it." Moreover, it states, "Initiatives and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradictions to the principles of the Islamic Resistant Movement....There is no solution for the Palestinian question except jihad."

Hamas's charter requires the education of their children to hate Jews, to aim to destroy Israel, and to honor suicidal fighting and martyrdom. Hamas managed to infiltrate the international aid organization so that the international community (rather than the governing body) could provide food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and education (see above) to the populace so that their money could be used to prepare for a war to annihilate Israel and the Jews. But, Hamas does not stop there; the Hamas charter also states, "The imperialistic forces in the Capitalistic West and the Communist East forces support the enemy." In plain English: Once we finish destroying Israel, we are going to continue to conquer by force every non-Arab and non-Muslim country. Watch out, America, you're next."

Additionally, Palestinians are the only people who have the hereditary right to refugee status. All other people, including the many, many Jewish people after World War II, have been through periods of being refugees. The difference is that all organizations other than for the Palestinian people assist in resettlement and learning skills to provide for oneself and build a good life for their children. Palestinians are encouraged to remain in a perpetual state of being a refugee. After nearly 80 years and several generations, the Palestinians have lived in one area and could have worked to establish a stable community (if their government permitted them to do so).

So the answer to the question of "Could there be peace if we give the Gazans/Palestinians their own state?" is a resounding NO. It has been offered, it has been attempted, and they admit they will commit the atrocities of October 7 over and over and over and over again until no Jew or Israeli remains on this planet. The charter outright says this and so do their actions and direct statements.

B. The Current Situation and Israeli Relations with Gazans.

Imagine for a moment that Mexico invaded the United States, killing 1200+ people in the most heinous way possible and kidnapping over 200. Imagine if they insisted that to return children home that had been ripped out of their parents' arms three criminals who wish to kill Americans must be released. What would happen? Would America continue to provide humanitarian aid including water, gas, and fuel to the Mexicans even though the Mexicans are sending rockets every single day to New Mexico, Texas, and California? Would they facilitate and encourage international aid organizations to bring supplies into Mexico through their border crossings? What if none of the other Central American countries want to help?

That example might sound silly, but that is exactly what has been going on for the last four months. Israel is expected to continue to provide resources to their neighbor who attacked and continues to attack them especially because no one else will. Hamas is the one that broke the first ceasefire. Hamas is the one insisting on continuing the war. Hamas is the one raping women and holding hostages in tunnels. Before this war, many Gazans crossed the border into Israel every day for work or to receive medical care. Israel supplied Gaza with many resources including water. Now, they continue to supply resources despite being in an active war with Hamas. Israel opened a border crossing to facilitate international aid while the nearest Arab country, Egypt, has refused to do the same. The Arab countries refuse to help to make Gazans look more pathetic thereby making Israel look evil for preventing aid.

However, Israel cares about the Gazans much more than Hamas does. Hamas steals the humanitarian aid and food from the Gazans. Hamas takes the fuel and gas that should be used for heating, cooking, and running generators in hospitals, and uses it to build weapons. Hamas took building materials from established structures (like the greenhouses) and materials sent by the international community and rather than building housing, schools, and hospitals, Hamas built miles and miles of tunnels. Gaza is a small area, approximately 25 miles from North to South, and 3.5 to 7.5 miles across (141 square miles). Howard County is 251 square miles. In an area smaller than Howard County, more than 350 miles of tunnels have been found. These tunnels contain running water, electricity, and air circulation systems needed for long-term habitation. The tunnel system's length is nearly twice as big as the area of the land.

Israel warns civilians to evacuate areas before attacking; Hamas forces them to stay. Israel takes many times longer to carefully minimize civilian casualties; Hamas dresses as civilians. Hamas secures its headquarters and weapons under

schools, daycares, and hospitals, knowing that Israel's image will suffer for attacking those places. Hamas uses a strategy of human shields. It is also believed that Hamas exaggerates the number of deaths and counts its 16 and 17-year-old combatants as “minors” to increase those numbers.

If Israel had wanted to win this war quickly regardless of the cost, it would have been over on October 9. Israel is waging this war to ensure that any innocent Gazans have an opportunity to be free from the terrorist organization claiming to govern them whose methods backfire and create an environment of poverty and hatred. Israel has the military capacity to do so. But Israel, as well as the Jewish people as a whole, prioritize human life. Israel, more than any other country, takes precaution after precaution to prevent the deaths of innocent people. Hamas on the other hand continues to fire rockets to populated areas every day. How do they still have rockets and fuel after firing them daily for four months?

Finally, if you look within Israel, Palestinian Israelis, as well as other Arabs, Muslims, Druze, Christians, etc. have equal rights and status to any other Israel. They may vote, serve as members of the Knesset and High Court, attend school, and worship in their own way. Israel protects the holy sites of all people. In fact, Jewish Israelis allow more freedom of religion than the Muslims in Israel do: the Temple Mount, the holiest site in all of the world for Jews and the third holiest for Muslims (despite there being no evidence that Muhammed corporeally traveled to Jerusalem), cannot be accessed most of the time by anyone who is not Muslim. When it can be accessed, it is only for a very short time, through one specific gate, and with very limited access to the area. Muslims, on the other hand, are welcome anywhere. Women in Israel have far more rights than women in Palestinian-ruled areas, and LGBTQ+ individuals can find safety and security in Israel, whereas in Gaza they would be killed.

Therefore, I request that you rescind the proposed resolution. Alternatively, I request that the wording be changed to include the following statements:

The actions on and since October 7 by the terrorist organization Hamas are inhumane and we condemn them.

Israel has a right to self-defense and national preservation. In doing so, Israel is defending not only her land and residents, but also Jews around the world and the way of life that we enjoy.

We request an immediate ceasefire when the following conditions are met:

- a) The return of all of the hostages, or their remains, to Israel;**
- b) The surrender of all of the Hamas leadership and terrorists;**
- c) The relinquishment of all weapons to international authorities (Interpol or Europol);**
- d) A plan of self-governance that secures Israel’s right of existence and the safety of all of the Israeli citizens;**
- e) A plan of self-governance that provides for the Gazan populous, the rebuilding of Gaza into a stable region, and the education of Gazan youth which promotes peace.**

Respectfully,

Cheryl Cooperstein

From: Chris Krupiarz <cjkrup@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:05 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Unprecedented?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Walsh,

I found it perplexing that you are quoted in the Baltimore Banner as follows:

"[Walsh] said this is probably only the second time in five years that the council isn't allowing public testimony before voting on a resolution."

Odd, because what is actually unprecedented is the resolution you have proposed. Help me out here: when, in the history of Howard County has the Council taken it upon themselves to interfere with the foreign policy of the United States?

I'd like to remind you of the actual function of the Council from you own website:

"The County Council acts as the County's legislative branch of government. It is responsible for making the laws that govern the County. The Council members also are the zoning authority and the licensing and enforcement authority for alcoholic beverages in the County."

Where in that description does it call on you to irresponsibly propose the type of resolution you have written? If you want to post misinformation like you have on Facebook, specifically amplifying a destructive voice implying the state of Israel has been conducting genocide from its very founding, [1] feel free, it's America, where we have the freedoms the terrorists that butchered Israelis on October 7 hate most about us. Or better yet, take that free time to read up on the actual history of the area instead of echoing progressive social media banalities.

Very Truly Yours,

Chris Krupiarz
Ellicott City, MD

[1]

<https://www.facebook.com/LizWalshHoCoD1/posts/pfbid0hGsK6RBDjvc5mQXiqLFXL9USKcgvcLVltjG4W8UM7pyuGTCF9CqbTtcm5teYsaZTI>

From: Dan Lavner <danlavner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Griffin
Subject: Please consider striking down CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear HOCO Council Members,

I am honestly confused by the limited view of the proposed resolution CR22-2024 demanding an immediate Israeli ceasefire in Gaza.

I was sure the resolution would request the remaining hostages' release. I naively believed you all might even request the immediate surrender of Hamas's top officials to begin war crime investigations. Find and arrest the people who cheered and spat at half naked woman paraded down the main streets of Gaza City. End teaching children to hate Jews in UN sponsored schools. Call for humanitarian aid to be personally delivered by the Red Cross to ensure it gets to the most needy Gazans. Request more volunteers from Doctors-Without-Borders to help the Gazan Hospital crisis. Call for further investigations regarding UNRWA for its participation in the October 7 terror attack. But no. The one sided resolution solely *demande*d Israel to cease its war on a well documented terror group who not only broadcast their own footage of their rampage, but have repeatedly expressed that they would do it again if given the chance. At best, CR22-2024 is a mislead resolution putting all blame for war on Israel, at worst, it seems antisemitic...especially when considering the number of world events that have not solicited a HOCO resolution...for example:

- Yemen remains **one of the world's largest humanitarian crises**. In 2023, a staggering 21.6 million people require some form of humanitarian assistance as 80 percent of the country struggles to put food on the table and access basic services. **No HOCO resolution**
- Russia continues its invasion on Ukraine. **No HOCO resolution**
- African Conflicts displace over 40 million people **No HOCO resolution**
- Insurgencies have been ongoing in Myanmar since 1948 and have largely been ethnic-based. **No HOCO resolution**
- An attack of unspeakable brutality was launched on October 7, 2023. **No HOCO resolution**

This type of inconsistent outrage makes me think its the latter...antisemitism. I could go on but I think you get the point. I'm a data scientist, so I look for metrics...these metrics are indisputable. When a single world event is treated differently than others, the motivation has to be questioned. If nothing else, the appearance is unpleasant.

The polarizing news reports, social media postings and the expected false narratives have made it hard enough for citizens and specifically students in our schools. This resolution will further divide neighbors. As council members, you represent ALL the people of Howard County. This resolution is divisive and morally unclear in its conception. Without even mentioning the hostages or the October 7th attack, I feel disenfranchised from the county that my family and I live in. I request that the HOCO Council dismiss the resolution and focus on bringing together our diverse citizens that enrich our county rather than making simplistic resolutions regarding extremely complex issues.

Respectfully,
Daniel Lavner
HOCO Resident since 2008

From: David Wasser <dbwasser@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:50 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CR 22 feedback

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Walsh,

As a member of the Columbia Jewish Congregation I am very disappointed at your introduction of resolution # 22. Please decide for yourself if you are doing the right thing or simply virtue signaling.

Did you demand an immediate cease fire in Yemen, Number of dead? 150-Thousand
Did you demand an immediate cease fire in Syria? Number of dead? 600-Thousand
Did you demand an immediate cease fire in Ukraine? Number of dead 300-Thousand
Did you demand an immediate cease fire in Sudan? Number of dead 2.5 million
So why the demand for an immediate cease fire in Israel. Number of dead less than 30-thousand.

And let's remember a few key facts about the region where you are demanding a cease fire:

First, there WAS a cease fire. It was broken by Hamas, Oct 7 with a level of mass barbarity, especially against women, rarely seen on the world stage. Guess who broke the cease fire before that? (Hint: Not Israel)

The source of statistics in your Resolution 22 is from Hamas, a wholly unreliable source of information. If you recall, it is the same organization that claimed 500 deaths from an Israeli missile strike on a hospital and later revised the number to less than a dozen dead when confronted by the fact that it was a self-inflicted rocket hit on a parking lot.

Another undisputable factoid, the Hamas charter, fully supported by Gaza voters, calls for the destruction of Israel and the genocide of all Jews worldwide.

There are Americans, of all ages, who were kidnapped by Hamas and are still being held hostage.

Finally, it takes two to tango. Since re-birth of Israel, Arabs have initiated several genocidal campaigns against Israel. Conversely, there have been several, very generous peace offers by Israel to the Arabs. The Clinton administration's peace negotiation, in particular, offered the Arabs 95% of everything they asked for, but the Arabs refused that offer, too.

Have you ever asked an Arab what it will take for them to let the Israeli's live in peace? It may surprise you that the overwhelming response is the destruction of Israel, along with the death of all Israeli's and Jews. (Christians are next, BTW). War is terrible, and loss of life is heartbreaking, but sometimes wars need to be won and lost and calling for a ceasefire, while sounding noble, isn't appropriate.

Thank you,

David

-

David Wasser
202-256-4709
<http://whitecoatproductions.com/>

From: rcwilcox5@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:51 PM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: I am opposed to CR22-2024; vote it down

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Representatives,

I am a longtime resident of District 4. I am opposed to CR22-2024 and request that you vote it down for the following reasons:

- I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism; do you?
- The proposed resolution is one-sided: it does not address the massacre of Jews and citizens of multiple countries by the Hamas terrorist organization on October 7th and it does not demand the immediate release of the more than 100 hostages that remain in Gaza, held by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. It does not recognize the crisis caused to the citizens of Israel, and foreign workers, as a result of the brutal Hamas attack.
- The proposed resolution is not related to your job description as Howard County Council representatives.

I am wondering what representative Walsh's motivation is for introducing this resolution. And what would be the Council's motivation for supporting this resolution? Do you believe it will be beneficial to all residents of Howard County? Do you believe it will be a uniting force and make our community stronger? And why this particular resolution? Why is it so important to the Council to interfere with Israel's response to the Hamas terrorists atrocities on October 7th? Where has the Council's voice been with introducing similar resolutions with other upsetting and concerning world events? Perhaps the Council needs to ask itself what its interest is when it comes to the Israeli-Gaza war. Perhaps the Council needs to review its primary function, namely, approving laws and managing affairs for the citizens of Howard County.

Sincerely,
Debbie Wilcox

From: Diane <rgoodri973@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 12:30 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose CR22 - it's a violation of your Oath of Office

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Honorable Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is Diane Goodridge and I live in District 1. I oppose CR22 and ask that you vote against its passage.

As it is currently drafted, CR22 will only further divide our community over a matter that is not relevant to the codes, ordinances, or operations of Howard County.

Truly, this issue properly resides at the federal, not local, level of government, where subject matter experts in diplomacy and foreign affairs would craft a thoughtful, balanced resolution.

This “local” resolution does not enjoy unified or overwhelming support within our community, nor does it enjoy the professional expertise that a thoughtful, balanced resolution deserves and requires.

Furthermore, passage of CR22 would constitute a violation of your Oath or Affirmation of Office (MD Constitution Art. 1, Section 9) in that it shows “partiality and prejudice” in executing your office as a public official in the State of Maryland.

As it is currently drafted, CR22 shows partiality toward one group—and prejudice against another group—by:

- 1) failing to demand the immediate release of all hostages,
- 2) failing to condemn the atrocities and war crimes on October 7, 2023, against innocent civilians, and
- 3) not demanding the return of the remains of innocent civilians, whose violent deaths were committed by said war criminals.

If this resolution were truly humanitarian, it would value ALL lives, “without partiality and prejudice” as your Oath/Affirmation of Office requires of you.

Thank you for your consideration to oppose passage of CR22.

Sincerely,
Diane Goodridge

From: Eric Miller <indyx86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 12:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: C22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I live in Dorsey Search in Council District 1, and I'm represented by Councilmember Liz Walsh. I wish that you would please support CR22 calling for a cease-fire in Gaza.

From: Faye Levine <levinefh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 3:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am asking that you vote AGAINST this action. Israel is at war with Hamas. They were attacked. They are fighting for their lives. The Palestinians harbor Hamas and even though some may be innocents, the images of the Palestinians spitting and throwing things at the hostages as they were paraded through GAZA shows what kind of people they are.

The United States has been involved with many wars with various countries and we never seemed to call a cease fire because innocents were killed. Unfortunately that is war.

Howard County is home to many Jews and many Arabs. This is not a war against Arabs, but a war against criminal terrorists. There are casualties, way too many, but Hamas hides among them. By supporting this bill, you are saying to your Jewish Community that their safety means nothing and their support for a small homeland for the Jewish people is not important. Shame on all of you. You should stay out of this. You are sounding racist by condemning Israel. Let the Federal Government do what they can and this council concentrate on keeping all citizens of Howard County safe.

Think about this. Hoards of terrorists invaded Howard County and brutally kill and mutilate 1200 men, women, children, and babies. What would your feeling be then. How many people died after 911. What did you say then.

I have always loved the freedom I have had in Howard County. Not so much any more. By taking this action you will be destroying my faith in Howard County and that of the Jewish People you are supposed to represent. I hope all of you can live with this decision. We won't forget.

Faye Levine
Sent from my iPad

From: Hafsah Shoaib <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:46 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Gaza Crisis

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Hafsah Shoaib
hafsahshoaib4631@gmail.com
9529 Liverpool Ln
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: Yahoo Mail <hsafren@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fw: Genocide Resolution - Correction

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Council Members:

In the email below I mischaracterized Resolution 22-2024.
It of course does not accuse Israel of genocide. I apologize
for this hasty and careless mistake, and I withdraw the accusation.

But I still urge you to vote down this Resolution. It is extremely one-sided
and anti-Israel. To have a cease-fire in Gaza, if it were to be more than
just temporary, would hand an undeserved, huge propaganda victory to Hamas,
and I believe it would end up making the situation much worse.

I most strongly urge you to vote down this one-sided Resolution, or at least
replace it with a more balanced one.

Harvey Safren
Columbia

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Yahoo Mail <hsafren@verizon.net>
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 at 03:37:01 PM EST
Subject: Genocide Resolution

To all of the Council Members:

I most strongly urge you to defeat the resolution accusing Israel of genocide.

While reasonable objections can be raised about the IDF's targeting practices,
and while objections can certainly be raised against the ugly behavior of some
of the West Bank settlers, to accuse the Jewish state of genocide is a moral
abomination.

Defeat this morally repugnant resolution!

***Harvey Safren
Columbia, MD***

From: Ilene Glickman <glickmanib@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear members of the Howard County Council -

My name is Ilene Glickman. I am a constituent of Councilmember Liz Walsh.

I am writing to express my opposition to the Resolution introduced by Councilmember Walsh (CR-22-2024). The reasons for my opposition are listed below, in no certain order:

1. This Resolution is not within the scope of the work of the Howard County Council. The Howard County Government website states, in pertinent part, that the Council is “responsible for making the laws that govern the County.” I question how the topic addressed in this Resolution fits this definition.
2. I also question whether this body has sufficient information and/or expertise to decide whether or not a ceasefire is appropriate. After days of testimony the International Court of Justice did not call for a ceasefire.
3. This Resolution is one-sided and flawed. Following are some examples:
 - a. The Resolution does not demand the return of the 136 people who remain hostage in brutal conditions by Hamas in Gaza.
 - b. The Resolution leaves out context – it makes no mention of the brutal attack on October 7, 2024, by Hamas on Israeli civilians which resulted in the brutal and sadistic murder and/or sexual violence of over 1200 Israelis and the kidnapping of over 200 Israelis. There was a ceasefire in place on October 7, 2024. It was ignored by Hamas. But for this event, there would be no war. The Resolution ignores the role of Hamas in the current conflict.
 - c. The Resolution does not address the very real threat that Israel faces and the impact of a cease-fire on the safety and well-being of Israeli citizens. Hamas has stated its intention to repeat October 7. I am a Howard County citizen with concern for the lives of those on both sides of this conflict. I cannot support a Resolution that does not address the lives of all involved in the conflict.
 - d. The Resolution is misleading as it invokes the names of various Congressmen without setting out the full position of those named.
4. Israel has a right to exist and to defend herself. This Resolution interferes with that right.

