

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Wendy Goldman

**Date Submitted:** 06/17/2024 04:06 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** To the members of the LA City Council who want to get involved in a situation that they think will ingratiate them to members of the voting community for re-election purposes - STAY IN YOUR LANE. I would strongly suggest that you focus on the needs of the City of Los Angeles and steer clear of Israel. The LA City Council does not need to bring a resolution regarding a ceasefire in Gaza. It means nothing other than to alienate a large population of the city and, frankly, you're already doing a mighty fine job of alienating many Los Angelenos without stepping into this war. The LA City Council needs to bring a resolution to homelessness in LA. The LA City Council needs to bring a resolution to the lack of public safety in LA. The LA City Council needs to bring a resolution to the closing of businesses due to theft in LA. The LA City Council has a host of additional issues that it needs to address and thinking that a resolution regarding a ceasefire in Gaza is one of them shows how profoundly unfit the members of the City Council are. I hope that some of you will learn to focus on the issues in the City of LA and stop worrying about promoting yourselves, for a change.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nusa A. Dimopoulos  
**Date Submitted:** 06/19/2024 03:21 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop the Genocide in Gaza immediately!!! This war on the Palestinian people must be condemned in the strongest terms.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nidal A Barakat  
**Date Submitted:** 06/19/2024 08:48 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Cease fire is the pre request for peace Support peace fire save lives

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nidal A Barakat  
**Date Submitted:** 06/19/2024 08:51 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Support Casey now save lives

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anas  
**Date Submitted:** 06/19/2024 07:02 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Pass the ceasefire resolution!!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tom Pitman

**Date Submitted:** 06/20/2024 09:15 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm a Los Angeles resident calling on you to support the Ceasefire Resolution (24-0656) introduced by LA Council Members Hernandez and Raman. Palestinians in Gaza are suffering through an eighth month of massacres, airstrikes, shootings, forced displacement, hunger, and lack of water. They are desperately in need of food, medical care, and shelter. Over 37,000 men, women, and children have been killed in Gaza. Please support a permanent and immediate ceasefire now. Sincerely, Tom P.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Olivia Harewood  
**Date Submitted:** 06/20/2024 11:38 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Ceasefire now.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Leen  
**Date Submitted:** 06/20/2024 05:27 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Pass a ceasefire resolution

## Communication from Public

**Name:** James Longman  
**Date Submitted:** 06/20/2024 10:37 PM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Ceasefire in Gaza now

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Silvia Anguiano  
**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2024 12:22 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** I encourage other city council members to call and approve a cease fire resolution. For over 8 months we've witnessed Zionists try to fulfill the Balfour Declaration by murdering, starving and displacing thousands of more innocent Palestinians. As a lifelong Angeleno, I stand in solidarity with human rights here and globally and I expect the city council to truly represent it's thousands of constituents that have been rallying at universities and on the streets for a permanent cease fire resolution and an end to the genocide.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Susan Collins

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2024 01:10 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, ?Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656? which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Israel. This is an anti semitic motion brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. ? To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez?, Raman?,? and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of ?them are Americans?. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims ?on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel? BY Israel. ?Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7 attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right? and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-? designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual ?torture on October 7 – and subsequently later in Gaza. ?We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We

acknowledge the widespread failure to honor this commitment, has caused immeasurable grief for the victims and for Jewish women globally. 4. Hamas rejected and continues to reject Israeli ceasefire offers. On June 3, 2024, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, “The roadblock right now to a ceasefire is not Israel – the roadblock to a ceasefire is Hamas.” 5. We acknowledge there was a ceasefire in place on October 6, 2023 which was broken by Hamas. It has been confirmed that many of the civilian population of Gaza have been complicit in war crimes by holding hostages in their homes, and that Hamas has said it plans to carry out attacks like October 7 "again and again". For all of these reasons, it's clear that the elimination of the governing and military capabilities of Hamas is an absolute necessity in order to have a lasting ceasefire. It is important to understand that Israel wants peace, not only in Israel but with their neighbors. If the people of Gaza are to ever be free, they must be free of Hamas. Thank you, Susan Collins

## Communication from Public

**Name:** RANDY bRAVERMAN

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2024 05:16 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7th attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual torture on October 7th – and subsequently later in Gaza. We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We acknowledge the widespread failure to

