

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is dedicated to fostering a community that embraces diversity, values all life, and upholds the principles of equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and antisemitic bigotry and violence are on the rise within our country, posing a significant threat to the well-being and safety of our diverse communities and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and condemnation for the tragic loss of Israeli civilians, including children and the elderly, in the terrorist attack on October 7th by Hamas; and

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the loss of innocent Palestinian lives including children and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel, which has resulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian population of Gaza; and

WHEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary narrative and dehumanization is being used to rationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the death of civilians, within this ongoing conflict; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County supports the dignity and safety of residents in every community regardless of what crimes any government may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to achieve these permanent goals; and

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, or country of origin is a violation of International humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 2, 2023 war and armed violence have claimed the lives of over 15,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and 1,200 Israelis, including Americans, and thousands more have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at imminent risk if a permanent cease-fire is not achieved and continuous humanitarian aid is not assured; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government and Members of Congress hold immense diplomatic, military, and financial power to save Palestinian and Israeli lives, and seek a lasting peace, in our time and for all time; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners calls for the United States Federal Government to facilitate and demand:

- (1) an immediate permanent cease-fire to urgently end the current violence; and

- (2) the immediate release of all hostages; and
- (3) an immediate end to the blockade and siege of Gaza; and
- (4) the prompt provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza including supplying food, water, fuel, and medical supplies which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population of Gaza; and
- (5) all parties to fully comply with their obligations under international law; and
- (6) continue to condemn the rising antisemitism and Islamophobia that has been seen in the United States and worldwide.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2023

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners DeKalb
County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer DeKalb
County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS
Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Office

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia

December 12, 2023