5. Because the Resolution is one-sided and flawed it will not accomplish peace and instead will cause harm and divide.

I ask that you vote **AGAINST** CR22-2024.

From: J. Sylvia <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 6:29 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Urgent Call for Strengthening CR22-2024: A Resolution for Peace and Justice in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Liz Walsh,

Dear Members of the Howard County Council and County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution, CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is a critical step in reflecting the values and conscience of our community, and it highlights our collective desire for peace and an end to the humanitarian crisis. The introduction of this resolution is a commendable act, demonstrating our community's commitment to global human rights and the importance of taking a stand against violence and injustice.

However, while CR22-2024 is a significant step forward, I believe it is imperative for the council to strengthen this resolution further. I urge you to consider officially recognizing Israel as an Apartheid State within the resolution. This recognition is crucial in accurately reflecting the systemic injustices and human rights violations occurring in the region. Additionally, adopting a policy of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel will align our county with a global movement that seeks to apply economic pressure to promote human rights and justice.

I also urge the inclusion of a demand in CR22-2024 for the immediate release of the thousands of Palestinians unjustly detained by Apartheid Israel, reaffirming our commitment to human rights and international law.

Lastly, I call upon the council to advocate for the immediate cessation of all political, diplomatic, and military support for Israel. Our community should not be complicit in the perpetuation of these conflicts. Strengthening CR22-2024 to include these aspects will not only demonstrate our county's dedication to justice and peace but also set a precedent for

other communities to follow. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I earnestly hope for your support in making CR22-2024 a robust and impactful resolution.

J. Sylvia

sylviajulianne@gmail.com

10067 Windstream Dr Apt 4

Columbia, Maryland 21044-2540

From: Janglickman <janglickman@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Comments on CR22-2024

Although we all would like peace in the Middle East, it is a very complicated situation. Israel does have the right to defend itself and would like peace. However, it seems that is an issue to be settled by the Israelis and Hamas and those countries trying to negotiate peace, perhaps not Howard County, Md. Before such a resolution be considered, more information and education should be considered by the council. The situation between Israel and Hamas is very complicated and there is much to know about the history of Israel and Palestine. Perhaps more of this history should be considered before making such a resolution. Thank you for. your consideration.

From: jay bernstein <jaybernsteinesq@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

For the reasons set forth below, I urge the County Council to defeat Resolution CR22-2024 introduced by Council President Liz Walsh, demanding that the Biden administration "immediately call for and facilitate a cease-fire in Gaza."

a) The resolution's reference to "armed violence" that has claimed the lives of Palestinians and Israelis equates the deliberate massacre of 1200 civilians by Hamas, which has been celebrated throughout the Arab world, to civilians regrettably killed in Israel's campaign to destroy a terrorist organization which embeds itself within the civilian population.

b) The resolution's claim that "hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a cease fire is not achieved," is oblivious to and completely fails to consider the millions of Israeli and Palestinian lives which are at risk if a cease fire is implemented which leaves Hamas' leadership, weaponry and tunnels intact.

c) The resolution fails to mention the hostages being held by Hamas, or to call for their release as part of any cease fire.

For these reasons, CR22-2024 should be rejected by all members of the Council.

Thank you -- Jay Bernstein

From: Jeff Troll <trolljeff@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I was shocked when I found out that the Howard County Council would be voting on a resolution involving international issues for several reasons.

- 1) Representatives of the Howard County Council were elected to represent the residence of Howard County deal with county issues. There is no person on this council who has any international political experience to weigh into a topic as complicated as the Palestinian -Israeli conflict. The council should stay out of international politics.
- 2) Passing a divisive resolution does nothing to improve the situation here or abroad. It just brings anger and conflict to the county. The resolution will not bring peace, may or may not reflect the views of the majority of your citizens and does absolutely nothing for Howard County. The council should keep their personal views out of local governance.
- 3) This is a complicated issue. It is easy to call for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid when your life is not threatened. Most of the aid that has been allowed into the region in has been confiscated by Hamas for their benefit and not used for the people. No one wants suffering but there is never only one correct side of an argument. A ceasefire and humanitarian aid would be available tomorrow if the hostages were released and Hamas laid down their arms and recognized Israels' right to exist. To date the only message from Hamas has been that they want to repeat Oct 7 over and over again until there is no Israel.

In short there is no easy answer, and as mentioned previously, the situation is complicated. Both sides face horror but a resolution of this nature should not be on the agenda of local government. The Howard County Council is not qualified to take a position on this topic and should focus on what they were elected to do, Help Howard County. They should stay out of divisive international political issues.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Troll

From: mpcpjerry@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I have been a physician and resident of Howard County since 1980. I now reside in the 1st county district.

My family has diverse cultural and religious beliefs. We have flourished in the equal opportunities and openness of our county.

CR22-2024 presents a tragic divisive action by our county council which clearly goes beyond the scope of county government. I implore the council to vote against **CB22-202**.

Israel has the right to exist and defend itself. Hamas seeks the death of Jews and the destruction of the State of Israel. A declaration for cease fire in Gaza by Howard County Council does not reflect the complexity of hostages, genocidal action taken on October 7, or life and survival in the middle east.

Council should work on bringing our county together in dialog and not create divisive actions that would result from affirmation of CR 22-2024.

Sincerely,

Jerry I. Levine, M.D.

From: mpcpjerry@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:03 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms Walsh,

I am a constituent and an ardent supporter. I have already emailed all members of county council collectively, however in that you are my representative, I am emailing you directly to confirm that you receive my thoughts on CR22-2024 which I understand you introduced to the council. Your response is anticipated.

Thank you for your efforts as my representative and your attention to my email.

Jerry I. Levine, M.D.

I have been a physician and resident of Howard County since 1980. I now reside in the 1st council district.

My family has diverse cultural and religious beliefs. We have flourished in the equal opportunities and openness of our county.

CR22-2024 presents a tragic divisive action by our county council which clearly goes beyond the scope of county government. **I implore the council to vote against CB22-202.**

Israel has the right to exist and defend itself. Hamas seeks the death of Jews and the destruction of the State of Israel. A declaration for cease fire in Gaza by Howard County Council does not reflect the complexity of hostages, genocidal action taken on October 7, or life and survival in the middle east.

Council should work on bringing our county together in dialog and not create divisive actions that would result from affirmation of CR 22-2024.

Sincerely,

Jerry I. Levine, M.D.

From: Kenneth Sall <kensall@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana; Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am against the council's proposed resolution CR22-2024.

The resolution contains no wording to condemn the unprovoked, despicable October 7 attacks on Israeli citizens by brutal Hamas terrorists, nor does it demand the immediate release of innocent hostages held in Gaza by Hamas for nearly 3 months. While the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza cannot be ignored and the killing must stop, a cease fire cannot be unconditional. 10/7 is to Israel what 9/11 was to the United States.

--

Kenneth B. Sall
8931 Good Harvest Ct, Jessup, MD 20794

From: [Laura Salganik](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: CR22-2024
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:04:07 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose CR22-2024.

First, I oppose the resolution because I don't believe the County Council is the appropriate venue for debating national issues. It has many other complex items on its agenda that respond to the urgent needs of our residents.

But since the introduction of the resolution has sparked such a discussion, here are my thoughts.

I want a cease-fire; I can't imagine anyone who doesn't. And I want humanitarian assistance for the civilians of Gaza who are suffering unimaginable miseries. So far so good. I am in agreement with the resolution.

But I also believe that any resolution for a cease-fire must explicitly call for the return of the Israeli hostages captured on October 7 by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other groups. And if the cease-fire is to hold, it should include a path to a longer peace.

Further, I would delete the Whereas referring to the positions of Congressmen Mfume and Raskin, and Senator Van Hollen. Their positions aren't as simple as the resolution makes it sound, as I know you have heard from others. It is disrespectful of our national representatives to misrepresent their views.

Thank you for working to bring this resolution to closure. I wish it could have been handled in a way that reflected open and civil discussion among those with different views. But I know that is something that individuals and institutions are struggling with throughout the country. We are not alone.

Laura Salganik
District 4
10386 Eclipse Way
Columbia

From: Laura Horovitz Strashny <lhorovitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:26 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; Ball, Calvin
Cc: mdjewishalliance@gmail.com
Subject: Strong Opposition to Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing as a member of a newly-formed, grass roots organization, Maryland Jewish Alliance, to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR22-2024. Our mission at MJA is to actively combat antisemitism throughout the state. With our organization growing in numbers each day, we vigilantly monitor events transpiring across Maryland, including those within Howard County.

Resolution CR22-2024 is deeply flawed and sends troubling messages that undermine the rights of the Jewish community in the face of terrorist aggression, neglect the dire situation of 136 innocent hostages (including some who are American citizens), and sow seeds of division within our community. It should be voted down.

The resolution implies that Jews are not permitted to defend themselves when attacked by the terrorist-led Gaza. This is unjust and ignores the catalyst for the conflict, which was the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, in Israel by thousands of Hamas members. It completely ignores the blatant international human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7. It also dismisses the open threat that Hamas has voiced to commit another "October 7" attack over and over again.

The resolution also suggests that Jews are not permitted to retrieve the 136 hostages still held in Gaza for over 120 days in horrible conditions. These hostages include women, elderly individuals, and even children, yet the resolution does not even call for their release.

Moreover, the resolution erroneously includes Hamas militants in the Palestinian casualties, distorting the true nature of the conflict and whipping up emotions.

I urge you to vote against Resolution CR22-2024. Instead of leading to any productive end, this resolution will only cause divisions in the community and alienate Jewish and Israeli American constituents.

Sincerely,
Laura Strashny
Member of MJA

From: MJA <mdjewishalliance@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Strong Opposition to Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is deeply flawed and sends troubling messages that undermine the rights of the Jewish community in the face of terrorist aggression, neglect the dire situation of 136 innocent hostages (including some who are American citizens), and sow seeds of division within our community.

The resolution implies that Jews are not permitted to defend themselves when attacked by the terrorist-led Gaza. This is unjust and ignores the catalyst for the conflict, which was the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, in Israel by thousands of Hamas members. It completely ignores the blatant international human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7. It also dismisses the open threat that Hamas has voiced to commit another "October 7" attack over and over again.

The resolution also suggests that Jews are not permitted to retrieve the 136 hostages still held in Gaza for over 120 days in horrible conditions. These hostages include women, elderly individuals, and even children, yet the resolution does not even call for their release.

Moreover, the resolution erroneously includes Hamas militants in the Palestinian casualties, distorting the true nature of the conflict and whipping up emotions.

I urge you to vote against Resolution CR22-2024. Instead of leading to any productive end, this resolution will only cause divisions in the community and alienate Jewish and Israeli American constituents.

Sincerely,

Margery Smelkinson, Ph.D.
Leader of Maryland Jewish Alliance

From: Michael Drob <drob7315@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 12:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Janet Dashevsky
Subject: Concerns Regarding County Council Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County to express my reservations about the proposed County Council Resolution CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the facilitation of humanitarian aid into the area.

While I firmly believe in the sanctity of all human life and the imperative to protect civilians in conflict zones, I am troubled by the resolution's omission of critical issues, notably the plight of the 136 hostages being held under deplorable conditions by Hamas. This significant concern aligns with the United Nations' statements calling for their immediate and unconditional release, a stance that should not be overlooked in discussions aiming to address the humanitarian crisis.

Moreover, I question the appropriateness of Howard County's involvement in international political matters, especially when such involvement could potentially divide our community along ethnic and religious lines. Howard County prides itself on fostering good relations across different groups, and our focus should remain on building upon these relationships, enhancing our community's cohesion, and addressing local needs.

Engaging in international politics, particularly through resolutions that might be perceived as one-sided or neglectful of the complex realities of international conflicts, does not serve our community's best interests. Instead, it risks alienating segments of our population and diverting attention from pressing local issues that require our collective effort and resources.

I respectfully urge the Howard County Council to reconsider the adoption of Resolution CR22-2024 in its current form. I hope that the Council will prioritize initiatives that unite rather than divide us, focusing on ways to improve our local community. International affairs, especially those as complex and sensitive as the situation in Gaza, are best handled by federal officials who have been elected to manage such matters, including President Biden, whom our residents overwhelmingly supported.

I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that the Council will act in the best interest of all Howard County residents, promoting peace and understanding both locally and globally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Drob & Janet Dashevsky 6812 Caravan Court Columbia, Maryland

From: Moriel Kaplan <morikaplan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:00 PM
To: Jung, Debra
Cc: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Reject CR 22-2024 or Lose Diplomacy as an Option

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmember Jung,

The [Hamas Covenant 1988](#), Article Thirteen:

"There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."

The founding charter indicates nothing less than battle is the solution. It is well known that the battle has been constant since their founding and while the tactics have changed from suicide bombings on buses and indiscriminate rocket launches, to a premeditated attack and mutilation of families asleep in their homes and slaughter of innocent youth at a music festival on October 7, 2023. No agreement will stop the fight. Not even another ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, which was in place on October 6.

A vote in favor of CR 22-2024 by Howard County tells Howard County residents that our local government agrees with Hamas that diplomacy is a waste of time. It is saying that there is no need for understanding, compromise, or agreement. It teaches our children that fighting is the answer. It undermines all teachings of tolerance and inclusion. Reject CR 22-2024 to save diplomacy around the world and in our backyard.

Before you vote on Monday, 2/5, read the full Hamas Covenant to understand what this fight means, and why we must support the fight for freedom and liberation of both Palestinians and Israelis who live under the hatred, control, and fear of Hamas.

VOTE AGAINST CR 22-2024!

Moriel Kaplan
Fulton, MD

From: Nancy Shih <shih4500-nancy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 2:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Liz Walsh,

I strongly oppose CR22 calling Israel to cease fire.

CR22 is awfully divisive and biased!

You are not paid by ISIS or CAIR or any radical Islam! You are paid by Howard County taxpayers! Like all Marxist Democrats, you are very ignorant of Middle East affairs.

"Ceasefire" in the name of humanitarian only allows Hamas - the proxy of Iran, to repeat the same atrocity again. Ceasefire is a threat to all human lives including Arabians & Palestinians living in Israel.

Israel only targets Hamas not civilians. If you really care for the Palestinians, you should call Hamas to free the hostages and surrender! It will give true peace to Gaza!

I urge you to withdraw CR22 for the unity of Howard County and for the greater good of humanity in Palestine.

Thank you.

Nancy

From: Nicole Kashtan <nherman124@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 9:58 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Opposition to Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is deeply flawed and sends troubling messages that undermine the rights of the Jewish community in the face of terrorist aggression, neglects the dire situation of 136 innocent hostages (including some who are American citizens), and sows seeds of division within our community.

The resolution implies that Jews are not permitted to defend themselves when attacked by the terrorist organization Hamas, from Gaza. This is unjust and ignores the catalyst for the conflict, which was the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, in Israel by thousands of Hamas members. It completely ignores the blatant international human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7. It also dismisses the open threat that Hamas has voiced to commit another "October 7" attack over and over again.

The resolution also suggests that Jews are not permitted to retrieve the 136 hostages still held in Gaza for over 120 days in horrible conditions. These hostages include women, elderly individuals, and even children, yet the resolution does not even call for their release. We know from released hostages that the hostages in Gaza are experiencing torture and sexual violence.

Moreover, the resolution erroneously includes Hamas militants in the Palestinian casualties, distorting the true nature of the conflict and whipping up emotions.

I urge you to vote against Resolution CR22-2024. Instead of leading to any productive end, this resolution will only cause divisions in the community and alienate Jewish and Israeli American constituents.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kashtan

From: Randy Gartner <rgart@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:15 AM
To: lwalsh@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: County Council Resolution CR22-2024.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing today to voice my opposition to County Council Resolution CR22-2024 regarding a cease fire in Israel i.e.

You were elected to govern the citizens and issues in HOWARD COUNTY not the Middle East or anywhere else outside of the county

We have enough challenges facing our friends and neighbors in our great melting pot we call home.

I ask that you deal with the hatred, bullying discrimination Islamophobia antisemitism homophobia etc in Howard County and let our nationally elected officials deal with the issues like the Middle East. Afterall, that is their job and what we elected them to do.

Further, would we want the government officials of the city of Ashkelon or Jerusalem, in Israel or even Baltimore to pass a resolution on how we should handle the war on drugs or the fighting amongst citizen or religious groups in our area?

So, I urge you to vote NO on the County Council Resolution CR22-2024.

Thank you

Randy Gartner

District 1

Randy Gartner
410-707-5063

From: Roslyn Benjamin <rsilverben@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 6:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Against Bill CR-22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote against this bill (CR22-2024) I am a resident of Howard County and I am appalled that there is a bill being considered by the Howard County County Council that does not relate to local county issues. You are elected to help the residents of Howard County on a local level .

Thank you ,
Roslyn Benjamin
District 3
Columbia,Maryland 21046

Sent from my iPhone

From: Saiyed Ahmad <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:15 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire Now!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Saiyed Ahmad
ayahmad15025@yahoo.com
10095 Waterford Dr.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: Sara Kahn <sara.hildenbrand@pgcps.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 3:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I would like you to vote against CR22-2024.

Sincerely,

Sara Kahn
Howard County Resident

From: Sarah Pan <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:26 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Pass the Ceasefire Resolution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pan
sarah.pan33@gmail.com
3211 Vanborine Pl
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: Scott Kelber <kelbermeister@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 7:32 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Vote against CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear council member Liz Walsh,

I strongly urge you to vote against CR22-2024 calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the war in Gaza. Such a ceasefire would condemn the people of Gaza to more cycles of violence and poverty under the brutalist and repressive Hamas regime.

After Hamas took power in a 2005 election, it was the last time Gazans were able to vote. In the almost 20 years since, Hamas leaders have become billionaires. As of 2018, Hamas controlled an investment fund worth over half a billion dollars while continuing to receive \$20M a month from Qatar. Meanwhile, the people of Gaza remained mired in poverty and violence. Instead of building schools and infrastructure, Hamas built a military tunnel network larger than the subway system of New York City. They poured money into the war regime. Instead of buying a food and medicine for their people, they bought bombs and rockets. Instead of supporting the people of Gaza to build a brighter future for their children, Hamas used them as human shields.

The people of Gaza need to be freed from Hamas's tunnel vision of death and destruction. The people of Gaza deserve a government that values the lives of its people more than it does the deaths of its enemies.

The ceasefire can only come when Hamas lays down its arms and is removed from military, political, and economic power. Anything short of that condemns the people of Gaza to more war, more impoverishment, more destruction.

