

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

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston resides on the sacred homelands of the Munsee people, who are the original stewards of this land. Today, due to forced removal, the community resides in Northeast Wisconsin, and is known as the Stockbridge Munsee Community; and

WHEREAS, Kingston is home to people with Indigenous roots from all over the world, including Palestine, and emphasizes its commitment to diversity, human rights, solidarity with marginalized communities, and the importance of speaking out against injustices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston is united against all forms of violence and recognizes that all life is precious; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston condemns all forms of racism including but not limited to anti-semitism and anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, anti-indigeneity, and xenophobia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, nationality, or immigration status; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston expresses concern over the ongoing violence against innocent civilians in Occupied Palestine and Israel, and recognizes this bears a continuous emotional and psychological toll on our own citizens, knowing our federal tax dollars are directly funding Israeli bombing in Gaza; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, December 8, 2023 the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, has invoked Article 99 because he sees the situation in Gaza at risk of a “complete collapse” of the territory’s humanitarian system and civil order and accordingly, the United Nations Security Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of an immediate ceasefire resolution, a move blocked only by the undemocratic use of the United States’ veto power; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston grieves all victims of Hamas’s and Israel Defense Forces’ massacres and capture of Israeli, Palestinian, and international civilians before, on and since October 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health in Gaza has stated that 17,700 people, including 7,112 women and children, have been killed and 46,000 people have been wounded, and the Israeli army stated that 1,147 individuals have been killed, including 418 IDF soldiers as of

December 8, 2023; and (THESE FIGURES MUST BE UPDATED AT TIME OF DELIBERATION AND VOTE)

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston denounces the destruction of civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, houses of worship, schools, humanitarian centers, and residential homes; and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Kingston calls upon our leaders in Albany and Washington to sponsor and support resolutions calling for a permanent ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestinian lands to protect and save human lives, to end military funding to Israel, and to re-invest money and material currently allocated for war and destruction towards public goods such as housing, healthcare, and food, to fund and supply humanitarian aid to victims of this war, to condemn apartheid in all of its forms, and to lifting the siege on Occupied Palestinian lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Kingston supports and calls on President Joe Biden, Senators Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, and Representative Patrick Ryan to abide by the democratic will of the people of Kingston and the majority of the UN Security Council to negotiate and enforce an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Occupied Palestine.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joe Biden, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. House Representative Patrick Ryan, New York Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Legislative Chair (TO BE DETERMINED), Ulster County Legislator Peter Criswell, Ulster County Legislator Joe Donaldson, Ulster County Legislator Greg McCullough, and Ulster County Legislator Abe Uchitelle.

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