

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Consent Agenda Item 4: Resolution of the City of Sebastopol calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza - Support  
**Date:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 12:06:30 AM

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Dear Mayor Rich, Vice Mayor Zollman, and Council Members,

I am writing to encourage you to approve consent calendar item 4, the Resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza as submitted.

In doing so, Sebastopol will be joining the California cities of Long Beach, San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Cudahy, Madera, and a growing number of others in calling for an immediate ceasefire. It will also be joining the United Nations, Amnesty International, the World Health Organization, world leaders, religious leaders, and citizens of the world everywhere in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the prompt release of all hostages on both sides.

Sebastopol has a long record of rightfully weighing in on state, national, and international issues in instances where events of significant human rights, social justice, and moral obligation compel our elected leaders to represent the sentiments of constituents in the form of a formal Resolution. The death and destruction underway in Gaza is such an instance.

The British Red Cross has stated that *"It's projected that the entire 2.22 million population of Gaza is now experiencing food insecurity at crisis levels or above. This is the highest share of a population facing high food insecurity that has ever been classified by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification anywhere in the world."*

On February 14, Martin Griffiths, The UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs stated that *"Gaza is the worst humanitarian crisis I have seen in 50 years."*

This is not a matter of who did what when, it is now a matter of doing whatever is possible at this time to save lives. If it were Jews or any other ethnicity or race being bombarded and starved, I would be calling for a ceasefire.

Supporting a ceasefire in Gaza is not only a moral imperative but also a practical necessity for the well-being and stability of the region and beyond. The ongoing bombing of Gaza has resulted in immense human suffering, with civilian casualties, including thousands of women and children. A ceasefire will halt the bloodshed and provide much-needed relief to the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. It will allow humanitarian aid organizations to access the affected areas, deliver essential supplies, and provide medical assistance to those in need.

The attack on Gaza has broader regional implications, affecting neighboring countries and exacerbating tensions across the Middle East. A ceasefire will help mitigate these tensions, reducing the likelihood of escalation into a larger regional conflict.

The violence and devastation in Gaza has taken a severe toll on the region's economy, hindering development and perpetuating poverty. A ceasefire will create an opportunity for economic recovery and growth, allowing businesses to reopen, infrastructure to be rebuilt, and livelihoods to be restored. Economic stability is essential for long-term peace and prosperity in Gaza and Israel.

Lastly, a ceasefire is not only a humanitarian imperative but is also a pragmatic step toward ending the cycle of violence, promoting stability, and fostering the conditions for lasting peace in the region. Allowing diplomatic efforts to begin offers the best chance to address the root causes of the conflict through dialogue, diplomacy, and concerted international efforts.

I urge your support of the ceasefire resolution.

Sincerely,  
Woody Hastings  
95472