The landscape of Gaza, when not pockmarked with craters, is beautiful. It should be a coastal tourist destination, not an endless war zone. I cannot predict when peace will reign and this vision will come to pass. But if the international community presses for an immediate ceasefire and rewards Hamas for its barbaric rampage on Oct 7 and its 2-decades long abuse of the Palestinians there, I can guarantee that I will be sending this letter again in a few years.

I strongly urge you to vote against CR22-2024.

Sincerely
Scott Kelber
Hickory Ridge Village, Columbia
972-989-3990

From: Shaina Harris <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Urgent Call for Strengthening CR22-2024: A Resolution for Peace and Justice in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Liz Walsh,

Dear Members of the Howard County Council and County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution, CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is a critical step in reflecting the values and conscience of our community, and it highlights our collective desire for peace and an end to the humanitarian crisis. The introduction of this resolution is a commendable act, demonstrating our community's commitment to global human rights and the importance of taking a stand against violence and injustice.

However, while CR22-2024 is a significant step forward, I believe it is imperative for the council to strengthen this resolution further. I urge you to consider officially recognizing Israel as an Apartheid State within the resolution. This recognition is crucial in accurately reflecting the systemic injustices and human rights violations occurring in the region. Additionally, adopting a policy of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel will align our county with a global movement that seeks to apply economic pressure to promote human rights and justice.

I also urge the inclusion of a demand in CR22-2024 for the immediate release of the thousands of Palestinians unjustly detained by Apartheid Israel, reaffirming our commitment to human rights and international law.

Lastly, I call upon the council to advocate for the immediate cessation of all political, diplomatic, and military support for Israel. Our community should not be complicit in the perpetuation of these conflicts. Strengthening CR22-2024 to include these aspects will not only demonstrate our county's dedication to justice and peace but also set a precedent for

other communities to follow. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I earnestly hope for your support in making CR22-2024 a robust and impactful resolution.

Shaina Harris

shaina.harris2009@gmail.com

5 Hawthorne Avenue

Pikesville, Maryland 21208

From: Sharon Nakhimovsky <sharonsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 5:49 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Strong Opposition to Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is deeply flawed and sends troubling messages that undermine the rights of the Jewish community in the face of terrorist aggression, neglect the dire situation of 136 innocent hostages (including some who are American citizens), and sow seeds of division within our community. The resolution implies that Jews are not permitted to defend themselves when attacked by the terrorist-led Gaza. This is unjust and ignores the catalyst for the conflict, which was the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, in Israel by thousands of Hamas members. It completely ignores the blatant international human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7. It also dismisses the open threat that Hamas has voiced to commit another "October 7" attack over and over again. The resolution also suggests that Jews are not permitted to retrieve the 136 hostages still held in Gaza for over 120 days in horrible conditions. These hostages include women, elderly individuals, and even children, yet the resolution does not even call for their release. Moreover, the resolution erroneously includes Hamas militants in the Palestinian casualties, distorting the true nature of the conflict and whipping up emotions. I urge you to vote against Resolution CR22-2024. Instead of leading to any productive end, this resolution will only cause divisions in the community and alienate Jewish and Israeli American constituents.

Sincerely,
Sharon

From: Sruthi R <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 12:15 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Stand With Peace: Call For Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Howard County, deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in Gaza. As our community stands for justice and humanitarian values, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution.

The conflict in Gaza is not just a distant issue; it resonates with us here in Howard County, Maryland. We have a proud tradition of advocating for human rights and peace. Supporting this resolution aligns with our commitment to these principles and showcases Maryland's role as a compassionate, globally aware community.

As a member of this community, I believe it is imperative that we raise our voices for those suffering. This resolution is more than a political statement; it's a beacon of hope for a peaceful future. By backing this resolution, the Howard County Council can demonstrate leadership and compassion that reflects the values of our community.

I trust that you will consider this urgent plea and stand on the right side of history by supporting Councilwoman Walsh's resolution. Thank you for your time and for representing the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,
Sruthi

Sruthi R
sruthirajarajan@gmail.com
9727 Softwater Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

From: klutzytango@gmail.com <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:52 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Urgent Call for Strengthening CR22-2024: A Resolution for Peace and Justice in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Liz Walsh,

Dear Members of the Howard County Council & County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution, CR22-2024, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This resolution is a critical step in reflecting the values and conscience of our community, and it highlights our collective desire for peace and an end to the humanitarian crisis. The introduction of this resolution is a commendable act, demonstrating our community's commitment to global human rights and the importance of taking a stand against violence and injustice.

However, while CR22-2024 is a significant step forward, I believe it is imperative for the council to strengthen this resolution further. I urge you to consider officially recognizing Israel as an Apartheid State within the resolution. This recognition is crucial in accurately reflecting the systemic injustices and human rights violations occurring in the region. Additionally, adopting a policy of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel will align our county with a global movement that seeks to apply economic pressure to promote human rights and justice.

I also urge the inclusion of a demand in CR22-2024 for the immediate release of the thousands of Palestinians unjustly detained by Apartheid Israel, reaffirming our commitment to human rights and international law.

Lastly, I call upon the council to advocate for the immediate cessation of all political, diplomatic, and military support for Israel. Our community should not be complicit in the perpetuation of these conflicts. Strengthening CR22-2024 to include these aspects will not only demonstrate our county's dedication to justice and peace but also set a precedent for

other communities to follow. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I earnestly hope for your support in making CR22-2024 a robust and impactful resolution.

klutzytango@gmail.com

5580 Vantage Point Rd

Columbia, MD, Maryland 21044

From: Aamir Chowdhury <aamir084@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:58 AM
To: CouncilMail; Jung, Debra
Subject: Please support CR22 (calling for immediate ceasefire in Gaza)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Morning Councilwoman Jung,

I live in Columbia Maryland in District 4 and I would like you to support CR22 which calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza because far too many innocent civilians have been murdered and the war is behind conducted with minimal or no disregard of human life/rights that are required to be followed by international standards. Please have the basic human empathy and vote yes to this bill. We are all being judged at this very important time and it's this issue requires immediate action.

Regards,

Aamir Chowdhury

From: Aaron Jaffey <ajaffey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:17 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Cc: jfrankel@jewishhowardcounty.org
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning,

My name is Aaron Jaffey and I am a long-time Howard County resident. I am writing because I am deeply saddened by this proposed ceasefire resolution that does not mention the freeing of the hostages taken by Hamas. It is appalling to me that this resolution would make no mention of them. Innocent women, children, and the elderly are currently held in Gaza subjected to horrific torture and rape. To not call on them to be released makes this resolution terribly one-sided. It's certainly fair to call for a ceasefire and express dismay for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, but the release of the hostages need to be expressed as well.

Thank you,
Aaron Jaffey

From: Adam Joss <adam.m.joss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am saddened to hear that a resolution is to be considered calling for a ceasefire in the Israel/Gaza conflict, without calling for the immediate release of the hostages. Was there a resolution when China overtook Hong Kong? Was there a resolution when Russia attacked Ukraine? Is there a resolution about the ongoing gang violence in El Salvador? If not, why is there a resolution about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict? WHY DOES THE RESOLUTION NOT CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES? Is the violent capture of civilian hostages acceptable to Howard County residents?

This action by the council is divisive, anti-semitic and in no-way benefits our community.

This resolution, as written, should NOT be passed.

Respectfully,
Adam Joss

From: Adam Lowy <adam.lowy317@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose CR22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County Council & County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the Resolution (CR 22-2024) introduced by Councilmember Walsh. My name is Adam Lowy, I live in District 4 in Howard County. I **oppose CR22** and ask the county council to oppose the bill.

The heart of my opposition to CR 22-2024 is that the resolution calls for a unilateral unconditional ceasefire and makes no acknowledgement to the atrocities committed by Hamas.

- There is no mention of the immediate release of the 130+ hostages (or remains of hostages) still being held in Gaza by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other associated terror groups.
- This ceasefire resolution also appears to be a one-sided ceasefire, which pins the blame for the devastating loss of innocent civilian life in Gaza and Israel solely on the actions of the State of Israel. There is zero mention of the deliberate and calculated tactics of Hamas that make them responsible for substantial percentages of the civilian deaths that have occurred throughout Israel's war on Hamas. When presenting a resolution only calling for one side, in this case Israel, to put their arms down, think about what you are actually calling for- Hamas has repeatedly vowed to conduct attacks worse than October 7th again and again. Passing a resolution for Israel to ceasefire unconditionally is putting rhetoric into play that gives permission & acceptance for Hamas to continue carrying out these vile attacks.

The decision to consciously omit these points from the resolution presents as a deliberate decision to erase the existence and legitimacy of the lives of these hostages and, since I am being frank here, creates deeper divisions between people who genuinely care for one another, and who may have deeply divergent assessments of the Israel-Hamas war. No good comes from the introduction of this deeply flawed resolution.

Our hearts break for the civilian population of Gaza who are unsupportive of Hamas. I pray for their liberation from this brutal terror group. I also pray for peace and the end of suffering of ALL innocent civilians who have been thrust into this war.

I vehemently reject this resolution and am ONLY in favor of strides to help heal the divisions that this resolution has already caused.

Sincerely,

From: Ahmed <abdurahman12er14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Shame

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

You could have set a precedent where international issues make a presence in local forums, however you elected not to. No where is there a rule or bylaw against the council having a symbolic say on matters of critical importance to humanity.

History books will remember you as being pro-genocide.

From: Alex Adler <adlerhga13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Cc: CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; Ball, Calvin
Subject: CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms Walsh

Your resolution is misguided at best, and blatantly antisemitic at worst. Your figures are pulled from the Gaza Ministry of Health, which has been proven to be completely fabricated information. You also fail to acknowledge the atrocities that led to this situation in Gaza, and the hostages still being held, including newborns and elderly.

Until and unless you also introduce resolutions regarding Syria, the DRC, China, Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen, Russia, etc., I urge you to stay in your lane and stick to local issues as you were elected and tasked to do.

Bring Them Home
Am Yisrael Chai

Alex Adler
6468 Abel Street, Elkridge

From: Alisa Niefeld-Batiz <aniefeldbatiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:00 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: No ceasefire!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Walsh,

Unfortunately, you don't understand the situation or the history yet. You're supporting a group of terrorists. This resolution doesn't make any sense without the support of Israel. The group you're supporting wants to destroy the state doesn't want to recognize its existence which has been going on for decades. The doctrine of Hamas is to destroy the state of Israel is to not allow its existence nor its people. That's what you call genocide..

You've got the history completely wrong. I'll be happy to give you a lesson. From the river to the sea. What do you think that means, but it seems like you haven't done your homework. Only part of it that's with our revolution has delusional this movement.. They only supplied half truths.

No. Ceasefire.

Where is your support for Israel.

Regards,
Alisa Niefeld-Batiz
Berkshire Hathaway
410-215-0047

From: aniefelbatiz@gmail.com <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:49 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Urgent Call for Strengthening CR22-2024: A Resolution for Peace and Justice in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Liz Walsh,

Dear Members of the Howard County Council and County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to express my My opposition to this resolution from Liz Wash I think it's appalling I think it's disgusting and I don't understand the lack of support for the state of Israel You're supporting a group of terrorists terrorists that want the destruction of the state of Israel that don't recognize it that refuse to recognize it wants to kill every Jew on the face of this earth and that's who you're supporting It's appalling it is shameful.

There's no ceasefire without the release of a hostages that were innocently taken as pawns in this war. A war that didn't have to be. It was brought on by a group of terrorists terrorist that Liz Wash and others in this county are protecting again is disgusting.

aniefelbatiz@gmail.com
9466 Farewell Rd
Columbia , Maryland 21045

From: Allison Addalia <aaddalia@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to this bill for many reasons.

1. The county council has business passing resolutions on international affairs.
2. A bill that is solely one sided is not promoting "Civility".
3. There should be a call to release the hostages.

Thanks you,
Allison Addalia

Sent from my iPhone

From: Arif Mahmood <marifmd1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony (CR22-2024) Ceasefire Resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members:

As a registered voter of District 4, I am writing to request your VOTE FOR the Council Member Liz Walsh's resolution (CR22-2024). The resolution calls on the Biden administration to support an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza to stop killings of innocent children and women. Also, that humanitarian aid could reach 2.3 million civilians (half of them children) in dire need.

During the past four months, Israel's military campaign in Gaza (a territory under its effective control since 1967) has created, in the words of officials of aid agencies of the United Nations, a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation and has rendered the territory "uninhabitable". Israel's indiscriminate bombing campaign has wiped out entire neighborhoods, with currently over 27,000 killed (70% of whom are women and children) and more than 60,000 wounded, thousands more unaccounted for under the rubble. Around 1.9 million (85% of the population) displaced from their homes and forced into a small sliver of land in southern Gaza. Israeli bombing has also destroyed almost 70 percent of housing units in Gaza, based on an academic analysis of satellite radar data. Alarmingly, the mortality rate of civilians killed is also higher than that of the Second World War. Israel's military operation has created a large population of sadly WCNSF (wounded child with no surviving family). Civilians in Palestine have had little or no food, water, safe shelter, sanitation, electricity, fuel, and medical care.

These civilian casualties and suffering has had a worldwide impact, with calls for moral and legal responsibility of countries under the international humanitarian law. In this regard, South Africa brought legal proceedings against Israel's military campaign in Gaza before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention. On January 26, 2024, the court in its provisional order found it plausible that Israel has committed acts that violate the Convention. Among the court-ordered provisional measures, one of them requires that Israel must take "immediate and effective" measures to ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services.

Your VOTE FOR the resolution would be an act of moral obligation and would contribute to a growing political momentum for achieving an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza, a prerequisite for effectively delivering humanitarian aid.

Sincerely,
Rukhsana Arif

[12195 Linden Linthicum Ln](#)
[Clarksville, MD 21029](#)

From: Beth Lowenthal <beth.lowenthal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Unjustified CR 22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I have been a lifelong resident of this wonderful county that has always tried to welcome and make all people from all walks of life feel welcomed. I do not know how an elected representative can say she represents the people of her county when she puts forward a truly one-sided resolution that fails to call for the immediate release of hostages still held by recognized terrorists who use their own people as human shields and condemn Hamas for the barbaric attacks against innocent men, women and children (many of whom were raped repeatedly and mutilated while filmed and children burned alive).

I implore you to vote AGAINST CR 22-2024 and show that you are not supporting Anti-Semitic legislation in a county whose bumper stickers seek to promote civility.

What's more, please do the job you were elected to do. Our children cannot read or write at the level they should and come home starving after being served pathetic school lunches. Leave the international politics to our nationally represented officials who actually have some knowledge and experience in this arena.

Sincerely,
Beth Lowenthal

From: Betsy Singer <betsysingermarcus@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:07 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jung, Debra; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; Rigby, Christiana
Subject: CR 22-2024 - Vote No

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers: As a Howard County resident, Council District 4, I am writing to request that CR 22-2024 be rejected. Please vote "No" when Resolution CR 22-2024 is introduced for a Council vote on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

The resolution of U.S. international conflicts is not within the purview of the Howard County, Md County Council and this is the primary reason I request that the resolution be rejected.

This resolution demonstrates a lack of knowledge and understanding of this tragedy, especially the plight of a large number of Israeli hostages, including American citizens, who were captured during the Oct. 7th attack on Israel by Hamas, a terrorist organization.

It is my fervent hope that this humanitarian tragedy and international disaster end soon, but this resolution is counter productive and should be voted down.

Betsy Singer
betsysingermarcus@gmail.com
443-812-2525

From: Hamilton, Julie <jebederka@smcm.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: No Ceasefire!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you OPPOSE resolution CR22-2024. No ceasefire - demand the release of the hostages! There are still elderly and children held as well as dozens of innocent people. Demand their release!

Thank you.

Brian and Julie Hamilton, both registered voters.

From: Craig Crandall <vatechhokie@live.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 6:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024- vote against

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it may concern,

Please do not vote in favor of CR 22. Amazing that this vote is being pulled forward without any public input. Should be embarrassing to the entire county council. Only a “no vote” will save your integrity.

Regards,

Craig Crandall
4634 Chatsworth Way
21043

Dear Councilwoman Walsh and Members of the Howard County Council,

As an attorney, mother, daughter, sister, and Jewish citizen in Maryland – I am disappointed and ashamed that you would propose and support in any way Resolution CR22-2024 - demanding for an immediate cease fire in Gaza. You point to the millions of innocent lives being jeopardized in Gaza. Yet Council President Liz Walsh's resolution fails to take into account its antisemitic intent and impact:

- 1) A cease fire will ONLY benefit Hamas AND proxy groups aimed at annihilating and eradicating all Jews and the state of Israel. This is not just conjecture – this is an absolute fact, which Hamas and every proxy group aiming to kill Israelis has made clear and unequivocal. Calls of “From the River to the Sea” symbolize the elimination of Israel from its west to east border – and that intent of Hamas and Iranian proxies is no secret.
- 2) Israel is fighting to survive – fighting to exist. Many point to the despicable, violent, inhumane and evil actions by Hamas on October 7, 2023, as proof that Hamas has killed Israeli innocent civilians as well. However – I would be remiss if I didn't clarify that there is much more at stake here. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU REQUEST THE END OF THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS VIA A CEASEFIRE. Israel happens to be fortunate to have the Iron Dome – to protect its people from the missiles and rockets aimed every day at innocent Jewish civilians to kill them and destroy them. Without that self protection – do you really think the number of innocent civilians on the Israeli side would not exist? Palestinian violent proxy groups are aiming rockets and bombs at Israel all day and for many years – tens of thousands of Israelis have been killed deliberately by Hamas and Iranian proxy groups whose only goal is to destroy Israel and kill Israelis. Even today that is the only goal of Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah and other proxy groups. Israel just has fewer innocent civilians dying because the Iron Dome has intercepted the rockets aimed to kill Israelis. DO NOT BE FOOLED. There are innocent civilian lives at stake in both directions. But a cease fire CERTAINLY will not stop the firing from terror groups toward Israel because their sole goal, which they are very open and transparent about, is to destroy every ounce of Israel and everyone in it.
- 3) If there is a cease fire – Hamas and other proxy groups of Iran have made very clear that they will continue to fight to destroy Israel, regardless of when or where. So, what exactly are you attempting to accomplish with Resolution CR22-2024? Do you really expect a cease fire to solve the problem that Hamas started with violence in the first place? Hamas has made very clear, as have other groups, that they plan to continue until all violence, killings, stabbings, and bombings of Israelis until Israel and Jews are gone.

