

Amendment A

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION ~~condemning the Israeli military assault on the people of Gaza; urging an immediate supporting a long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, humanitarian aid, an exchange of the return of all hostages, and the delivery of humanitarian aid; and an end to the occupation of Palestinian lands;~~ affirming opposition to ~~Islamophobia and anti-Semitism~~ Antisemitism and Islamophobia; and ~~urging the U.S. Congress to end all military funding to Israel.~~

..body

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law; and

~~WHEREAS, the Palestinian people of Gaza are now facing an unimaginable human catastrophe as the Israeli military, the fourth largest in the world, invades and imposes a brutal blockade on Gaza; and~~

WHEREAS, as ~~of November 13~~ between October 7 and November 21, 2023, ~~the Israeli military has killed more than 11,100 Gazans or one out of every 200 residents of Gaza, with most of the victims being women and children, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry, and with more people across Gaza believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead~~ armed violence has claimed the lives of over 14,000 Palestinians (nearly half of whom are children) and over 1,200 Israelis. The death toll has included Americans, and tens of thousands more have been wounded; and

~~WHEREAS, the Associated Press has reported that more than 4,100 of those killed were children, including over 2,000 under the age of 12, and over 600 who were 3 and under; and~~

WHEREAS, as of November 1, the Israeli military admitted to having dropped 10,000 bombs on Gaza, which averages 72 bombs for every square mile of Gaza, whose entire area is ~~just~~

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1 smaller than the size of Seattle, and with *The Wall Street Journal* reporting at least 45
2 percent of housing units being destroyed or damaged; and

3 ~~WHEREAS, since October 7, right-wing Israeli settlers supported by the Israeli military have~~
4 ~~killed at least 197 West Bank Palestinians, including 48 children, and forcibly displacing~~
5 ~~another 1,100 Palestinians from their homes, as reported by *Al Jazeera* on November 16;~~
6 ~~and~~

7 ~~WHEREAS, the Israeli state is engaging in collective punishment of ordinary Palestinians in the~~
8 ~~wake of the brutal October 7 attack where Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis, foreigners, and~~
9 ~~dual nationals, including children, women, the elderly, and other civilians, as well as~~
10 ~~Bedouins and other Arab Israelis, injured another 3,500, and took 242 people as~~
11 ~~hostages; and~~

12 ~~WHEREAS, while the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination, and people living~~
13 ~~under occupation have the right to resist and to defend themselves with force, attacks on~~
14 ~~civilians such as Hamas carried out are horrific and do not further the safety or liberation~~
15 ~~of the Palestinian people, but, instead, undermine it by providing a pretext for~~
16 ~~disproportionate retaliation by the Israeli state and deepening divisions between ordinary~~
17 ~~Israelis and Palestinians; and~~

18 ~~WHEREAS, on October 9, before the intensified bombing and attacks on Gaza, Israeli Defense~~
19 ~~Minister Yoav Gallant declared: “I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip.~~
20 ~~There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting~~
21 ~~human animals, and we will act accordingly”;~~ and

22 ~~WHEREAS, while Israeli citizens have the right to defend themselves against all forms of~~
23 ~~violence, the Israeli state’s violent policies of occupation, annexation, and apartheid are~~

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1 ~~root causes of the current crisis. The Israeli government’s response has been completely~~
2 ~~disproportionate, racist, and dehumanizing of the Palestinian people; and~~

3 ~~WHEREAS, Israeli Knesset member Ariel Kallner has called for a second Nakba —“catastrophe”~~
4 ~~in Arabic— stating, “Right now, one goal: Nakba! A Nakba that will overshadow the~~
5 ~~Nakba of ’48. Nakba in Gaza and Nakba to anyone who dares to join! Their Nakba,~~
6 ~~because like then in 1948, the alternative is clear,” and in calling for another Nakba,~~
7 ~~Kallner and other Israeli leaders are referring to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian~~
8 ~~communities in 1948 by militias, resulting in the killing of thousands of Palestinians, the~~
9 ~~destruction of their villages, and the forcible expulsion of 80 percent of the Palestinian~~
10 ~~population from their homeland, with many of the descendants of the Nakba living today~~
11 ~~in Gaza; and~~

12 ~~WHEREAS, since the original Nakba in 1948, there has been an expansion into Palestinian lands~~
13 ~~by the Israeli state, during which time the Israeli state has repeatedly been found by~~
14 ~~international bodies to have violated the rights of the Palestinian people, including but not~~
15 ~~limited to United Nations Resolution 242 (1967), United Nations Resolution 446 (1979),~~
16 ~~and United Nations Resolution 2334 (2016); and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, even while mourning the tragic deaths of Jewish Israelis, many Jewish people and~~
18 ~~others in Israel and around the world are outraged at the Israeli government’s violent~~
19 ~~retaliation. For example, Noy Katsman, whose brother Hayim Katsman was a former~~
20 ~~resident of Seattle who had returned to Israel and was killed by Hamas, told CNN that~~
21 ~~Israeli military retaliation “never brings us better lives, it just brings us more and more~~
22 ~~terror”;~~ and