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michele

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2024 06:00 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** This cease fire initiated by 3 DSA city councilmembers is out of the scope of their duties, an abuse of power and thereby clearly antisemitism by their racist actions. We have notified the ADL and other organizations as to this abuse and recommend the resignation for the 3 councilmembers. Previously councilmembers who made racist remarks (while being taped) stepped down. I expect the same. Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Hostages were rescued from civilian apartments and the Hospital as Hamas uses every neighborhood and building as a shield . This is unacceptable human behavior and Americans do not give in to terrorists and

especially government employees promoting antisemitism. Fire the 3 Council members immediately. It is important to understand that Israel wants peace. If the people of Gaza are to ever be free and prosperous they need to be free of Hamas and their teachings of the hatred of Jews. Sinwar admitted to Dr. Bitton ,who saved his life, is quoted as saying the Jews don't belong here there will never be a two state country. Muslims only believe they are entitled to all muslim land and Jews need to perish again. Holocaust 2. The world is antisemitic and DSA councilmembers and their supporters need to be removed and shunned. Hamas needs to be stopped, terrorism by race or ethnicity is not civilized. BLM is supported by BDS movement which is Hamas. I don't see black or Hispanic or of color people you keep referring to supporting Jews. Now that's RACISM. Hypocrisy again and again. Rigged elections counting votes 10 days after election is not acceptable there is no faith in the voting system since 2020 way too much fraud.

World / Middle East

## He saved the life of Hamas's leader. Then they murdered his nephew

By [Sophie Tanno](#) and Tal Alroy, CNN

🕒 5 minute read · Updated 2:02 PM EDT, Thu June 20, 2024





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Israeli dentist who saved Hamas leader's life says Sinwar would 'sacrifice 100,000 Palestinians' to stay in power

05:11 - Source: [CNN](#)

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**(CNN)** — Hamas's surprise October 7 attacks stunned Israel. But not everyone was caught unaware. When he learned the news, Dr. Yuval Bitton says he felt it was coming – and knew immediately who was behind it.

“I know the person who planned and conceived and initiated this criminal attack,” Bitton told CNN’s Christiane Amanpour. “I have known him since 1996 – not only him but the entire Hamas leadership in Gaza – and it was clear to me that this is what they were planning.”

Bitton spent years working as a dentist in Israel’s Nafha Prison. It was there he met “the person” – Yahya Sinwar, a Hamas militant convicted of murder who would go on to become the group’s leader in Gaza – saying he saved his life by helping diagnose a brain tumor.

Bitton says he spent hundreds of hours conversing with Sinwar, providing him with rare insight into the mind of the top Hamas official

insight into the mind of the top Hamas official.

But his actions have left him tormented. Bitton blames Sinwar for the murder of his nephew, who was killed after Hamas militants raided his home on October 7.

In 2004, Sinwar had come to the prison's clinic complaining of neck pain and losing his balance.

"When he explained to me what was happening to him, I diagnosed it as a stroke, and together with the general practitioner, we decided to take him to the hospital," Bitton said.



Bitton, right, pictured with his nephew Tamir Adar, who was murdered on October 7. Yuval Bitton

"He arrived at the hospital, the diagnosis was that he had an abscess in the brain and

he was operated on that day, thus saving his life because if it had exploded, he would have died.”

Sinwar was appointed leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip in 2017. Born in the Khan Younis refugee camp in southern Gaza in 1962, to a family displaced during the Arab-Israeli war, he joined Hamas in the late 1980s. In 1989, he was sentenced to four life sentences in Israel for the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers.

After being freed in 2011 as part of a prisoner swap, he returned to Gaza where he began his rise in the militant organization, becoming notorious for the violent treatment he would dole out on suspected collaborators.



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Israel has publicly accused Sinwar of being the “mastermind” behind Hamas’ terror attack against Israel on October 7 – though experts say he is likely one of several – making him one of the key targets of its war in Gaza.

The attack was the deadliest assault in Israel’s history. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups killed more than 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and also took some 250 people hostage into Gaza.

Following his recovery, Sinwar told Bitton that he owed him his life – a sentiment he repeated when he was released in the 2011 prisoner swap, which saw Sinwar and more than 1,000 other Palestinians freed for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

“He also told me that on the day he was released in [Gilad] Shalit’s deal in 2011, that he owed me his life, and one day he will repay it.”

But years later that connection meant nothing.

“And as you understand, he made up for it on October 7 in that he was also directly responsible for the murder of my nephew in Kibbutz Nir Oz,” said Bitton.

Nir Oz was one of several kibbutzim that bore the brunt of Hamas' attack on October 7, with many residents murdered or taken hostage.

Bitton said his nephew, Tamir, was "seriously injured" trying to fight off the attackers.

"There were only five of them, they didn't really stand a chance, and he was kidnapped while he was still seriously injured, unconscious, and died after a few hours in Gaza."