- 4) Who will be the parties to this “cease fire” being proposed? Is Hamas negotiating and agreeing to it? Are Houthis negotiating it? Is Hezbollah negotiating with Israel? Is Iran compromising and negotiating with Israel on behalf of its proxies? Because a cease fire must go both ways. So, who exactly will sit down at the table to negotiate and implement your cease fire? Or are you only requesting Israel to “cease fire?”
- 5) Israel is not the party killing and punishing innocent civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. In fact, it has been more than one decade since Israel withdrew from Gaza, as well as REMOVED EVERY ISRAELI LIVING ON GAZAN LAND, even though many Israelis were upset about the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank. In August 2005, under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israel unilaterally evacuated all Israelis from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. In fact, Palestinians in Gaza chose Hamas to become their governing leader – a leader that should have been responsible for creating infrastructure, schools, hospitals, educational systems, and a sound economic system. When Israel withdrew from Gaza, Israel even left behind in perfect operating condition its agricultural lands and properties to help Hamas create sustainable life off of the land and ways for people in Gaza to support themselves. Do you know what happened next? Hamas went and DESTROYED all of the agricultural property provided by Israel – Hamas didn’t care about its people and taking care of them. In fact, in response to Israel’s withdrawal, Gaza immediately launched missiles and rockets into Israel at innocent civilians for years – as far as to Tel Aviv.
- 6) There have been multiple efforts, even since October 7, 2023, to implement a cease fire and/or peace. EVERY SINGLE TIME Hamas has chosen not to enforce the cease fire agreement or to maintain peace – Israel has complied EVERY SINGLE TIME. Even more, historically – every single time Israel has come to the table and either agreed to provide land or independence to Palestinians – Palestinians have rejected all peaceful initiatives with Israel (even when prior agreements had been made). In November 1947, Mufti Hajj Amin Husseini refused to agree to the terms of the UN Partition Plan to establish two states (a Jewish and Arab state) – which by the way would have given Palestinians much more land. The Mufti made clear no Jews would be allowed in a Palestinian state and that he would not agree to any plans that included a Jewish state. Yasser Arafat succeeded the Mufti, refusing to accept the state of Israel. In fact, he mounted, via the PLO, terrorist attacks on Israel. When Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel, Arafat and the PLO joined with other Arab League countries from 1977 to 1989 to punish Egypt and reject Egypt as a member. The Oslo Accords resulted in immediate suicide bombings all over the streets of Israel that targeted innocent civilians – all in an effort to destroy any existence of an Israeli state. In July 2000, at the Camp David Summit, Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak aimed to create a strong peace agreement with Arafat to introduce

peace to all people in the Middle East by offering many concessions to Arafat in return for Arafat to recognize the state of Israel's right to exist. Despite numerous concessions, and the chance to truly create lasting peace, Arafat refused. Instead, the Palestinian Authority immediately declared a war of terror ("al-Aqsa Antifada") on Israel – once again attacking innocent civilians despite Israeli concessions and attempts to make peace. More than 1,100 Israelis were murdered. Next, in August 2005, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel aimed for peace again - unilaterally evacuating all of the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank, including forcefully removing every Israeli person from that land, as a way to make peace. Israel left in place all of the agricultural land it had worked hard to create and preserve for the people of Gaza. In response, the Palestinians launched missiles and rockets at Israel from the Gaza Strip. In June 2007, Hamas took over the Gaza Strip (Israel was not in the Gaza Strip at all). Since then, there have been tens of thousands of nonstop missiles, bombs and rockets fired at Israel from Gaza. In 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered PLO Chairman and PA President Mahmoud Abbas a huge peace proposal. Abbas wouldn't even listen – he rejected it immediately. Abbas either wanted the boundaries of Palestine from 1967 or nothing. One year ago, Abbas rejected the United States more recent proposal – which Abbas refused to even hear. ***In case it is not yet clear – the ultimate purpose of a cease fire would be to negotiate a peaceful solution in the Middle East and end the violence. But calls to destroy all of Israel and to eliminate its right to exist by Hamas and other proxy groups will never cease – that has been made clear through history.

- 7) The road to peace is easy. As soon as Hamas releases Israeli hostages – problem solved. Yet Hamas has made very clear that it is not going to happen. So, you are calling for a cease fire in the name of peace, but Hamas wants no part of peace.
- 8) No other Arab countries are taking in Palestinians. What about the dozens of other countries who could be helping in this situation? Israel is trying to defend itself and the lives of its citizens after a horrifically brutal attack, **while also** providing protection to innocent Palestinians. While Hamas is hiding underground, in tunnels and beneath holes created in civilian buildings – innocent Palestinians are being left aboveground with no protection. Hamas is the governing body in Gaza – yet where is Hamas to protect its people? Hamas doesn't want what is in the best interest of Gazans – Hamas is hurting its own. Perhaps your resolution should call for Hamas to stop ignoring the best interests of and stop hurting its own Palestinian innocent civilians, as well as innocent Israeli civilians!!!!
- 9) Israel drops millions of leaflets in Gaza to warn civilians to move out of harms way. What other nation does that? NONE. Israel makes public announcements to warn innocent civilians to move to places of safety. What other nation does

that? NONE. Yet many innocent civilians have died in Palestine because Hamas refused to let them move despite warnings from Israel. So how would a call for a cease fire protect innocent civilians from Hamas – their own leader who is hurting them? Israel is trying to save them while still fighting for the lives and existence of Israelis.

THE SQUEAKY WHEEL SHOULDN'T ALWAYS WIN. Just because people are loudly calling for a cease fire - that doesn't make it right, moral, or even effective. In fact, the only impact will be more ammunition to kill, annihilate and destroy Israeli Jews and the 2 million Palestinians who live in Israel. That is the only effect your cease fire will have. You will be choosing essentially to dehumanize, eradicate, and kill Israelis (mostly Jews) – shame on you. Your job is to reflect and represent the identities and well being of all of your constituents. This resolution is discriminatory, antisemitic, and ineffective. You can do better. You should do better.

Thank you,
Daina Garonzik

From: Danielle Haddy <dhaddy11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 6:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: STRONGLY AGAINST Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Chairwoman Walsh and all Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and frustration at the proposed Resolution CR22-2024. This is a troubling and highly divisive resolution that exploits the Jewish people and incites more antisemitism, violence, and scapegoating of the Jews and Israel; NOT representative of the values on which Columbia was founded.

I have been a proud Howard County resident since 2000 (when I was raised here by my parents who still live in their home). I am now raising my own family here and am increasingly disturbed by the changing environment. It truly no longer feels safe to raise my children Jewish in an environment where biased resolutions like yours can even be given the time of day. It horrifies me.

Your resolution presents a one-sided narrative that promotes and supports a known terrorist organization. If you buy into the propaganda coming out of the Hamas-controlled media in Gaza, then you are part of the problem. You are also not doing your due diligence in representing your entire district and the county, your Jewish constituents included. I also wonder what the reason is to involve Howard County in this global issue other than to incite MORE anger and division in the county. This seems to be the very definition of self-serving political grandstanding on your part, and it sickens me that you would use your voice and authority afforded to you (BY YOUR CONSTITUENTS, LIKE ME) to create so much fear and anger in our community.

This County Council has far more pressing issues to address, such as the county and state budget shortfalls. You were elected to serve ALL the citizens of Howard County. This resolution and the time devoted to it during council meetings is wasting time that should be better spent on addressing the needs of the citizens who elected you.

I urge all Council Members to not only vote NO on this resolution but to definitively reject any attempt to resubmit this in the future. Stop wasting time on divisive issues and focus on the needs of the County as you were elected to do.

Danielle Haddy

From: David Schwartz <dms_commerce@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote AGAINST CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I, David Schwartz, a citizen of Howard County think it is important and would like you to vote AGAINST CR22-2024. While loss of life is tragic, the difference between Hamas and Israel couldn't be more stark.

Hamas is a terrorist organization that inflicted inhumane horrors against Israeli civilians on Oct 7th. It still has 100+ civilian hostages they keep in tunnels and dungeons. They pose a grievous and existential threat to Israel and western civilization. They have instigated and are stoking an international campaign of antisemitism. They have stated outright they will never cease their reign of terror against Israel and Jews. They use Palestinian civilians and civil and religious infrastructure as human shields and then decry the inhumanity when Israel dares defend itself.

David
Sent from my iPhone

From: Debbie Bastacky <debbiems90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:26 PM
To: Cathy Plotkin; CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am against this resolution. It does not represent my views on this subject. Please do not support this resolution as it does not mention release of the hostages or Hamas taking accountability for their actions. This issue should not be something the County Council concerns itself with.

Debbie Bastacky

From: Deborah Cohen <debleecohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: CR-22-2024 - URGENT

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am a resident of Howard County and I strongly urge you to reconsider your push for CR-22-2024 as it is currently written.

I support a cease-fire on both sides in Gaza and the provision of humanitarian aid. However, This resolution is negligent and irresponsible in failing to acknowledge the actions of Hamas that led to the current conflict, or, more importantly, to make any reference to or demand for the release of the hostages still being held by Hamas. These issues are of serious concern to many in our community and our district. I support an end to the war and do not condone killings or hostilities on either side, but to word this resolution in a way that completely ignores the need to address the atrocities and continued captivity of innocent people of all ages is not only unacceptable but extremely divisive to our diverse community. Since no opportunity was provided for public debate, I urge you to take these concerns seriously and to consider changes in the wording of this resolution at the very least.

Such changes would go a long way toward promoting continued unity among groups traditionally allied behind social justice and peace in all of its forms, which is the very reason most of us choose to live in Columbia. Shattering that sense of unity and community cannot be in the interest of anyone in this county.

Respectfully,

Debbie Cohen

\$

From: Debbie Rubin <debbiejrubin@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oppose CR22- 2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Honorable Members of the Howard County Council, my name is Deborah Rubin. I have lived in Columbia, MD since 1984 and have raised my family here.

Columbia is such a special place. A place that fosters inclusion and acceptance. A unique place in a world that often does not bring out the best in people.

I write today to add my voice to the voices of many of your constituents in opposition to CR22 and ask that you vote against its passage. I truly don't understand how Liz Walsh, a woman elected in this county, can take such an outspoken view— designed to divide our community, to foster hate and promote anti-semitism. Liz Walsh represents everything that Howard County is not.

We pray for peace.

I continue to hope that we can work together to ensure that in our own little segment of this crazy world we do what we can to foster inclusion, harmony and respect for all people.

I thank you for your consideration and your vote in opposition to CR22.

Thank you.

Deborah Rubin
10627 Millet Seed Hill
Columbia, MD 21044

Sent from my iPad

From: Robert Lisk <rdlisk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

We fervently hope that the Council does not support a Ceasefire between Israel and Hamas without addressing the right for Israel to exist and defend itself , as well as demanding the release of all hostages prior to any negotiations.

Debra and Robert Lisk
Sent from my iPhone

From: bubbby schmallhome.com <bubby@schmallhome.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote against CR22-2024. Antisemitism doesn't belong anywhere.
Thank you
Diane Schmall

From: Eileen Singleton <eileenmgs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: comments on CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers,

I live in Ellicott City in Councilmember Walsh's district. I wanted to share my thoughts on Resolution CR22-2024 with all of you.

As a Jew, I have many thoughts about the heartbreaking situation in Israel and Gaza. I agree with many people that what the Israeli government is doing is a massacre with excessive violence and destruction. And humanitarian aid is needed urgently.

My issue is that the Resolution does not acknowledge that there are still over one hundred Israeli hostages. The Resolution states as the first paragraph that "all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law," I am writing to urge you to include a mention of the Jewish hostages.

I am Jewish and I believe as written, the Resolution makes me and other Jews in this community less safe and more prone to experience antisemitism. Many people are more than happy to conflate the Israeli government and Zionists with all Jews, and commit antisemitic acts of violence, as we have seen. I think adding an acknowledgement of the Israeli hostages is important.

Thank you for considering this request,
Eileen Singleton

From: Eman Ottallah <dmdgator@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my solid backing for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. As a Howard County resident with a conscience, I am calling for the cessation of aggression against the innocent civilians of Gaza. How many more innocent civilians need to be killed, how many more children need to become amputees, how many more children need to become orphans, how much more flattening of Gaza needs to occur before people decide it is a good time to face the truth? The people of Gaza are being massacred, and it should be a human obligation to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. I pray that the state of Maryland will be on the right side of history by showing the world that it stands against oppression and injustice and calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Sincerely,
Eman Ottallah

From: Erika Silverman Holderness <erholderness@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council members,

Who would have dreamed that in 2024, Liz Walsh would propose a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Middle East? What councilwoman Walsh repeatedly fails to recognize is that Hamas broke the ceasefire that had been in place on October 7th and that there are still over 130 hostages in Gaza in deplorable conditions.

Why hasn't "Release the hostages" been included in this resolution? Why is councilwoman Walsh alienating the Jewish residents of Howard County, MD she is supposed to represent? How does a resolution in Howard County, MD impact what is going on in the Middle East?

If this is an attempt to garner support for her future political aspirations, Councilwoman Walsh has much bigger issues that need to be dealt with in Howard County. Please focus on:

Flooding in Old Ellicott City

School children walking 2 miles to school each way and being held up at gun point
Overdevelopment of land
Increased crime
A declining once world class school system

Council members, please find it in your hearts to protect the Jewish members of our community who have been suffering since October 7th. We need your support and our children need to feel safe and protected in school and in the community. The fact that this resolution, which was once open for public input on February 20 and has now been moved to tonight without public input, should tell you all you need to know. It is one sided, doesn't take into account any factual historical information and is harmful to the community at large.

Am Israel Chai,
Erika Silverman Holderness

From: Erika Silverman Holderness <erholderness@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Thank you!

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the council members who voted no on the ceasefire resolution, I give you a heartfelt thank you. I truly appreciate that the council recognized that they are not in the position to vote on foreign policy.

Erika Silverman Holderness

From: Erum Ikramullah <erum9981@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

Please find below my written testimony for CR22-2024 below.

I am a constituent residing at 6263 Deep River Canyon in Columbia. I am reaching out to you today to thank you for the introduction of Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution CR22-2024. I applaud this act of leadership, which demonstrates a strong stance against violence and injustice. I would also like to express unwavering support for CR22-2024, advocating for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I believe this resolution reflects Howards County's values and the community's aspiration for peace.

I recently moved to Howard County from Montgomery County less than two years ago, primarily for the benefit of my children ages 12 and 9 and for the values espoused by Howard County. I, myself, grew up in Montgomery County, but felt my children would have a better experience in Howard County. In fact, what I've learned is that high school students in Howard County are not able to plan walkouts or freely express their views in support of a ceasefire. I personally know of Palestinian families in the county who have lost loved ones. We must come together as a community and protect the right to free speech and to stand in solidarity with fellow citizens who are suffering the loss of their loved ones. I think we can all agree on a desire for peace and an end to human suffering. I hope that I am not mistaken in my belief that Howard County is committed to supporting human rights, near and far. On that note, I'd like to remind the Council that the [International Court of Justice](#) as well as a [US Federal Court](#) have found plausible evidence of Israel committing genocide in Gaza. Many cities, unions, and professional associations have also called for a permanent ceasefire, some of which include UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders, and Amnesty International -- it's time for Howard County to join this list.

I have spent the past four months regularly reaching out to Maryland state leaders, who have largely ignored community calls on this issue (with the exception of Sen Van Hollen and Congressmen Raskin and Mfume). We need local resolutions to demonstrate how important this issue is to constituents in Howard County. I ask you to take on this responsibility to speak up for justice.

Finally, I ask that the Council take the resolution a step farther by pushing for an end to all political, diplomatic, and military support for Israel from our community to avoid complicity in ongoing conflicts. Specifically, we need to advocate for an end to Maryland state budget funds that go to Israel. I believe these brave steps will inspire other communities to do the same.

In closing, thank you for introducing this bill. I fervently call for the Council and County Executive Ball to support and strengthen this critically important resolution that will leave impacts throughout the state and beyond.

Best regards,

Erum Ikramullah

Howard County Resident

•

From: Gail <gkmay99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:08 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

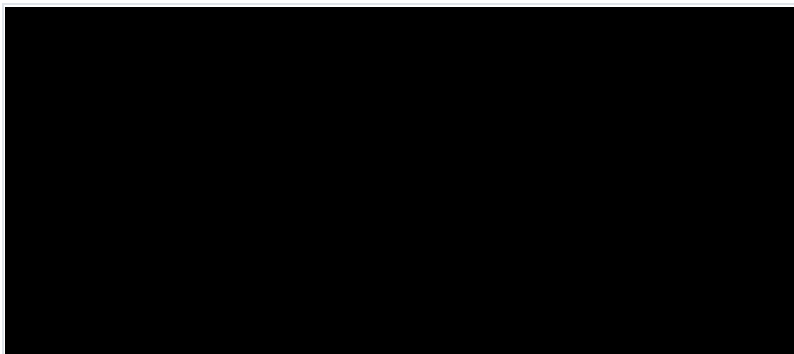
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am against the council's proposed resolution CR22-2024.

The resolution contains no wording to condemn the unprovoked, despicable October 7 attacks on Israeli citizens by brutal Hamas terrorists, nor does it demand the immediate release of innocent hostages held in Gaza by Hamas for nearly 3 months. While the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza cannot be ignored and the killing must stop, a cease fire cannot be unconditional. 10/7 is to Israel what 9/11 was to the United States.

In my opinion, this resolution is discriminatory to Jews.

The following is a link to an op-ed by Armstrong Williams in the Baltimore Sun. It is well written and factual in regards to the division of the Palestine Mandate into a tiny state for the Jews (Israel) and the majority for the Palestinians (now Jordan). While not the precise issue on the table with proposed resolution CR22-2024, it gives needed background: [Armstrong Williams: Anti-Israel response to Hamas terror attack 'wrong, repugnant' | STAFF COMMENTARY](#)



Armstrong Williams: Anti-Israel response to Hamas terror attack 'wrong, ...

Since the Oct.7 terrorist attack on Israel, justice has been turned on its head. The victims of the grisly Hamas...

It is frightening to once again see the United States and the world to treat the Jews as less than human. Once again, to deny Jews the right to live, to assign quotas in education, to deny entry to

neighborhoods, clubs, hotels, apartments. Time and again, we have marched and fought for others but no one is here for us. Discrimination against the Jews is alive and thriving and this proposed resolution is just marching it along.

Thank you,

Gail Karesh May
5815 Blue Sky
Elkridge, MD
443-463-3893

From: Gary Heiligman <gary.m.heiligman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to CR22-2024, an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County Council:

I urge you to oppose Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024, “a resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire in Gaza”. The Howard County Council should not support this proposal for the following reasons.

1. A demand for an immediate ceasefire undermines America’s military who are currently fighting terrorists on land, at sea, and in the air. Israel is fighting America’s fight in this war.
2. A demand for an immediate ceasefire undermines the negotiating process by which the moderate Middle East parties who are attempting to broker a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel carry the weight of U.S. support behind them.
3. A demand for an immediate ceasefire would not be honored by Hamas, the Houthis, or America’s other enemies in the Middle East. It is, in effect, merely a plea to have Israel and America stop shooting at our enemies.
4. A demand for an immediate ceasefire exhibits to the world weakening American support for Israel. Encouraging those who plan for Israel’s destruction is not something the Howard County Council should do.
5. A demand for an immediate ceasefire implies support for Hamas. Hamas desires nothing less than the establishment of a world-wide caliphate in the Middle East and, indeed the whole world including Howard County. This is, I hope, *not* what the Howard County Council wants.
6. A demand for an immediate ceasefire ignores the plight of the hostages being held by Hamas.
7. An immediate ceasefire would not lead to a lasting peace. Hamas exists to make war— not to govern— and a ceasefire would without a defeat merely be followed by yet another bloody series of battles. One does not stop chasing criminals when one has them on the run.

