

Introduced by Free Palestine Charleston

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF CHARLESTON'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AT HOME AND ABROAD AND SUPPORT FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL AND WORLDWIDE CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

WHEREAS, Charleston City Council on Oct. 7 passed a resolution stating that the City of Charleston “also supports a peaceful future for the Palestinian people” and the current state of over 20,000 civilian deaths, including thousands of children, in Gaza demand that Charleston materially reaffirm these words; and

WHEREAS, Charleston prides itself on its reputation for being the “Holy City” and extending religious tolerance toward all people and has a responsibility to protect its community members, including its Palestinian residents; and,

WHEREAS, Charleston, a city built on historic injustice and racial violence, now has the opportunity to stand on the right side of history; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston on Oct. 7 said it “unequivocally rejects anti-Semitism and all other forms of racism, religious intolerance, and other prejudices both here in Charleston and around the world” while failing to acknowledge that Palestinians are also a Semitic people and that the death and destruction in Gaza is a form of anti-Semitism on the part of Israel; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston has historically taken a stance against injustice abroad and in 1985 passed a resolution penned by Brenda Scott, a Black city council member, condemning apartheid in South Africa, a system which was funded by and engaged in nuclear weapons deals with the Israeli government; and,

WHEREAS, South Africa, in light of condemning its own apartheid history, severed many relationships with Israel and is now instituting International Court of Justice proceedings against Israel for its atrocities in Gaza; and,

WHEREAS, President Joseph Biden recently visited Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston to speak against hate and the ‘poison of white supremacy’ but refused to condemn the same white supremacy that continues to kill thousands in Palestine; and,

WHEREAS, all life is precious and the United Nations has declared that Gaza is becoming ‘uninhabitable’;

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all Americans, including almost 50% of conservative voters and three-quarters of Democratic voters, support a ceasefire;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Charleston supports a ceasefire resolution and joins other cities in calling on our Congress members to pass H.R.786 to demand the following: an immediate and permanent ceasefire; release of all hostages; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; and the respect for international law; and calls for a resolution that protects the security of all innocent civilians; and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to city councils in the greater Charleston Area, the offices of US Senator Lindsey Graham, US Senator Tim Scott, US Representative Nancy Mace, US Representative Jim Clyburn, Governor of South Carolina Henry McMaster, U.S. President Joe Biden, and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end violence.