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1 ~~WHEREAS, the political and military support from the U.S., which has reached more than \$158~~
2 ~~billion since 1946 according to the Congressional Research Service, along with aid from~~
3 ~~other Western nations, enables the escalation of violence and the policy of occupation~~
4 ~~and annexation, undermining the personal security of ordinary people on all sides of the~~
5 ~~conflict; and~~

6 ~~WHEREAS, the U.S. government provides Israel over \$3.8 billion in military aid every year, and~~
7 ~~Congress is currently considering providing the Israeli government an additional~~
8 ~~\$14 billion in military aid to increase the violence in Gaza; and~~

9 ~~WHEREAS, since October 7, Jewish and Palestinian community members, along with other~~
10 ~~community members, in growing numbers have joined in peaceful protests by the~~
11 ~~thousands in Seattle, joining similar and larger protests in cities nationally and worldwide~~
12 ~~in calling for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, a halt to~~
13 ~~U.S. military aid to Israel, and an end to the Israeli occupation of and control over~~
14 ~~Palestinian territories; and~~

15 ~~WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, a broad range of nearly 2,000 Washington State faith~~
16 ~~leaders and activists, along with elected officials, unveiled a public statement that called~~
17 ~~for “an immediate ceasefire” and for “an end to the decades long military occupation”;~~
18 ~~and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, on October 14, a six-year-old Palestinian-American boy near Chicago, Wade Al~~
20 ~~Fayoume, was stabbed to death by his family’s landlord in what is being investigated as~~
21 ~~an Islamophobic hate crime; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, Seattle is home to many people whose families have been impacted by this~~
23 ~~violence, with victims in Israel, Gaza, and the occupied West Bank; and~~

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1 ~~WHEREAS, a 2021 report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or~~
2 ~~Belief found that discrimination and hatred towards Muslims has risen to “epidemic~~
3 ~~proportions”;~~ and

4 ~~WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council has long gone on record as opposing both Islamophobia~~
5 ~~and anti-Semitism;~~

6 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk without an immediate long-term
7 ceasefire, restoration of basic necessities, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid
8 without delay to the Palestinian people; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States government and our elected leaders hold immense diplomatic
10 power to save Israeli and Palestinian lives; and

11 WHEREAS, the majority of the world and the majority of Americans support an immediate
12 long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, and millions of people worldwide
13 including thousands of people in Seattle have joined in peaceful protests since October 7
14 to amplify this call; and

15 WHEREAS, the City Council of The City of Seattle has the ability to influence Washington
16 State’s federal delegation to call for an immediate long-term ceasefire to stop the
17 violence, the safe return of all hostages, and the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to
18 the Palestinian people without delay in order to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands
19 more lives; and

20 WHEREAS, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry have risen
21 significantly in Seattle, across the United States, and around the world in the past six
22 weeks, with direct impacts on our local communities – from synagogues and mosques to

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1 schools, homes, offices, and places where communities gather, as well as at protests and
2 rallies; and

3 WHEREAS, all of these forms of bigotry, violence, and oppression serve to divide our
4 communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and true multi-
5 ethnic, multi-racial democracy here and everywhere; NOW, THEREFORE,

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

7 Section 1. The Seattle City Council condemns violations of international law, including
8 both the attack on October 7, 2023 by Hamas, and the Israeli military’s response on the 2.3
9 million Palestinian people living in Gaza (nearly half of whom are children) since then~~joins with~~
10 ~~others worldwide in condemning the Israeli military assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza~~
11 ~~and demanding an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid to help the Palestinian people recover,~~
12 ~~the release of all hostages on both sides, and an end to the Israeli occupation and subjugation of~~
13 ~~Palestinian lands. The Seattle City Council condemns both the methods of terror used by Hamas~~
14 ~~and the state terrorism of the Israeli government. The Seattle City Council affirms the right of all~~
15 ~~people to engage in peaceful protest without threats or intimidation.~~

16 Section 2. The Seattle City Council requests the Office of Intergovernmental Relations to
17 convey to Seattle’s Congressional delegation its support for an immediate long-term ceasefire,
18 the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

19 Section 3. The Seattle City Council affirms its commitment to combat ~~Islamophobia and~~
20 ~~anti-Semitism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, in all their~~
21 ~~forms. The Seattle City Council affirms~~ its support for the people of both Israel and Palestine to
22 live in peace and security, and the right of all people to live, learn, work, play, pray, and engage
23 in peaceful protest, all without threats, intimidation, or death.

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~~Section 3. The Seattle City Council opposes all U.S. military aid to Israel, and believes those billions of dollars in military resources are enabling this war and occupation, and greatly exacerbating the violence in the region. The Seattle City Council urges the U.S. Congress to oppose further funding for the Israeli military and requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations convey this position to Seattle’s Congressional delegation.~~

Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2023,
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2023.

President _____ of the City Council

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)