And, finally

8. An immediate ceasefire would benefit terrorist murderers more than any other party. Like all despotic governments, in Gaza under Hamas the ordinary citizens are the first to suffer and the criminal murderers are the last. The first aid to reach Gaza will be used by Hamas to re-arm, not to benefit the civilian subject population.

The targeting of civilians, which the Resolution condemns, is a policy of Hamas not Israel. While the humanitarian cost of the Hamas-Israel war is horrific, it must be pursued to its conclusion. Students of history note that the premature armistice at the end of World War I sowed the seeds for World War II. Let us not make that mistake again.

Regards,

Dr. Gary M. Heiligman
6008 Jerry’s Drive
Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 997-7606

From: Habiba Arshad <arshad.habiba1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members:

As a registered voter of District 4, I am writing to request your VOTE FOR the Council Member Liz Walsh's resolution (CR22-2024). The resolution calls on the Biden administration to support an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza to stop killings of innocent children and women. Also, that humanitarian aid could reach 2.3 million civilians (half of them children) in dire need.

During the past four months, Israel's military campaign in Gaza (a territory under its effective control since 1967) has created, in the words of officials of aid agencies of the United Nations, a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation and has rendered the territory "uninhabitable". Israel's indiscriminate bombing campaign has wiped out entire neighborhoods, with currently over 27,000 killed (70% of whom are women and children) and more than 60,000 wounded, thousands more unaccounted for under the rubble. Around 1.9 million (85% of the population) displaced from their homes and forced into a small sliver of land in southern Gaza. Israeli bombing has also destroyed almost 70 percent of housing units in Gaza, based on an academic analysis of satellite radar data. Alarming, the mortality rate of civilians killed is also higher than that of the Second World War. Israel's military operation has created a large population of sadly WCNSF (wounded child with no surviving family). Civilians in Palestine have had little or no food, water, safe shelter, sanitation, electricity, fuel, and medical care.

These civilian casualties and suffering has had a worldwide impact, with calls for moral and legal responsibility of countries under the international humanitarian law. In this regard, South Africa brought legal proceedings against Israel's military campaign in Gaza before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention. On January 26, 2024, the court in its provisional order found it plausible that Israel has committed acts that violate the Convention. Among the court-ordered provisional measures, one of them requires that Israel must take "immediate and effective" measures to ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services.

Your VOTE FOR the resolution would be an act of moral obligation and would contribute to a growing political momentum for achieving an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza, a prerequisite for effectively delivering humanitarian aid.

Sincerely,
Rukhsana Arif

12195 Linden Linthicum Ln
Clarksville, MD 21029

From: Hena Zuberi <hena@justiceforall.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: WRITTEN Testimony of Hena Zuberi in support of CR-22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening members of the Howard County Delegation,

My name is Hena Zuberi, a proud resident of Howard County and the Director of Advocacy at Justice For All. For over three decades, our organization has been at the forefront of advocating against genocide. Today, I stand before you to express my strong support for CR-22, the resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Ceasefire is more than just a term; it signifies the hope for peace, the cessation of the killing of innocent children, the release of hostages and prisoners, and the provision of essential resources like food and water to millions. The people in Gaza are facing extreme hardships, to the point of eating grass to survive.

My career, spanning more than ten years, has been devoted to researching genocide and advocating for its survivors. This work has provided me with a deep understanding of the devastating effects of such atrocities. It is with this knowledge that I speak to you today.

The crisis in Gaza, which I consider genocidal, has far-reaching implications, even here in the U.S., challenging our core values of freedom and justice. There have been documented cases, including in Maryland, where individuals' First Amendment rights were threatened due to their stance on Palestine.

Moreover, this crisis has contributed to a significant rise in Islamophobia in Maryland, as reported by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The increase in hate crimes and bigotry against our Muslim community members is alarming and underscores the necessity for a ceasefire and efforts to address the underlying causes of such hatred.

This is not just an international issue; it's a Maryland issue. Maryland's solidarity, similar to the support shown for Ukraine, can bring hope and acknowledge the pain of many, including my friend Laila, who has lost numerous family members in Gaza.

Our state plays a significant role in the conflict through companies like Lockheed Martin, headquartered here, which exports arms to Israel. The U.S. is a major supplier of military equipment to Israel, with Maryland contributing significantly through tax dollars and military financing.

Every day, I document the tragic losses caused by these weapons, including children like Jamil a-Din Nijam, only three years old. Our silence on this issue makes us complicit. We stand with all victims of violence and oppression and urge you to advocate for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank.

Nelson Mandela once said, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." As we witness the

tragedy in Gaza and the West Bank, we must not be silent. Let Maryland be remembered for standing on the side of humanity, justice, and peace.

Our call for a ceasefire is a plea for peace and a demand for the preservation of our constitutional values. Let us join together to promote peace and justice, both internationally and within our own community. Thank you for considering this urgent plea. Actions by councils in cities like San Francisco and Ann Arbor have shown that local support can influence national policy. Let's ensure our actions reflect our commitment to human rights and justice.

--

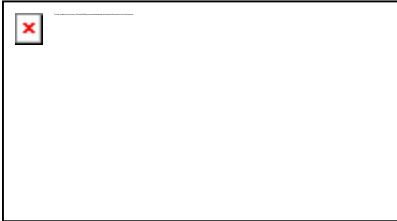
Hena Zuberi

Director of Advocacy

[Justice For All](#)

[Faith Coalition to Stop Genocide](#)

626-354-2367



O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice... (4:135)

From: hollisweisman@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote against CR22-2024. This resolution does nothing to free the hostages taken in the brutal attack by Hamas on October 7, nor would a cease-fire do anything to ensure that similar terrorist actions do not happen again. In fact, Hamas has made clear that it intends to continue its path of terrorism to destroy Israel.

Hollis Raphael Weisman
11295 Barnsley Way
Marriottsville, MD 21104

From: Ilana Bittner <ilana@pixelworkshop.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:20 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: CR-22

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Greetings friends and leaders;

I went to the rally tonight, mostly hung back and took photos, as I do. As I turned to walk to my car, a woman in a hijab with two kids passed me, and she point me out to them and said, "these are the evil people." Me in my hoodie that said, "LOVE" in Hebrew who said nothing to this woman or anyone else. I replied with, "salam aleckem."

That's what Liz's legislation had stoked in our community. Thank you for defeating this resolution. Please stop this now. Please stop inspiring our fellow citizen to teach their children to hate me. There's enough hate in the world.

Sincerely;
Ilana Bittner

ilana Bittner - Chief Storyteller - [Advanced Humanity, LLC](#)
443.854.9739 • [Twitter-ish](#) • [imdb](#)

Dedicated to the art of strategic entertainment
Nonfiction Television • E-learning • Interactive Marketing

From: Ilana Lowy <ibdunetz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024 is deeply flawed. Please oppose!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear respected Council members,

A few days ago Liz Walsh set free another incredibly offensive post on her social media pushing false, one-sided Anti-Israel propaganda.

Thankfully, a Muslim Howard County neighbor spoke out regarding her latest post:

"while I appreciate your support for Muslim/Palestinians, this is not an accurate depiction of reality" It IS possible to condemn Hamas' actions, to ask to bring hostages home, to hold empathy for our very traumatized Jewish AND Muslim community..."

Is Liz Walsh even listening to her community?

Most of us feel the one-sided, ill-informed, anti-semitic rhetoric of CR-22 is only deepening the divide in a community that yearns for healing and unity. I'm not sure why Liz Walsh refuses to include the release of hostages in her resolution or speak of the horrific attacks on Israel 10/7.

Though I've got a gut feeling I know the answer. Hate does not belong in our County!

I Urge you to VOTE AGAINST CR 22-2024.

Sincerely,
Ilana Lowy

From: Ira Dwoskin <iradwoskin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Res cr22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote no to cr22-2024

Ira Dwoskin
6150 Shadywood,
Apt 302
Elkridge, MD 21075

From: Jake Burdett <jakeburdett11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024 Support Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Members of the Howard
County Council,

My
name is Jake Burdett, and I am the Co-Chair of Our Revolution Howard County, as well as a member of the group Howard County for a Free Palestine. This email is my testimony to you all in support of CR22-2024, which is the Ceasefire Resolution introduced by Councilmember Liz Walsh.

According
to various international human rights organizations, since October 7, the state of Israel has killed over 26,000 Palestinians, including over 10,000 children and 5,000 women. All of this has been done largely with US taxpayer dollars and support. Before I
go on any further, I'd like to give a massive Thank You to Councilmember Liz Walsh, for seemingly being the **only Councilmember** in Howard County
willing to call for a Ceasefire. Councilmember Walsh, your courage and leadership does not go unnoticed, and I'm thankful to be able to call you my representative.

But
who I'd like to address in the rest of my testimony, is the rest of the Howard County Council: those of you who for some inexplicable reason, have been unwilling to take a simple, common sense moral stance against the indiscriminate bombing of women and children.
Every day that goes by, dozens more Palestinians are killed by the state of Israel. Hospitals, schools, and other civilian infrastructure are being intentionally targeted. In fact, things are so bad, that the International Court of Justice just recently ruled
against Israel in South Africa's genocide case against them, in which the Court found that it was absolutely plausible that the state of Israel may currently be in the middle of an ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people.

So
my question to you HoCo reps who have not yet signed onto the Ceasefire Resolution is this: is Howard County the County of "Choose Civility", or the County of "Choose Genocide"? This should not be a difficult question, and the fact that most of you have not
Chosen Civility over Genocide yet is quite troubling. Luckily it is not too late for you to reverse course and still end up on the right side of history. I urge all of you to please consider joining the global moral consensus by **SUPPORTING** a Ceasefire in Gaza!

And

don't let anybody try to tell you that is just an "international issue" that is not within the purview of the State Delegation! When Maryland Public School teachers are being disciplined for speaking up for Palestine, and when Maryland Public School students experience censorship during pro-Ceasefire demonstrations, this *is* a state free speech issue! When thousands of your Muslim constituents have to experience Islamophobic hate and indifference to their community being slaughtered, this *is* a state issue! And when nearly \$80 million of Maryland taxpayer dollars go to funding Israel each year, this absolutely is a state issue!

Howard

County just cut over 300 school positions, and the state is also looking at large cuts to the transportation budget—if we really are serious about reversing these alarming trends, then we have to stop giving away all of our taxpayer funds to foreign governments committing crimes with our money, and that begins with a strong call for a Ceasefire from you all. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jake
Burdett

From: Jamie Biegeleisen <jscoop5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:29 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Oppose CR22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

As a resident of Howard County, I am shocked and moritfied at Liz Walsh's viewpoints on the situation in the Middle East. She does not speak on my behalf. It is appalling that a representative of my county would call for a ceasefire, which Hamas broke on October 7, 2023, when they infiltrated Israel and killed, raped, tortured and kidnapped Israelis. In one day, Hamas killed approximately 1200 Israelis. They started a war and Israel has every right to defend its people and its land. America just did so when attacking Iraq and Syria over THREE dead U.S. soldiers. Calling for a ceasefire while not calling for the release of the hostages of Hamas is barbaric. Liz Walsh is not calling for peace. By doing this, she is calling for the death of the hostages.

Please oppose/reject CR22.

Thank you,
Jamie Biegeleisen

From: Janet Edelman
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:29 PM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Against Resolution No. 22 -2024 Gaza Cease-fire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Deb,
We strongly urge you to not support Resolution No. 22 -2024 - Gaza cease-fire.

We see no reason for the Howard County Council to take a position on this issue. The Council was not elected for their expertise in international affairs, nor can they really be representative of their constituents on the Middle East. At this point, you would be responding to those who speak the loudest.

We are deeply troubled by the loss of life on both sides of this conflict, however, a cease-fire without any guarantees of return of hostages, without any acknowledgement by both sides of their right to exist, without any path to preventing the return to hostilities is also troubling. We are hopeful that our federal government will find a rational way to help resolve this crisis. Please do not move forward with this resolution.

Sincerely,

Janet and Ben Edelman
12038 White Cord Way
Columbia, MD 21044

From: The Friedrich's <casafrie@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re your resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members.

Your resolution must include a statement that Hamas must renounce its goal for destroying the State of Israel. The Palestinians also need to renounce Hamas and other terrorist groups that want to destroy Israel. Without these statements a ceasefire will not solve the current and future wars and destruction.

Simon Friedrich, Holocaust Survivor
Jeanne Friedrich

Sent from my iPad

From: Jessica Zirkle <sacksjl@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:06 AM
To: Jung, Debra; CouncilMail
Subject: CR 22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Jung-

I am a longtime resident of Howard County and a current constituent of District 4. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR 22-2024. This resolution is divisive, one-sided and well outside of the scope of the Howard County Council. I urge you to vote no to CR 22-2024 and focus the efforts of the Council on promoting civility, respect and peace in our local community.

Respectfully,

-Jessica Zirkle, District 4 resident

From: jianping liang <jpli2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Against CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear county council's members

I would like you to vote against CR22-2024.

I strongly agree that Council member David Yungmann ' opinion "We shouldn't be tearing our community apart over something that is for appearances only. It's not in the purview of the Howard County Council and none of us are qualified to make judgements or educated opinions on a conflict that's been going on for thousands of years on the other side of the world." [Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Sincerely
Jianping liang
Resident in woodstock, Howard county

From: MARVIN WELLEN <dockwell@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote today

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Walsh and Members of the Howard County Council,

As a mother, daughter, sister, and Jewish citizen of America with children and grandchildren who are citizens in Maryland – “I am disappointed and ashamed that you would propose and support in any way Resolution CR22-2024 - demanding for an immediate cease fire in Gaza. You point to the millions of innocent lives being jeopardized in Gaza. Yet Council President Liz Walsh’s resolution fails to take into account its antisemitic intent and impact:

- 1) A cease fire will ONLY benefit Hamas AND proxy groups aimed at annihilating and eradicating all Jews and the state of Israel. This is not just conjecture – this is an absolute fact, which Hamas and every proxy group aiming to kill Israelis has made clear and unequivocal. Calls of “From the River to the Sea” symbolize the elimination of Israel from its west to east border – and that intent of Hamas and Iranian proxies is no secret.
- 2) Israel is fighting to survive – fighting to exist. Many point to the despicable, violent, inhumane and evil actions by Hamas on October 7, 2023, as proof that Hamas has killed Israeli innocent civilians as well. However – I would be remiss if I didn’t clarify that there is much more at stake here. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU REQUEST THE END OF THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS VIA A CEASEFIRE. Israel happens to be fortunate to have the Iron Dome – to protect its people from the missiles and rockets aimed every day at innocent Jewish civilians to kill them and destroy them. Without that self protection– do you really think the number of innocent civilians on the Israeli side would not exist? Palestinian violent proxy groups are aiming rockets and bombs at Israel all day and for many years – tens of thousands of Israelis have been killed deliberately by Hamas and Iranian proxy groups whose only goal is to destroy Israel and kill Israelis. Even today that is the only goal of Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah and other proxy groups. Israel just has fewer innocent civilians dying because the Iron Dome has intercepted the rockets aimed to kill Israelis. DO NOT BE FOOLED. There are innocent civilian lives at stake in both directions. But a cease fire CERTAINLY will not stop the firing

from terror groups toward Israel because their sole goal, which they are very open and transparent about, is to destroy every ounce of Israel and everyone in it.

- 3) If there is a cease fire – Hamas and other proxy groups of Iran have made very clear that they will continue to fight to destroy Israel, regardless of when or where. So, what exactly are you attempting to accomplish with Resolution CR22-2024? Do you really expect a cease fire to solve the problem that Hamas started with violence in the first place? Hamas has made very clear, as have other groups, that they plan to continue until all violence, killings, stabbings, and bombings of Israelis until Israel and Jews are gone.
- 4) Who will be the parties to this “cease fire” being proposed? Is Hamas negotiating and agreeing to it? Are Houthis negotiating it? Is Hezbollah negotiating with Israel? Is Iran compromising and negotiating with Israel on behalf of its proxies? Because a cease fire must go both ways. So, who exactly will sit down at the table to negotiate and implement your cease fire? Or are you only requesting Israel to “cease fire?”
- 5) Israel is not the party killing and punishing innocent civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. In fact, it has been more than one decade since Israel withdrew from Gaza, as well as REMOVED EVERY ISRAELI LIVING ON GAZAN LAND, even though many Israelis were upset about the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank. In August 2005, under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israel unilaterally evacuated all Israelis from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. In fact, Palestinians in Gaza chose Hamas to become their governing leader – a leader that should have been responsible for creating infrastructure, schools, hospitals, educational systems, and a sound economic system. When Israel withdrew from Gaza, Israel even left behind in perfect operating condition its agricultural lands and properties to help Hamas create sustainable life off of the land and ways for people in Gaza to support themselves. Do you know what happened next? Hamas went and DESTROYED all of the agricultural property provided by Israel – Hamas didn’t care about its people and taking care of them. In fact, in response to Israel’s withdrawal, Gaza immediately launched missiles and rockets into Israel at innocent civilians for years – as far as to Tel Aviv.
- 6) There have been multiple efforts, even since October 7, 2023, to implement a cease fire and/or peace. EVERY SINGLE TIME Hamas has chosen not to enforce the cease fire agreement or to maintain peace – Israel has complied EVERY SINGLE TIME. Even more, historically – every single time Israel has come to the table and either agreed to provide land or independence to Palestinians – Palestinians have rejected all peaceful initiatives with Israel (even when prior agreements had been made). In November 1947, Mufti Hajj Amin Hussein refused to agree to the terms of the UN Partition Plan to establish two states (a Jewish and Arab state) – which by the way would have given Palestinians much more land. The Mufti made clear no Jews would be allowed in a Palestinian state and that he would not agree to any plans that included a Jewish state. Yasser Arafat succeeded the Mufti, refusing to accept the state of Israel. In fact, he mounted, via the PLO, terrorist

attacks on Israel. When Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel, Arafat and the PLO joined with other Arab League countries from 1977 to 1989 to punish Egypt and reject Egypt as a member. The Oslo Accords resulted in immediate suicide bombings all over the streets of Israel that targeted innocent civilians – all in an effort to destroy any existence of an Israeli state. In July 2000, at the Camp David Summit, Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak aimed to create a strong peace agreement with Arafat to introduce peace to all people in the Middle East by offering many concessions to Arafat in return for Arafat to recognize the state of Israel's right to exist. Despite numerous concessions, and the chance to truly create lasting peace, Arafat refused. Instead, the Palestinian Authority immediately declared a war of terror ("al-Aqsa Antifada") on Israel – once again attacking innocent civilians despite Israeli concessions and attempts to make peace. More than 1,100 Israelis were murdered. Next, in August 2005, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel aimed for peace again - unilaterally evacuating all of the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank, including forcefully removing every Israeli person from that land, as a way to make peace. Israel left in place all of the agricultural land it had worked hard to create and preserve for the people of Gaza. In response, the Palestinians launched missiles and rockets at Israel from the Gaza Strip. In June 2007, Hamas took over the Gaza Strip (Israel was not in the Gaza Strip at all). Since then, there have been tens of thousands of nonstop missiles, bombs and rockets fired at Israel from Gaza. In 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered PLO Chairman and PA President Mahmoud Abbas a huge peace proposal. Abbas wouldn't even listen – he rejected it immediately. Abbas either wanted the boundaries of Palestine from 1967 or nothing. One year ago, Abbas rejected the United States more recent proposal – which Abbas refused to even hear. ***In case it is not yet clear – the ultimate purpose of a cease fire would be to negotiate a peaceful solution in the Middle East and end the violence. But calls to destroy all of Israel and to eliminate its right to exist by Hamas and other proxy groups will never cease – that has been made clear through history.