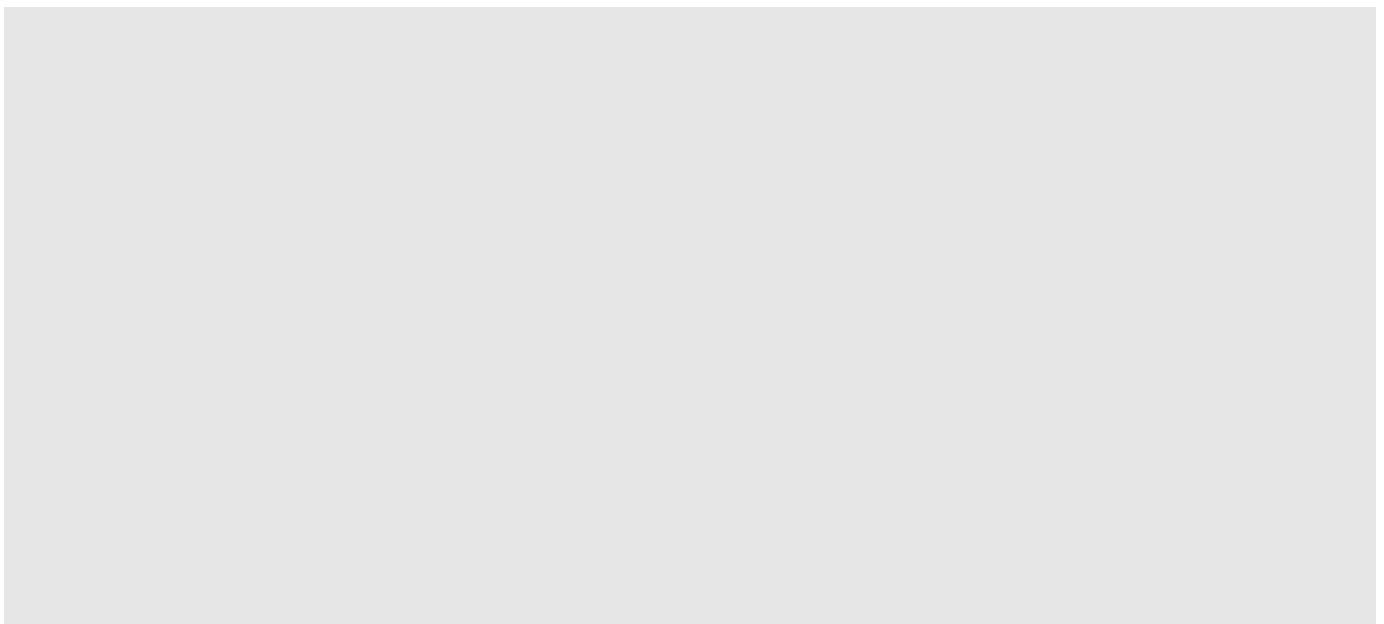
## **A close connection**

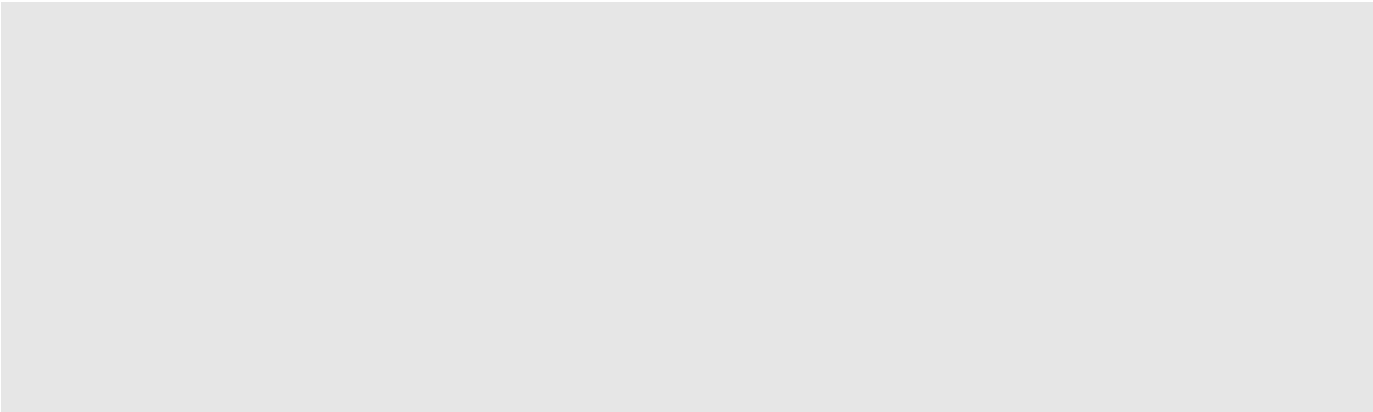
Bitton – who later joined Israeli intelligence – came to know Sinwar well during his time in prison, spending "hundreds of hours" talking to him.

