

Resolution No. 920-24

Introduced in Council:

January 3, 2024

Introduced by:

Joe Solomon

Adopted by Council:

Referred to:

Resolution No. 920-24 –

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston, WV is a welcoming city where we value diversity, equality, and the dignity of all its residents, regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston is home to a broad and diverse community including Jewish and Muslim neighbors who have family members and friends within Israel and Palestine, for whom they care about dearly;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston condemns all forms of hate, racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and violence, striving to foster an environment that promotes understanding and warmth;

WHEREAS, the recent conflict in Israel and Palestine has led to the record loss of innocent lives, causing immense suffering and displacement in the region;

WHEREAS, Charleston decries the horrific, terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023 against innocent Israeli civilians which resulted in at least 1,200 Israelis being slain; including children; with women who were brutally raped and tortured before being murdered, as well as about 240 individuals taken hostage;

WHEREAS, Charleston also decries the loss of all innocent Palestinian civilians killed in the subsequent conflict, which have claimed the lives of at least 22,000 Palestinians including at least 8,000 children and wounded tens of thousands more;

WHEREAS, collective punishment, even when the stated goal is to destroy Hamas, is prohibited under international law, and the City of Charleston opposes actions that result in civilian casualties and humanitarian crises;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston recognizes the historical context of the conflict and acknowledges the need to address root causes for a lasting peace and justice;

WHEREAS, U.S. cities have the capacity to shape state and federal policies by raising their voices in concert;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

Joins the chorus of over a dozen cities across the U.S. in calling for an immediate and sustained humanitarian ceasefire, allowing the safe passage of life-saving humanitarian aid to Gaza, and the restoration of essential services such as electricity, water, food, and medical supplies;

2. Calls for the safe and immediate return of all hostages held by Hamas, and all Palestinians extrajudicially detained by Israel;
3. Urges the United States government to leverage its diplomatic influence to work towards a sustainable peace in the region, advocating for a just and lasting resolution that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals;
4. Affirms its commitment to fostering a city that values diversity, equality, and understanding among its residents, while affirming its commitment to combat anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, racism, and bigotry in all its forms;
5. Commits to sending a copy of this resolution to relevant state and federal officials, including the West Virginia Congressional delegation, urging them to support diplomatic efforts for peace in Israel and Palestine.