- 7) The road to peace is easy. As soon as Hamas releases Israeli hostages – problem solved. Yet Hamas has made very clear that it is not going to happen. So, you are calling for a cease fire in the name of peace, but Hamas wants no part of peace.
- 8) No other Arab countries are taking in Palestinians. What about the dozens of other countries who could be helping in this situation? Israel is trying to defend itself and the lives of its citizens after a horrifically brutal attack, **while** **also** providing protection to innocent Palestinians. While Hamas is hiding underground, in tunnels and beneath holes created in civilian buildings – innocent Palestinians are being left aboveground with no protection. Hamas is the governing body in Gaza – yet where is Hamas to protect its people? Hamas doesn't want what is in the best interest of Gazans – Hamas is hurting its own. Perhaps your resolution should call for Hamas to stop ignoring the best interests of and stop hurting its own Palestinian innocent civilians, as well as innocent Israeli civilians!!!!

9) Israel drops millions of leaflets in Gaza to warn civilians to move out of harms way. What other nation does that? NONE. Israel makes public announcements to warn innocent civilians to move to places of safety. What other nation does that? NONE. Yet many innocent civilians have died in Palestine because Hamas refused to let them move despite warnings from Israel. So how would a call for a cease fire protect innocent civilians from Hamas – their own leader who is hurting them? Israel is trying to save them while still fighting for the lives and existence of Israelis.

THE SQUEAKY WHEEL SHOULDN'T ALWAYS WIN. Just because people are loudly calling for a cease fire - that doesn't make it right, moral, or even effective. In fact, the only impact will be more ammunition to kill, annihilate and destroy Israeli Jews and the 2 million Palestinians who live in Israel. That is the only effect your cease fire will have. You will be choosing essentially to dehumanize, eradicate, and kill Israelis(mostly Jews) – shame on you. Your job is to reflect and represent the identities and well being of all of your constituents. This resolution is discriminatory, antisemitic, and ineffective. You can do better. You should do better."

Thank you,
Joan Wellen
Sent from my iPhone

Jonathan S. Edelman
Attorney-at-Law
8501 LaSalle Road, #303
Towson, MD 21286
410.598.8800
jedelman.law@gmail.com

February 5, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov
cball@howardcountymd.gov
djung@howardcountymd.gov
ojones@howardcountymd.gov
dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov
crigby@howardcountymd.gov

RE: CR 22-2024

Dear Howard County Council:

In case you haven't noticed, the USA is currently at war with Iran and its proxies. Iran backed Houthis continue to target American vessels and personnel. An Iranian drone recently killed 3 American service members in Jordan. And yesterday, the Joe Biden team carried out additional air strikes against Iranian backed forces in Yemen and Syria.

Despite all of this, Liz Walsh supports Iran/Hamas. The same Iran that is aligned with China and Russia.

Let's be very clear: Ms. Walsh openly supports America's enemies.

At this juncture, there is no doubt that a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas would be a gift to Iran (as Maryland Senator Ben Cardin recently said). It would reward the perpetrators of the October 7th massacre and incentivize future attacks.

Howard County should also consider that the civil war in Syria has claimed over 350,000 lives. Syrian dictator Bashar Assad used chemical weapons on his own civilians. The ongoing civil war between Saudi Arabia and Iran's Houthis has claimed over 150,000 lives. The current war between Russia and Ukraine has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives according to many estimates. China imprisons and displaces ethnic Uyghurs. And Christians have recently been murdered in Sudan.

How come Ms. Walsh and her ilk never express an ounce of outrage concerning these worldwide conflicts? How come they ignore the lack of personal freedom and democracy in the Arab world? How come Ms. Walsh isn't calling for Hamas to surrender and return the Israeli hostages?

The reality is that if Hezbollah, Iran's larger proxy in the region, decides to wage full scale war against Israel, Ms. Walsh and her antisemitic cohort will rush to blame the Jewish state for having the nerve to exist. Ms. Walsh will demand that Israel put down its arms just as she is doing now.

To summarize, Ms. Walsh made the decision to side with Hamas, Iran, China, and other enemies of the United States. Regimes that oppose democracy at every turn. Regimes that cheered on 9/11 when the Twin Towers collapsed in New York City.

CR 22-2024 should be withdrawn or rejected. Now is the time for Howard County to reject Liz Walsh.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan S. Edelman', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Jonathan S. Edelman

From: Judy Dwoskin <judydwoskin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote no to Res cr22-2024!
Judy Dwoskin

From: julie rosenthal <jrosenthl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:20 PM
To: CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; Yungmann, David
Subject: Please vote AGAINST Resolution CR 22-2024 - it fails to demand release of hostages or condemn the October 7 massacre

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Board Members,

I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland, and I am writing to ask you to **please vote against** Liz Walsh' Resolution CR22-2024. This bill is flawed in that it fails to ask for the release of hostages and it fails to condemn the October 7 massacre and torture of innocent, unarmed civilians. The resolution also serves to divide our wonderful community at a time when we must all pull together to deal with the pain we are all experiencing.

I am the daughter-in-law of holocaust survivors, and I feel like Howard County is becoming pre-Nazi Germany. That era started off just like this, with good people not doing the right thing and looking the other way and not speaking up when they saw something heinous. I am not exaggerating when I tell you others in our community feel the same way. Elected officials are supposed to be role models for a community, they are not supposed to purposely cause pain to their constituents.

I cannot understand why an elected official would introduce such a flawed resolution, especially when The Howard County Council has absolutely no control over a foreign country.

I sincerely wish the Howard County Council would focus and concentrate on the job they were elected to do, namely legislate things pertaining directly to Howard County, Maryland. I am saddened that time and money is being spent and wasted on this flawed resolution.

If a cease fire is to happen, the hostages must be returned.

Thank you for taking the time to read of my concerns as well as my request that you vote against this Resolution.

Best,

Julie Rosenthal

I would urge this council to look at our community. We have a beautiful, vibrant, INCLUSIVE community. We should be strengthening this community through education, counseling, and acts of service. We should not be tearing our community down with short sighted, performative legislation. I respectfully ask you to take a breath. Step back, and then vote down Resolution CR22-2024. Thank you for your time,

From: K B <kbtigerlily71@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 6:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Men & Women,

This is a post I shared on Facebook about my feelings regarding the conflict in the Middle East, the increase in antisemitism- and Islamophobia- in our community as well as our country.

I ask that you please reject the resolution presented by Liz Walsh. I have made attempts to speak with her directly but she refuses to engage with the Jewish community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my plea. Because I am begging.

A long plea to Humanity.

I am truly devastated by the growing sympathy for HAMAS - to be clear this is the increasing inability to distinguish the terrorist regime from the innocent Gazans who deserve our compassion. More and more I am seeing the bolstering of Hate, even from so called friends and especially members of my own community in Howard County.

I don't know how to talk about it anymore because people have chosen to turn their backs on us and that is a very jagged, bitter pill to swallow. I didn't want to believe how much antisemitism exists - and I am not calling criticism of Netanyahu's government's crimes antisemitism - I am talking about the inability to denounce HAMAS and to demand the release of all hostages - the babies, the girls who have been sexually tortured for months...I have been so naive my entire life.

Why don't you hear us?

Why don't you loudly support us as you support the Palestinians?

Yet you unequivocally call for a ceasefire without any care for Israeli (ie JEWISH) suffering.

The inability to have compassion for both Palestinians and Israelis is heartbreaking. I cannot just ignore it when it is so rampant here in Howard County and among so-called friends who have never even spoken of the massacre of 10/7 - which, by the way, is also being investigated for acts of genocide and war crimes.

But you remain silent about these things.

You write about how Israelis are raised to hate and fear Palestinians, yet do not acknowledge the indoctrination of Palestinian children which is even more intense and literally militant.

Some have even defended the HAMAS charter.

You celebrate Palestinian protests with the refusal to understand that “from the river to the sea” *has antisemitic sentiments* that are hurtful to the Jewish community. Rather, you seek to argue the point instead of HEARING how those words MAKE US FEEL.

I will continue to fight here in my community against the antisemitic resolution largely supported by so many. I will continue to speak out about the misrepresentation of the honorable Senator Raskin in attempt to support this resolution.

I will continue to speak out about Hiruy Lucas Hadgu who is now under investigation for hate crimes against local children who are volunteering their lives in the IDF.

I will continue to strive to openly listen to those who do not share my perspective as I always seek to understand.

I wish the rest of the community was able to do the same - and the friends I can't bring myself to speak to because they have clearly made their choice and have shown zero concern for the rising antisemitism here at home in our own country.

And have been silent about the slaughter on 10/7 - have turned a blind eye to that event and the ever existing threat to be repeated in perpetuity. I doubt you have brought yourselves to look at those images.

It is not a tangible thing to most of you who know no one in Gaza or Israel and have never been touched, threatened or lost people because of Hate simply because of your history and dna. Something every Jewish person has experienced. Every one of us has personal connections to the Israelis, the majority of us to the Holocaust and the community I grew up with lost valued and beloved members along with a sense of security when our synagogue was the scene of the worst massacre of Jewish people in our nation's history.

You watch the heartbreaking, horrific images coming from Gaza and lazily choose to ignore the suffering of not only the Israel citizens, but the intense hurt and fear of the Jewish community in your own backyard. Because it's in your face constantly and the easy thing to see and sympathize.

Everything that comes out of Israel is called a lie - no other nation has been questioned like this. You don't want to hear truths because you would have to examine your own narrative.

I am relieved that I did not become a member of the Howard County Democratic Central Committee because I see you now, most of you. And I am so disappointed.

I have begged for you to have compassion for more than one group of people at the same time.

I have begged you to understand the nuances that mean we can be horrified and angered by the actions of HAMAS *and* the actions of the Israeli government.

I have begged people of color for their support when we have always been your allies and we share so many similarities in the ways we are hated. Instead, you have abandoned us. And you will never know how much that hurts.

I will never stop using my voice for you, regardless of your choice to be silent and refusal to acknowledge the hurt the very people you grew up with are feeling.

You all have turned your backs on us when we are hurting and terrified of what is happening here at home - something your support could actually affect. You could make a difference. For both the Palestinian and Jewish communities.

Where are you?

I know I am speaking into a vacuum and I realize most people will skip right past this post.

Most people do not want to hear me/us and have already drawn their lines in the sand.

My grandparents' generation warned us of something like this. As we grew up with the phrase "Never Again" ingrained into our souls. And here we are.

I am so incredibly Grateful to the friends and community members who see us and hear us and have consistently shared your support in so many ways. I hope you know who you are.

Sadly, there are too few of you.

Again, I am heartbroken.

There has to be a better way.

Grateful for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Karen Rosenberg

Please contact me at this email
kbtigerlily71@yahoo.com
443-799-1836

10292 Shaker Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)
Sent from my iPhone

From: Larry Cohen <lcohen1219@me.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To Council Person Deborah Jung & all the County Council Members:

We urge you to vote against CR22-2024.

This bill is anti-semitic & a threat to Judaism across the world.

Larry & Rita Cohen

From: Lindsay Ullman <lmiller415@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: AGAINST CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I would like you to vote against CR22-2024

Thank you,
Lindsay Miller

From: Mark Zirkle <mazirkle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:49 AM
To: Jung, Debra; CouncilMail
Subject: CR 22-2024 Opposition

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Jung-

I am a lifelong resident of Columbia and a current constituent of District 4. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Resolution CR 22-2024.

This resolution is divisive, one-sided and well outside of the scope of the Howard County Council. I urge you to vote no to CR 22-2024 and focus efforts of the Council on promoting civility, respect and peace in our local community.

Respectfully,

Mark Zirkle
District 4 resident
443-621-7755

[Sent from my iPhone](#)

From: Marlayna Demond <marlayna89@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:48 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Thank you and please continue!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi Liz,

I wanted to write to say thank you for putting forward this resolution to call for a ceasefire and if it does not pass tonight I support you continuing to put this resolution forward. Thank you for your support of a free Palestine.

From: Marlayna Demond <marlayna89@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support the ceasefire resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Howard County council,

I wanted to write to say thank you to Liz Walsh for putting forward this resolution to call for a ceasefire and if it does not pass tonight I support you continuing to put this resolution forward. Thank you for your critical support!

From: M.E. Hughes <mehughes62@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to **vote against Resolution CR22-2024 which calls for a cease-fire in Gaza.**

First, this resolution is meaningless, and in my view a waste of time. County governments are responsible for matters within a county; they do not create foreign policy. County residents are free to write to their Senators, Representatives, and the President to express their views on issues of foreign policy.

Second, county governments are responsible for the well-being of county residents, and the controversial nature of the resolution will simply increase divisions within the community. The population of Howard County is very heterogeneous, which is a great strength. But this heterogeneity must be handled with care. This resolution privileges the views of some members of the population over the views of others. Regardless of who is in the majority, it seems foolish to pass a resolution that will simply magnify the controversy.

Third, the resolution is one-sided. It does not mention the hostages taken by Hamas in their attack. It ignores the role that Hamas has played in instigating the war and placing the vulnerable population of Gaza at risk. Resolutions that give power to only one side in this mess are not useful.

I urge you all to vote against Resolution CR22-2024. **A better approach is to signal that this is not an issue relevant to county governance, while emphasizing the right of all residents to their views in this very complex situation.**

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Hughes
2925 Montclair Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

From: M FREEDMAN <mauryfreedman@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I would like for you to vote against CR22 for multiple reasons, but regardless of whether you take the time to read this, please vote against it.

First, regardless of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, there has always been a humanitarian problem in Gaza. This is because the single biggest industry in Gaza is death and hatred. The desired aid is not inwardly focused as long as it can be stolen or diverted. Even if this aid could be 100% applied to end suffering, that just frees up funds for terror as long as there is a thread of a chance for Hamas to survive.

Funds have continually been stolen by corrupt leadership to build their own wealth, weapons of destruction, infrastructure that has nothing to do with defense of Gaza residents, and that brainwashes little children to be the next generation of terror warriors. Have you ever seen what passes for "Sesame Street" like programming in Gaza? Kill the Jews (not merely Israelis) - give the tykes little plastic swords to cut people's heads off - what a great preschool fantasy that aid has been funding. We all would like to see starving innocents be comforted, even though a great many of the "innocents" are culpable or brainwashed. And with UN stats being derived from Hamas, we don't even know the truth of scope.

A cease fire on Israeli terms is the only way to do that, and only with the elimination of Hamas as the constant provocateur of terror and resident usurper of Gazans liberty, health, and happiness.

Can you imagine what the untold billions in aid could have accomplished for the people of Gaza if it were spent to benefit the Gazan economy? And if they had accepted Israel's offer to help them develop Gaza had not been dismissed?

Speaking of which, where is the moral support for Israel in CR22-2024? If this resolution passes, what is the councils' intent in ignoring the hostages or the intentional butchering and torturing of victims? People literally pointed out to die and suffer horribly because they are not military, but rather the softer side of Israeli society. Just what is the council trying to say in passing this?

I'm amazed that this distraction is considered to be productive for the citizens of Howard County, or to be a moral voice for the county at large.

I appreciate any extra consideration in reading this during your busy schedules. I wish I could have laid out my thoughts better and found a way to cram in all of the points that were left unsaid. Too many, for sure. Please don't put your name on this.

Thankyou!

Maury Freedman & family
Dorsey Hall

From: MC Carey <femmeprintsofficial@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Ceasefire Resolution— urge for public testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

My name is MC Carey and I am born and raise in Columbia, MD and I am deeply disappointed in the Howard County council's decision to NOT allow public testimony on a ceasefire resolution. As a Black Jewish person who grew up in Columbia in a school system that taught civic engagement and respect and care for all, especially those most marginalized I am appalled. The people of Howard County deserve the opportunity to show support for an immediate ceasefire and for the people of Gaza and all of Palestine. A GENOCIDE, ETHNIC CLEANSING, and down right massacre is happening at the hands of the Israelis government. I want my community to be on the right side of history and support a ceasefire now. How can the council members "represent" constituents if they won't even hear the voices of those constituents. I urge you to reconsider and allow public testimony. I also urge you to vote on the right side of history and do not support further genocide of Palestinians nor support increased military aid to Israel.

Sincerely,

MC Carey

From: Melissa Cohen <jgbmelissa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Awful resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

This is shameful and you should apologize to all of the people, especially Jewish people, for even bringing this resolution to the table.

Your anti semitism is on full display. I pray for you that you never know what it is like to have family members be slaughtered in the most heinous way imaginable.

Hamas is a TERRORIST organization. Additionally, they have refused offers of a cease fire because they don't want to release Israeli captives. Imagine if Baltimore County came into Howard County and burned down it down, raped women AND children, desecrated their bodies and took hundreds hostage and brutalized them...some of them being YOUR FAMILY!!

SHAME ON YOU! You will be judged by the almighty

From: Mike Reeves <mcreev1@umbc.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:12 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you, Councilwoman Walsh, for sponsoring the resolution. I will be at the rally tonight in support of you and it.
Sincerely,
Mike
Sent from my iPhone

From: Mohammad Abukhdeir <mabukhd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Student Letter in Support of CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

My name is Mohammad Abukhdeir and I'm a student at River Hill High School. 28 Muslim Student Association members and their representatives have signed onto a letter stating the following:

We, the undersigned students and Muslim Student Associations of Howard County, call on the Howard County Council to adopt resolution CR22-2024, demanding an immediate ceasefire and facilitation of humanitarian aid in Gaza.

As Americans whose taxes fund the Gazan genocide, and Howard County residents who value life, civility, and equality, we are obligated to take a stand against this injustice. The bare minimum we can do is to put in writing that we want it to end.

