From:
To: City Counc

Subject: City Council meeting Feb 20

**Date:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:15:43 PM

During public comment, the proposed ceasefire resolution was referred to a "Beautiful resolution that is not divisive".

The resolution begins with "On October 7, dozens of Hamas militants broke out of blockaded Gaza...."

Thousands, not dozens, of Hamas terrorists, in an act of war that had been planned for many months, invaded Israel, massacred over a thousand innocent civilians, injured thousands more, brutally raped women and took over 300 people hostage. They focused their attack on a peaceful music festival and on Kibbutz communities committed to peace with the Palestinian people.

The proposed resolution contains myriad other statements that are either intentionally or unintentionally inaccurate, misleading and mischaracterizing. The resolution utilizes data from the terrorists themselves as though the data is verified and factual.

Iran is funding an Islamic Jihadi war against democracy. It starts with attacking and calling for the destruction of Israel, but Islamic extremism has indicated that it has no intention of stopping there. As has been chanted in the Iranian parliament "Death to Israel. Death to the United States". Israel is democracy's first line of defense, under attack from literally the north (Hezbollah), South (Houthi), East (PIJ, etc) and West (Hamas), all funded by the Iranian oppressive theocracy.

Those of us who oppose a ceasefire resolution do not oppose peace, but we do oppose Hamas and we oppose the Islamic Jihadi war against Israel and against democracy throughout the world. We oppose Hamas' use of the Palestinian people as human shields. We oppose Hamas funneling billions of dollars intended as humanitarian assistance into building there terror tunnels and into the leaders' bank accounts.

A ceasefire resolution, as Mayor London Breed stated, divides our community. As has been seen with regard to other cities that have adopted such resolutions, they are taken out of context and used as propaganda by Hamas supporters. Ceasefire resolution are used to pressure the US government to end aid and assistance to Israel. Without the support of the US, Israel, which includes 1/2 of the world's Jewish population will be wiped out.

So even though the resolution is couched as a call for peace, it has the effect of promoting hate.

Though there were several Jewish speakers tonight in favor of a ceasefire resolution, please do not take that as an indication that they represent the majority view of the Jewish community. Based upon a survey of over 100 Jewish members of our community, less than 10% support a ceasefire resolution.

Let's focus on a resolution that will unite, not divide. Let us focus on a resolution that will not incrementally contribute to the voices that oppose the existence of Israel. Let's focus on a

resolution directed to our own Sonoma County community and calls for peaceful coexistence and respectful dialogue. Perhaps the city council can make a difference in our local community by bringing in a group like Braver Angels (braverangels.org) to facilitate dialogue and to help our community come together.

Thank you,

David Saul