



2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: (510) 981-7100
TDD: (510) 981-6903
mayor@berkeleyca.gov

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet

Meeting Date: April 28, 2025

Item Number: 1

Item Description: Resolution for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza, and an End to U.S. Military Aid to Israel, and Support for Palestinian Self-Determination

Submitted by: Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Supplemental Summary of Changes: This supplemental item is a resolution for consideration of the council. It would replace the resolution proposed by the Peace and Justice Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF BERKELEY’S COMMITMENT TO
COMBATting HATE, SUPPORTING A LASTING PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
GAZA, OPPOSING A U.S. OCCUPATION OF GAZA AND RESPECTING FREEDOM
OF SPEECH**

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians is a violation of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council defends the basic human rights of all people, irrespective of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, politics, or other group affiliation, to enjoy peace and freedom from violence, intimidation, and harassment; and

WHEREAS, hate has no place in the City of Berkeley and must not be tolerated, and since October 2023 Berkeley Police Department has seen an increase overall in the number of anti-Jewish, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council expresses empathy, compassion and respect for residents who have personal connections to family and friends in Israel and/or Palestine, or have lived in those countries themselves, and are deeply affected and traumatized by this war, which is intensified by the historical trauma both Jewish and Palestinian peoples have carried with them over generations as a result of their cultural and lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley has a unique history of fighting for peace and universal human rights for at least 65 years. These movements include among others, the anti-Vietnam/Indochina war movement, “Stop the Draft” campaign, opposition to US funded wars in Central America in the 1980’s, apartheid in South Africa, the Gulf War, post 9/11 Forever Wars, and opposition to the Russian government’s invasion of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, the decades long conflict between the Israeli government and the Palestinians escalated militarily with the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, that resulted in the murder of 1200 civilians, the assault and wounding of many others, the burning of homes, and the taking of 251 hostages including women, children and the elderly, and Berkeley born Hersh Polin-Goldberg who was murdered after 11 months of captivity; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attacks, the Israeli government responded with an escalation of bombs and artillery on Gaza, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians and injuries to many more—predominantly women, children, and the elderly—alongside the widespread destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and vital services, deepening the humanitarian crisis and displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2025, the President declared and repeated in subsequent statements that the United States would “take over the Gaza Strip” and remove the Palestinian people permanently, prompting widespread calls for adherence to international humanitarian law and protection of civilians; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council reaffirms its defense of the basic human rights of all people, irrespective of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, politics, or other group affiliation, to enjoy peace and freedom from violence, intimidation, and harassment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to combatting hate and bigotry, including, but not limited to, antisemitism and Islamophobia, and discrimination against Israelis, Palestinians, Jews, Muslims, or Arabs; and also committing to uniting our community in support of the right for all people in Berkeley and across the globe to live, work, play, worship, gather, advocate, protest, mourn, and celebrate in peace and safety, free from racism, bigotry, and harassment of all kinds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council reiterates an unwavering commitment to elevating our collective humanity in calling for peace; and condemns all acts violence and murderous attacks on unarmed innocent civilians, and calls for an immediate, sustained and mutual end to the war between Israel and Hamas, the peaceful return of all hostages, the immediate, sustained and urgent expansion of unrestricted humanitarian assistance, and protections for persons with disabilities under international law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council urges the United States government to ensure that American support for the government of Israel and any ally, complies with international humanitarian law, and is not used in ways that contribute to the targeting of noncombatants, obstruction of humanitarian relief, or efforts that could amount to unlawful population transfer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls on international stakeholders to actively further a just and lasting peace, between all parties that allows both Palestinians and Israelis to live in freedom, with dignity and self-determination, and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council calls upon leadership of our educational institutions – the University of California, Peralta Community College District, and Berkeley Unified School District to protect free speech on campuses and provide support and protection for students’ nonviolent exercise of their right to free speech regardless of their of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, politics, or other group affiliation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, State Senator Jesse Arreguin, State Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, University of California (UC) President Michael Drake, UC Berkeley Chancellor Rich Lyons, Alameda County Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas, Peralta Community College Chancellor Tammie Gilkerson, Berkeley City College President Denise Richardson, Berkeley School Board President Ka’Dijah Brown, and BUSD Superintendent Enikia Ford Morthel.