We also note that, sadly, some of us are signing anonymously due to unwarranted censorship by our schools and fear of retaliation.

This is why we call on the County Council to strengthen the resolution by explicitly protecting the free speech of HCPSS students who wish to advocate for the people of Palestine and their liberation, and condemn attempts to punish or silence them for doing so.

We urge you to vote in favor of CR22-2024. Thank you.

Best,

Mohammad

From: Mona Kamal <monakamal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

My name is Mona Kamal. I am a long time resident and constituent of Howard County. I am reaching out to express my unwavering support for Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution CR22-2024 advocating for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

As a resident of Howard County, I have watched as community members have lost loved ones in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli Defense Force. I've seen the impact it has had on them and how they've been silenced when speaking out about these atrocities. High school students in Howard County in opposition of Israel's actions have been unable to plan walkouts in solidarity of Gaza and have been limited in what they can and cannot say. Their free speech has been hindered. Maryland state leaders, with the exception of Senator Van Hollen and Congressmen Raskin and Mfume, have largely ignored the community on this issue

This resolution is a true reflection of the community's conscience and commitment to global human rights. Other international and national leadership bodies, from ICG to National Unions, have called for a ceasefire or acknowledged the situation. The introduction of CR22-2024 in Howard County shows an act of leadership and demonstrates a strong stance against violence and injustice.

What Israel has done in the past 121 days is an act of genocide and mass murder. Our community must end all political, diplomatic, and military support for Israel to avoid complicity in ongoing conflicts. I urge the councilmen and the county executive, Calvin Ball, to support and fortify this resolution and show the state and country that Howard County is a leader in Justice, Humanity and Civility!

Mona Kamal

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

--
Mona Kamal

From: Muzna Ansari <ansari112@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members and County Executive,

My name is Muzna Ansari, I have been a Howard County resident for almost 5 years now. I have dedicated my entire career to social justice--having worked on voting rights, civil rights, and for the past decade, immigrant rights. I want to start by thanking Council Member Liz Walsh for her moral integrity in Drafting CR-22, which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. I am shocked that members of this Council requested that CR-22 be put on tonight's legislative session agenda for final consideration, when our community has been calling, emailing, and requesting meetings daily to discuss the resolution. This is an issue of utmost importance to us but our Council members are blatantly ignoring us.

The breadth and scale of human rights abuses in Gaza are truly shocking--from basic freedom of movement, to access to necessities such as water and food, to the displacement of 2 MILLION Palestinians. I have heard the refrain from leaders in Howard county that "that is an issue far away, one that we cannot change and that does not affect us." None of us supporting CR-22 are naive enough to believe a county resolution will immediately end the atrocities in Gaza--but we are also smart enough to know that these resolutions are not simply symbolic in nature. They are a testament to the public opinion and a reflection of the concerns of county residents. And when enough states pass these resolutions, the very elected officials who DO have the power and ability to help bring an end to the genocide of the people of Palestine, will see how out of touch they are with the will of the people. I am grateful that Senator Van Hollen has joined calls for a ceasefire but we still have many other state electeds who are blatantly ignoring the will of their people. At this time, 60% of Americans and 80% of Democrats support a ceasefire, but our electeds are silent.

The truth of the matter is that this issue does directly affect us. Nearly \$80 million in Maryland taxpayer dollars go to the state of Israel every year, while the Howard County Public School System is cutting over 300 positions this year. The Council on American-Islamic Relations received 3,578 Complaints during the last three months alone. There have been countless incidents right here in Howard County of students whose freedom of speech has been inhibited, simply because they are speaking on behalf of Palestine. Across the nation, there have been attempts to not only prevent our communities from speaking out and exercising our freedom of speech, but elected leaders have gone so far as to smear us and defame us for exercising these rights. As the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU recently stated "it is NEVER ok for our leaders to attack, investigate, or surveil people because of their dissent against the government. Period." In our own state, the Montgomery County Senate Delegation went after the immigrant rights organization CASA, simply because they expressed support for Palestine. Today we are being prevented from speaking out on behalf of our communities and against a genocide-- tomorrow, we may be inhibited from exercising our freedom of speech on other matters. This is a dangerous slippery slope, not just for us as residents of Maryland, but for us as citizens of a democracy.

The issue of Palestine is not a small or irrelevant issue, but one that affects all of us, directly. And frankly, many of us here are single issue voters--your votes on this resolution will determine whether or not we will support you in the next election cycle. As our representatives, you have a responsibility to your residents, including the Muslim, Arab,

Palestinian community who reside and contribute daily to our communities, county, and state. You have not only an opportunity, but a responsibility to support this resolution.

Thank you for reading this testimony, and I hope tonight you will make the correct choice by standing on the right side of history, and supporting CR-22.

-Muzna Ansari

From: Nasir Gulzari <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:49 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Nasir Gulzari and I am an engineer by profession. I am resident of Howard county for last 30 years.

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. As a fellow Howard County resident, fellow Marylander and above all a fellow human being, I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's and American values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Nasir Gulzari

Nasir Gulzari

ngulzari@yahoo.com

6936 Timber Creek Ct.

Clarksville, Maryland 21029

From: Gartenhaus, Nina <NGartenhaus@BTFILOH.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Hope all is well. I am writing in opposition to Resolution CRR22-2024 introduced by Council President Liz Walsh. This resolution which claims that “hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a cease fire is not achieved” is oblivious to and completely fails to consider the millions of Jewish lives which are at risk if the war ends without Hamas’ complete defeat. Please take this into consideration. Thanks for your time!



Nina Gartenhaus

Athletic Administrative Assistant

3300 Old Court Road • Baltimore, MD 21208

410-413-2411 • ngartenhaus@btfiloh.org

www.bethtfiloh.com

From: Nusrat Siddique <nsiddiq910@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

My name is Nusrat Siddique. I am a resident of Howard county, and work as a hospitalist physician at the Baltimore VA Medical center. I have the privilege to care for our nation's veterans who have risked their lives to up hold our human rights, and have given us the opportunity to do the same when the situation arises.

I write this email to you today, as a physician who values life, as a mother who would do anything to protect her children, and as a human that chooses humanity over politics and financial gain to please vote for resolution CR22-2024 calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. As councilwoman Walsh stated, this resolution is not about choosing sides but just pleading for the killing of innocent lives to stop. This issue affects all of us, even within our community in Howard County. We have members of the community whose family members have died in large numbers; several generations lost in just a few minutes due to senseless carpet bombings. Also standing silent goes against our core values as a community, to support basic human rights.

Supporting this resolution is of highest importance and must start from our smaller communities; therefore I urge you all to please again not take sides, but instead imagine your life in the shoes of the innocent Palestinians and vote for this resolution, calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Kindest regards,

Nusrat Siddique, MD
Academic Hospitalist
VAMHCS
Baltimore, MD

From: paul schapiro <paul_schapiro@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Vote no on Res CR22-2024!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to you today to ask that you **vote no** for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

It contains NO reference to Israel's right to exist and to defend all of her citizens; no reference that this war was started by a murderous terrorist regime that slaughtered 1200 people and kidnapped 240 citizens of Israel on October 7th and that if Hamas had not attacked there would be no war; no reference that there was a ceasefire in place on October 6th; no reference to the hostages being freed; that humanitarian aid has been provided on a daily basis only to be left dumped into Gaza due to the lack of the UN's ability to properly distribute the aid; and that people of Gaza will be free when Hamas is not in power. None of these are addressed in the proposed resolution.

I also support the Howard County Council using time and funds to actually benefit the county. The UN already determined that an immediate ceasefire was not to be called and asked Hamas to release all hostages and guess what? Nothing has happened or changed. Hamas is a terror organization that must be eradicated to ensure the safety and future of both Palestinians and Israelis. Since the council has time to waste not governing the County, you must be preparing for a Federal office where you can get paid more and waste more time and dollars.

The Howard County Council truly has no sway over any of it and I am sure I am not the only community member who feels this vote is performative at best and a waste of time at worst.

Perhaps a resolution that requires Hamas to lay down their arms, free the hostages, and then discuss a ceasefire would be more proper, but that would require the Council to truly understand all sides of the issue.

Vote no to Res CR22-2024 & refocus on your community to ensure safety and religious freedom to those you serve!

Paul Schapiro

From: Rama Thaher-Sawalhi <rama.sawalhi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CR22 Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi,

My name is Rama , and I Support Resolution CR22 for Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza Now I'm emailing you because I have faith in the American people. I genuinely believe and have faith in our elected officials. Just like all of the American people, our elected officials are humans with hearts and empathy. They also have brains, and they are intelligent enough to recognize injustices, human rights, violations, and war crimes. No matter who is committing these war crimes or where they are committed. The majority of the people of Maryland are united and calling for one demand and that is a permanent cease fire in Gaza to end the genocide that is committed by apartheid Israel against Palestinians in Gaza. I'm a Palestinian American, who has a big family in Gaza. A big number of my family members have been killed by the Israeli occupation forces. My 14 years old cousin , Assem , was killed by an air strike. Assem was on his way to bring water to his family from the school, which was supposed to be a safe zone and was not supposed to be bombed. The Israeli occupation forces bombed the school where Assem was filling water to bring back to his family who didn't have any water. His family was waiting for him to move to the south because they were forced to be displayed by the Israeli occupation forces. Assem is no longer with his family, but I am here today to tell his story. This story is just one story of many stories of my family members who were killed in Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces. How do you feel when your tax money was used to kill your family members? I don't think you will feel good about it There is no doubt in my mind that our elected officials are not supporting this genocide committed against Palestinians. I think our elected officials need to see that there are so many American people that are going to support them if they call for a permanent ceasefire. The majority of the people of Maryland is calling for a permanent ceasefire and urging our elected officials to represent us, the people of Maryland. We are all with you and we are supporting you. Call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza to stop the genocide and save lives

Best wishes,
Rama

From: Randi Albertsen <randi.albertsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote NO on Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Chairwoman Walsh and all Council Members,

I am writing to express my anger at the proposed Resolution CR22-2024. This is an unveiled antisemitic resolution that continues to exploit the Jewish people and incites more antisemitism, violence, and scapegoating of the Jews and Israel and is not representative of the values on which Columbia was founded. Jim Rouse would be turning over in his grave right now if he knew this was the position of the Howard County Council and Howard County government. I guess the People Tree is inclusive of everyone except the Jews.

Your hateful resolution presents a one-sided narrative that promotes and supports a known terrorist organization. If you buy into the propaganda coming out of the Hamas-controlled media in Gaza, then you are part of the problem. You are also not doing your due diligence in representing your entire district and the county, your Jewish constituents included.

Have you done any research on the history of the land in the Middle East? Have you done any research on the MULTIPLE times that a 2-state solution has been proposed and the Palestinians have rejected it 100% of the time? Have you done any research into the financial and humanitarian support that Israel has consistently provided to the people in Gaza, including medical treatment, food, water, etc.? Have you done any research into the democracy and pluralistic society that exists in Israel, including the diversity of people in government?

But the main reason why this resolution screams of antisemitism and hate is that you have not been listening to what Hamas says, and what is written in its charter. Their goal is not about land. Their main purpose is to annihilate the Jews, first in Israel, and then in the rest of the world. When they accomplish that, they have clearly stated that America is next.

When people tell you and show you who they are, believe them. Ms. Walsh, your true antisemitic colors are showing. I believe your words and actions in this resolution. It tells me that you are not the inclusive elected leader I thought you were.

This County Council has far more pressing issues to address, such as the county and state budget shortfalls. You were elected to serve ALL the citizens of Howard County. This resolution and the time devoted to it during council meetings is wasting time that should be better spent on addressing the needs of the citizens who elected you.

I urge all Council Members to not only vote NO on this resolution but to definitively reject any attempt to resubmit this in the future. Stop wasting time on divisive issues and focus on the needs of the County.

Sincerely,
Randi Albertsen
randi.albertsen@gmail.com
410-370-2837

From: R Kip <rckipnis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

> Members of the Howard County Council:

> I am writing to you today to ask that you vote no for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

>

> If the United States was invaded by a neighboring (or any) country or terrorist group and our citizens killed and taken hostage, I would hope that none of you would introduce or support any type of resolution containing terms and demands similar to those incorporated in CR22-2024, including the demanding of a cease fire while hostages are being held. Why would you possibly demand such a cease-fire of Israel?

>

> While support of a resolution that requires Hamas to lay down their arms and free the hostages, in return for a cease fire, would potentially be more reasonable and supportable, CR22, as written, should be soundly defeated.

>

> I urge you to vote no to Resolution CR22-2024!

>

> Risa C. Kipnis

> Resident of District 4

From: Robert L <robert.ljk1981@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-22: Please vote "NO"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council members:

As a long-time Howard County resident of D2 in Thunder Hill, I am writing as a concerned constituent to express my strong reservations about the support of CR-22, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

It is most disconcerting that controversial and international issues such as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are now being included in local County council meetings. I believe that this sets a most dangerous precedent. The people of Howard County look to their elected officials to improve the lives of its residents; however, the introduction of this resolution has only served to create division in our community. Please focus on issues that directly impact Howard County such as the rising crime, taxes, and education.

Nevertheless, I am disheartened to learn that this resolution does not condemn the war crimes committed by Hamas and demand the immediate release of all hostages. The horrific attacks and atrocities perpetrated by Hamas against innocent men, women, and children on October 7, 2023 is an unacceptable act of terror that no country can tolerate.

My family and I respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on the resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. We thank you for your service to Howard County and appreciate your time in letting our voice be heard.

Robert L.
Thunder Hill

From: Ruth Zlotowitz <ruth.zlotowitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing about the proposed resolution CR22-2024. It would be a serious mistake for the Howard County Council to adopt this resolution. I urge that the proposal be withdrawn or that the Council table the resolution or vote it down.

The Gaza war is outside of the Council's role, duties, and expertise. There is no reason for the Council to take up the matter. No one would fault the Council for failing to take action in this matter. On the contrary, passing the proposed resolution would be an "unforced error."

First of all, calling for a cease fire is nonsensical. There was a cease fire in effect on October 6 which Hamas broke on October 7. Does a cease fire apply only to Israel? Hamas asserts in its charter " There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors. " "The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them."

While the news media have brought us heartbreaking images of Gazans suffering, these pictures do not tell the whole story. Remember that Hamas, the perpetrator of Israel's 9/11, and the target of the Israel Defense Force, is hiding embedded among the civilian population. Hamas has no regard for human suffering, either Israeli or the people of Gaza. In fact, we know they glorify "martyrdom."

Remember also that after our own 9/11, the U.S. unleashed its military strength against Iraq and Afghanistan. At that time, the American media did not treat us to nightly images of suffering in those countries, but we must acknowledge that it occurred. Holding Israel to a different standard bears a whiff of hypocrisy or, worse, anti-semitism.

I repeat, there is no good reason for the Howard County Council to pass the resolution that is under consideration. I will appreciate your action to prevent its adoption.

Sincerely,

Ruth Zlotowitz
8253 Glenmar Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21043

From: Sabeen S. Sheikh <sabeensyed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: hoco4afreepalestine@gmail.com
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening

This email is to express my solid backing for Councilmember Liz Walsh's resolution, CR22-2024, advocating for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza to reflect the community's aspiration for peace.

My name is Sabeen and I am a resident of howard county in Maryland. I am an educator employed by the state of Maryland. I would like to begin my testimony by having you picture the devastation in Gaza that is unfolding at this very moment. I know this is happening now as I sit here in Maryland because the people of Palestine are live streaming their genocide as the world watches in the hope that someone shows humanity and calls for a ceasefire.

Think back to a time when you see a military person in their uniform. You may look at them with respect, you may even thank them for their service. Now picture an Israeli soldier. He is wearing a t-shirt with a Palestinian women on it, she is pregnant. And under the image, the text reads: One shot, two kills. This is Israel. This is genocide. This is what the US is supporting.

Now picture a child playing outside. She is safe, she is healthy and she is a student. Now picture this little girl is Palestinian, barely surviving in Gaza. She is starving, she has no school to attend because Israel bombed it. She picks up a toy on the side of the road and it explodes in her face, leaving her so injured she is no longer recognizable. The nearest hospital does not have supplies to treat her. A doctor can not medicate her to relieve the pain. Her mother watches as she dies in her arms. This is Israel. This is genocide. This is what the US is supporting.

There are many many many more horrific instances to share. You can watch many of them live on social media or through international unbiased news outlets. And you should. In order to understand how the people of Palestine, you need to. The context of this genocide as it applies to me, to Muslims, to Palestinians, to humans, needs to be heard and understood by government officials. Perhaps then you can understand why it is imperative to call for a ceasefire.

I have been asked to show leniency to Jewish students that wish to participate in pro Israel protests. Yet there was no mention of leniency for students that want to participate in protests or walk outs for Palestine. The lack of

acknowledgement of the genocide, the constant dehumanization of the Palestinian people and the continuous killing of innocent families in Palestine prohibits me from feeling as though I'm a part of an educated and diverse community here Maryland. The US is funding and supplying this genocide actively and they need to be stopped.

I fear the Islamophobic tropes that are promoted by the US government, specifically the Biden administration will be further perpetuated by the state of Maryland if it doesn't not adopt a resolution that makes it clear that Israel is an apartheid state, and that there needs to be a ceasefire now. The state of Maryland must call for a ceasefire now. We all stand to be victims of hate if humanity is not paramount. Due to the horrific, intense and hateful war crimes that have continued now for 117 days only a ceasefire communicates humanity.

The Zionist ideology is rooted in lies and hate. They claimed Palestinians are people of darkness and they are children of light as they massacred over 27,000 innocent people. Soon after, a Palestinian child in Chicago was stabbed 26 times. Hate crimes are also on the rise in Maryland, and this is because of the blind support the US is giving to Israel as it commits genocide. Israel alleged that 12 out of 13,000 UNRWA staff were somehow connected to the events of 10/7 which prompted the US to halt humanitarian aid, the sole lifeline for Gazans. Biden has found yet another way to add to the cruelty and inhumanity by removing aid that 706 schools and 140 health facilities depend on. I implore the state to act locally but think globally.

As James Baldwin said, you think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world but then you read. And today, you can literally watch. For humanity's sake please normalize changing your opinion on something after learning new information. Take that knowledge, and be a part of the change you want to see in the world. This is why we seek education, to understand. And today, to call for a ceasefire shows you understand and that you care. Which is the least you can do.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sabeen Syed Sheikh

From: safamasoud21@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Morning, I am constituent and I am writing to urge the council members to support the resolution CR22-2024 calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you
Safa Masoud

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: Sara McGowan <semcgo007@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To The Howard County Council:

I am writing to you today to ask that you **vote no** for Howard County Council Resolution CR22-2024 that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza; calls upon the Biden administration to facilitate humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and urges certain elected officials to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end this humanitarian crisis.

While I don't believe it is appropriate, nor within your scope as a Howard County Councilperson to address complex international issues, a more balanced, informed resolution that

I would support would require Hamas to lay down their arms, free the hostages, and then a ceasefire.

Thank you for your anticipated opposition to this upsetting resolution.

A Howard County resident and district 4 resident.

Thank you,

Sara McGowan

From: Sara Stern <cbean820@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Resolution CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, I know you have been receiving a lot of feedback on this hot-button topic so I do appreciate your time and effort with this correspondence.

I think we can all agree that what is happening in the Middle East right now is absolutely tragic. The impact of this brutal war will haunt us for generations.

With such extreme events taking place it is natural to want to help, to advocate for causes that are near to our hearts - to find ways to help.

I must then ask this council, who does Resolution CR22-2024 help?

Will this resolution help to free the hostages held by Hamas?

Will it help Palestinians behind lines in Gaza access food or clean water?

Will it help grieving Israeli families?

Will it help students facing acts of antisemitism on college and high school campuses around the country?

I must also ask this council, how does Resolution CR22-2024 help our LOCAL constitutes/ community?

Does this resolution provide the community with educational opportunities to understand this centuries long conflict/war torn region?

Does it provide for mediators and community speakers to bring our community together in support of both the Arab and Jewish population IN OUR COUNTY?

Does it provide safety or sanctions for demonstrations that get out of hand?

I wonder, is this council, elected by our diverse community members, aware that voting in favor of this resolution will in fact:

- legitimize Hamas - a world recognized terror organization
- legitimize antisemitic acts in OUR COMMUNITY

- create a further divide in increasingly distressing times
- will have ZERO effect to the state of affairs in Gaza but will have considerable negative effects HERE in Howard County.

I would urge this council to look at our community. We have a beautiful, vibrant, INCLUSIVE community. We should be strengthening this community through education, counseling, and acts of service. We should not be tearing our community down with short sighted, performative legislation.

I respectfully ask you to take a breath. Step back, and then vote down Resolution CR22-2024.

Thank you for your time,
Sara Rubinshteyn

From: Sarah Shakir <alisarah@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote yes for CR23- Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello I am a resident of Howard County and I am asking all for council members- Jones, Rigby, Jung and Yungmann to vote with your conscience and be on the right side of history by voting for CR22 tonight to end the genocide that is taking place in Gaza. What you do today will reflect what you would have done if you were alive during the holocaust. We are all counting on you to do the right thing. Good always comes back to you.

Hopefully,
Sarah Shakir

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Shamma Natour <snatour90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Shamma, and I am a resident of Columbia, MD. I am sharing my testimony in support of CR22-2024.

I support Council member Liz Walsh's resolution CR22-2024.

I am a Palestinian American. What is happening in Gaza is a genocide. I have family members who were killed from the Israeli air strike in the last 120 days of this genocide. My family was previously forcibly removed from our land and homes in 1948 during the Nakba (catastrophe), and now my family in Gaza are forcibly being displaced and killed by the Israeli air strikes again. What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian crisis.

I have lost so many dear ones since this genocide began. My aunt was a loving, caring, sweet woman who loved to gather the family and make meals for everyone around her. She was killed by an Israeli air strike. My uncles' home was bombed. He is 70 years old; he is blind. He was sheltering in a hospital and in a school, and both times, an Israeli air strike hit as he was sheltering. He is severely injured and was almost killed. My paternal uncle died due to the lack of medicine, food, or water. More than 20 of my family members have now been killed by the Israeli bombs. For those that remain, there is no form of communication and no safe place in Gaza. How can anyone live like this?

As your constituent, I ask you to support and vote Yes on CR22-2024 and to be on the side of humanity. What is happening in Gaza affects us here too. Our tax dollars that can be used for our communities in Maryland are being sent to Israel. I do not feel safe here as a Palestinian American, and the rise of anti-Muslim hate in America and throughout Maryland. Again, I urge the Howard County Council and County Executive Calvin Ball to support and fortify CR22-2024, which does affect us here in Howard County.

Thank you,
Shamma

From: Sharida Ullah <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:14 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Cease fire in Gaza

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Sharida Ullah
sharida@gmail.com
10309 wetherburn road
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

From: Sheza Nasir <shezanasir@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:31 PM
To: CouncilMail; Jones, Opel
Subject: For CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmember Jones,

As the only minority member on the Howard County council, I am disappointed in your silence toward Resolution CR22-2024 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Those who allege that this is not a Howard County issue, thus "not your problem," are ignoring that **Howard County sends over \$2,851,865 to Israel every year.*** This money could be used to support our Howard County Public Schools - an issue you previously stated was of importance to you. Yet, instead of helping our children, bringing back school buses to our neighborhoods, and paying our teachers the salaries they deserve; this money is being sent to Israel to commit genocide against the Palestinians.

A quote I recently read that is relevant, "[e]ven if it's unfathomable for someone to try to justify the most documented civil massacre of our lifetime, it is equally revolting to see those who are indifferent. **Not having an opinion either way, after everything we have witnessed for almost 4 months, is as if someone ticked the 'undecided' box when it comes to pedophilia, slavery, or the Nazis.** If you are a grown adult of sound mind who have been living on this planet, you cannot wiggle yourself out of this one." (emphasis added).

As your constituent (zip code: 21075), I urge you to support Resolution CR22-2024.

Source: * <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>?

Thank you,

Sheza Nasir, Esq., MBA
(301) 310-4518

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This electronic mail transmission is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) designated above. It may also constitute an attorney-client communication or represent attorney work product and may therefore be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication (or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, or use of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me by return e-mail, immediately, and please destroy the original message and all copies. Thank you.

From: sundus zia baig <missbaig@live.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for CR22-2024 (Ceasefire Resolution for Gaza)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members:

As a registered voter of District 1, I am writing to request that you VOTE FOR the Council Member Liz Walsh's resolution (CR22-2024), which calls on the Biden administration to support an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza so that humanitarian aid could reach 2.3 million civilians (half of them children) in dire need.

During the past four months, Israel's military campaign in Gaza (a territory under its effective control since 1967) has created, in the words of officials of aid agencies of the United Nations, a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation and has rendered the territory "uninhabitable". Israel's indiscriminate bombing campaign has wiped out entire neighborhoods, with currently over 27,000 killed (70% of whom are women and children) and more than 60,000 wounded, thousands more unaccounted for under the rubble, and 1.9 million (85% of the population) displaced from their homes and forced into a small sliver of land in southern Gaza. Israeli bombing has also destroyed so far almost 70 percent of housing units in Gaza based on an academic analysis of satellite radar data compared to the Allied bombing that destroyed almost 50% of buildings in Dresden during the Second World War. Alarming, the mortality rate of civilians killed is also higher than that of Second World War. Israel's military campaign has also given the world a sad new acronym, WCNSF (wounded child with no surviving family). Last but not least, during this time, civilians have had little or no food, water, safe shelter, sanitation, electricity, fuel, and medical care.

These civilian casualties and suffering has had a worldwide impact, with calls for moral and legal responsibility of countries under the international humanitarian law. In this regard, South Africa brought legal proceedings against Israel's military campaign in Gaza before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention. On January 26, 2024, the court in its provisional order found it plausible that Israel has committed acts that violate the Convention. Among the court-ordered provisional measures, one of them requires that Israel must take "immediate and effective" measures to ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services.

Your VOTE FOR the resolution would be an act of moral clarity and would contribute to a growing political momentum for achieving an immediate and durable ceasefire in Gaza, which is a prerequisite for effectively delivering humanitarian aid.

Sincerely,
Sundus Z. Baig

3500 Dairy Valley Trl.,
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: Susan Stuart <susanbstuart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:49 AM
To: CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Vote NO on CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on CR22-2024.

As a long-time resident, I'm disturbed by the divisive nature of this resolution. Our Jewish and Muslim communities are hurting right now - with many who have personal connections to those who have lost their lives in either Gaza or Israel.

Please remember, this is NOT a war against the Palestinian people. This is a war against the terrorist organization, Hamas. There WAS a cease-fire in place on October 6th, that was broken by Hamas terrorists who illegally broke over border walls, and brutally attacked, raped, mutilated, burned, and murdered Israeli citizens. Hamas terrorists took injured civilian CHILDREN, the elderly, women, and Holocaust survivors hostage and are still holding over 130 people hostage - almost four months later. And please remember, that the Palestinian civilians in Gaza are also suffering BECAUSE of Hamas. Hamas has stolen aid money and food, has used civilians as human shields, and have placed weapons in hospitals, schools and mosques -- all war crimes.

As much as our Jewish community would love to see the end of the war against Hamas and the end of the suffering of the Palestinian people -- leaders of Hamas have rejected offers of a ceasefire, and have publicly proclaimed that October 7th is just the start of the attacks they plan to lead against the Israeli people. October 7th was not the first time that Hamas has broken a ceasefire - it has happened over and over since they took power after Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005.

Besides the fact that Hamas will not agree to a ceasefire, leaving the release of the hostages out of the ceasefire resolution is a great injustice. Holding civilians hostage is a WAR CRIME, that should not be tolerated and is just another indication that a ceasefire agreement will not work until the Hamas terror organization is eradicated.

In addition, this resolution, filed by Liz Walsh, incorrectly implies that this resolution is similar to the ones being called for by United States Congressmen Kweisi Mfume and Jamie Raskin, and Senator Chris Van Hollen. when in fact their resolutions are calling for "immediate return of the hostages, a complete bilateral ceasefire, the removal of the Hamas terrorists from operational control of Gaza," none of which are mentioned in CR22-2024.

Finally, this resolution is causing discord right here in Howard County and has the potential to cause real damage in our community. The filing of this resolution has not only wasted time, but

has caused real distress and fear within our community. Please vote NO on CR22-2024 and use your resources to ensure safety and religious freedom right here at home for those you serve in our community.

Thank you,

Susan Bauman Stuart
District 4

From: Suzie Tiplitz <stiplitz@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NO CR-22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote NO CR 22-2024

all calls for cease fire must also require immediate return of ALL Abducted Hostages...
30 fellow American civilians were slaughtered Oct 7th and at least a dozen of your fellow AMERICAN CIVILIANS were kidnapped Oct7th. There are still Americans, Christians, 3 other major religions being held, young women being raped in captivity.

Suzie Tiplitz,
Associate Broker, Realtor

Samson Properties 🌳 🏠

301-854-2155 office

☀️ 443-676-8691 cell

STiplitz@icloud.com

☀️ Sooner or later someone you know will need to move, please remember me. I'd love to see their home. Thank you 😊

From: Tahira Hussain <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:00 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Supporting councilwomen LIZ ceasefire resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

As we discussed and as you know, the situation in the Middle East is horrifying, depressing and perhaps the most brutal campaign in the 21st century. We all know the immediate events that precipitated the current tragedy which occurred on Oct 7. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, already an impoverished area under siege for decades, are victims of the politics rendered in that area. Constant bombardment, cutting off food, water, electricity, and as a recent NY Times headlines stated 'controlled demolition of schools, homes, mosques in addition to aerial bombardment...' has completely destroyed the area, killed tens of thousands of children, women, men, injured countless others, with hospitals destroyed, doctors and journalists killed. At this point even asking for a simple cease fire has become problematic for many in the U.S. and the Western world. What are people afraid of? Why are we afraid to ask for humanitarian pause, or have we lost all sense of humanity? Are we afraid of being called anti-Semitic if we call for cease-fire now? All the people there are Semites. This is not a pro- or anti-Semitic issue. ALL people there have a right, Jews, Muslims, Christians and everyone else. Certainly, constant fear mongering, constant rhetoric (on both sides), dehumanizing and trying to seek peace through intimidation has never worked and only led to a repeat cycle of violence. The degree of destruction currently going on is beyond comprehension. Most young people of ALL backgrounds see what many 'grown ups' don't – they are calling for a cease fire. Many jurisdictions are calling for a cease fire. Is it too much to ask for a humanitarian issue (for BOTH sides) if we call for a cease-fire. This is the minimum we should ask for (and even here many politicians fail). What would happen when a cease fire is achieved? Would we have the courage to then talk about reconstruction and rehabilitation of a people which certainly we have had a heavy hand in inflicting so much pain on? Or are we all going to look the other way? There are people of good conscience across all walks of life who have this

simple ask. Why is Howard County so afraid to at least stand up for simple humanity? We are local residents of Howard County, but we are not living in a vacuum and are all interconnected to the global world. We are asking for peace for ALL sides. We expect our local leaders to show moral courage, which does not diminish their standing or risk their jobs but rather would be the right thing to do. We have counted on you and our local leaders for all these years – we ask that your voices are on the right side of history.

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tahira Mussarst Hussain

Proud resident of Howard county

Tahira Hussain

tahiram2021@gmail.com

11708 pindell chase drive

Fulton , Maryland 20759

From: taralcapino@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: Objection to Resolution CR22-2024

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To: Opel Jones, David Yungmann, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh

I am writing to ask you to vote NO regarding the Resolution CR22-2024. This is a very divisive resolution and should not be a county level resolution on an international issue.

Sincerely,
Tara Capino

From: The Mann <tgreisman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:26 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: You've lost me with your ridiculous bill 22

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Liz - what the hell are you doing to this County? You were elected as a low-level county representative to get things done on a local level, not wade into national politics and create division. Do your damn job and stick to local politics. I will do all I can to make sure you are not re-elected as you've shown your true colors with this dangerous pandering. How about focusing on the myriad problems in the County?

Tim Greisman

From: Todd Makino <toddmakino@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 5:11 PM
To: CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: CR22-2024 is not Howard County's issue

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To state the obvious, this is NOT a HOWARD COUNTY issue - it is a national/international issue that should be addressed by national politicians, not the Howard County Council.

The Howard County Council should be focused on Howard County issues - local crime, roads, emergency services, etc. Not to mention the poor quality of Howard County General hospital - they could really use some competition!

Let's focus on issues in our jurisdiction.

Todd Makino

From: Wasim Khan <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:06 AM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Ceasefire resolution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Liz Walsh,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza, where over 27,000 lives have been tragically lost. I urge your support for Councilwoman Liz Walsh's ceasefire resolution. This action aligns with Maryland's values of human rights and peace. Your support will reflect our community's commitment to global humanitarian issues.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Wasim Khan
wasimkhanyahoo@gmail.com
11225 Whithorn way
Ellicott city, Maryland 21042

From: Yasmeen Abou-Sayed <yabousayed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR22-2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon Howard County Council,

I am following up on my email to you last week asking you to support the principled and honorable resolution introduced by Council Woman Liz Walsh, calling for a complete ceasefire in Gaza. In our generation, never has there been a more important cause to rally behind than the need to call for a ceasefire at all levels of the US constituency. I say this because as constituents who support this resolution, we know this may not have ANY direct impact on the cessation of the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. Rather, this is a principled and moral stance that must be taken at all levels to begin to change the narrative around the situation. Silence is complicity when atrocities are being committed, and the brave actions of leaders who are willing to speak up at times such as this will be documented in history.

As a Howard County resident of Muslim and Arab descent - the ongoing genocide has impacted me directly, my friends and community members, and my family. While I am not tied to Palestine, I have countless friends who combined, have had HUNDREDS of family members murdered by Israel in the last 4 months. We should not be debating whether supporting the cessation of killing of innocent civilians is divisive or insensitive to those who are actively supporting a genocide. There is no two sides to genocide.

My son is a junior at Atholton High School and was one of the organizers of their walkout. Since then, 'adults' on Facebook have published his photo on the Howard County Neighbors United group, calling for the identity of these children. How dare this kind of incivility be allowed in our County because our children are exercising their First Amendment rights to protest against the complicity of our government?

Vote yes for the resolution tonight. Call for an end to an active genocide. A vote against a ceasefire is a vote supporting genocide and our government is already complicit in war crimes.

I invite you to vote these disgusting comments and accusations Howard County neighbors are making against those of us who support a ceasefire. Don't tell about side is divisive when we call for peace and they call for murder and defamation.



Howard County Neighbors United

Lisa Geraghty · Nov 9, 2020

Does anyone have a video of walk-out yesterday at any of schools that allowed this to happen in Atholton, Howard, and River



Like



Comment





Howard County Neighbors United

Lisa Geraghty · Nov 9, 2023 ·



EJ Tron

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CzZ7deCL6Q-/?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>



**more from today! a final
to our participants and s**
Instagram

9w Like Reply



Lisa Tye Wright

[EJ Tron](#) was there any calls for
release of the hostages?

9w Like Reply

Sent from my iPhone

From: Yasmeen Abou-Sayed <yabousayed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Tonight's vote

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening Howard County Council. You handed a victory to this side:



Tell me what is divisive now?

I want this to be on the record. One side calls for peace, the other side calls for death and destruction. History will not be kind to those who chose to remain silent and stand with genocide.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Zainab Chaudry <zchaudry@cair.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Yungmann, David; Jung, Debra; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Re: tonight's vote on CR22-2024 Ceasefire Resolution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning Councilmembers Jung, Jones and Yungmann:

Tonight's vote on CR22-2024 Ceasefire Resolution has a significant impact on tens of thousands of your local constituents. Many families in Howard County have hundreds of loved ones who have been killed in Gaza. Millions of Marylanders' tax dollars are funding the violence and attacks.

Our elected leaders rightfully and unanimously stood with Ukraine, which was less of a local issue than Gaza. Your constituents need you to speak up for Christian and Muslim communities suffering unfathomable horrors and injustices in Palestine.

Each day a ceasefire is delayed, hundreds more innocent people are killed. A long-term ceasefire is the only way to end the senseless massacre of innocent people and to safely return Israeli and Palestinian hostages.

Your community supporting CR22-2024 has submitted amendments to Councilmember Liz Walsh that affirm that a ceasefire is the only way to return Israeli and Palestinian hostages safely.

Your vote tonight will be recorded in history as to where you stood in this moment. It will signal to our communities - many who have hundreds of loved ones killed in Gaza, and all who have been suffering through 121 days of pain and trauma and heartache - whether you value and recognize their humanity.

The movement for an end to the bloodshed is building momentum. Nearly 70 percent of Americans want a ceasefire. President Biden has lost tremendous support because of his refusal to listen to the American people.

It's true that this resolution is symbolic, but it shows where you stand, and it signals to your constituents whether they matter to you. Have no doubt - this is absolutely a local issue.

It should never be controversial or divisive to support protecting innocent lives - regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity.

I hope you will accept the amendments submitted yesterday, and that you will vote on the right side of history tonight. Anything less will inflict tremendous pain and heartache.

Zainab

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Office in Maryland

CAIR Office in Maryland
6120 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 2D
Baltimore, Md. 21228
Cell: 410.971.6062

Tel: 443.251.2132

www.cair.com

Purchase your Maryland banquet tickets
at bit.ly/CAIR_MarylandBanquet2023

[This email may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution or disclosure by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive for the recipient), please contact the sender by reply email and delete all copies of this message.]