Sinwar, Bitton says, believes Jewish people have "no place" on "Muslim lands."

Bitton therefore saw it as "only a matter of time and timing that they [Hamas] will act against us and try to expel us from the place where we live."

Despite eight months of Israeli fighting in Gaza, which has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, Sinwar remains at large, and thought to be sheltering somewhere in the territory.





The remains of Bitton's nephew's home in Nir Oz, after it was targeted by Hamas militants. Yuval Bitton

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Asked for his assessment of Sinwar's mindset, Bitton says the Hamas leader is mainly concerned with staying in power.

He believes Sinwar would be "willing to sacrifice even 100,000 Palestinians in order to ensure the survival of his rule."

"He is willing to pay with the lives of militants, Hamas members, civilians. He doesn't care."



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With this in mind, Bitton believes that Israel made a mistake by not creating an alternative to Hamas's rule, which could have undermined Sinwar's power.

Bitton says that Sinwar still "feels he is in a powerful position."

"He is running the negotiations while still operating from within Gaza, and still controls the areas from which the IDF evacuates, he also controls the humanitarian aid, and therefore he feels strong and won't sign an agreement to release the hostages unless the IDF withdraws from Gaza and the fighting ends."

Sinwar spent his more than two decades in prison studying his enemy, including learning Hebrew.

It is a lesson Israel should have taken too, says Bitton, who believes the government and intelligence service “did not know and learn Hamas well enough.”

“Our attitude towards Hamas was arrogant. We dismissed Hamas. And Hamas said everything it intended to do, but we didn’t want to listen.”

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tammy Scher

**Date Submitted:** 06/22/2024 01:46 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7th attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual torture on October 7th – and subsequently later in Gaza. We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We acknowledge the widespread failure to

honor this commitment, has caused immeasurable grief for the victims and for Jewish women globally. 4. Hamas rejected and continues to reject Israeli ceasefire offers. On June 3, 2024, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, “The roadblock right now to a ceasefire is not Israel – the roadblock to a ceasefire is Hamas.” 5. We acknowledge there was a ceasefire in place on October 6, 2023 which was broken by Hamas. It has been confirmed that many of the civilian population of Gaza have been complicit in war crimes by holding hostages in their homes, and that Hamas has said it plans to carry out attacks like October 7 "again and again". For these reasons, it's clear that the elimination of the governing and military capabilities of Hamas is an absolute necessity in order to have a lasting ceasefire. It is important to understand that Israel wants peace, not only in Israel but with their neighbors. If the people of Gaza are to ever be free, they must be free of Hamas.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra F.R.

**Date Submitted:** 06/22/2024 02:01 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Los Angeles is a sanctuary city based on its population firm foundation of values and compassion. As such, it is our obligation to extend those same values to Gaza and request in immediate Cease Fire.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/22/2024 07:13 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. I join the opposition for the reasons expressed by The Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN)

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2024 07:50 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** OPPOSE the Resolution for a Ceasefire.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carol Becker

**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2024 03:32 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7th attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual torture on October 7th – and subsequently later in Gaza. We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We acknowledge the widespread failure to

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## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/24/2024 02:55 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7th attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual torture on October 7th – and subsequently later in Gaza. We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We acknowledge the widespread failure to

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Fort

**Date Submitted:** 06/24/2024 05:20 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Councilmembers, Please OPPOSE council file # 24-0656 which is the resolution requesting a ceasefire in Gaza. This anti semitic motion has brought forward by 3 members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and should serve as a reminder of how antisemitism is cultivated and legislated into widespread acceptance. As a national leader, the city of Los Angeles must stand with the Jewish community and condemn the false, hateful rhetoric contained in this resolution. To be clear: Councilmembers Hernandez, Raman, and Soto are members of an organization (DSA) that on Oct. 8th, hosted nationwide celebrations in honor of the rape, mutilation, torture, burying alive and mass murder of innocent civilians in Israel. They have justified rape and sexual torture as "resistance". The group they're asking the city to support, Hamas, still has 116 hostages who were taken captive on Oct. 7th - eight of them are Americans. It is unknown how many are still alive. Many of the victims on Oct. 7th, were peace activists who lived close to the border so they could provide transportation for people living in Gaza to receive medical care provided to them in Israel BY Israel. Why aren't these DSA members asking for a ceasefire in Russia where they've sustained a reported 500,000 deaths due to the response from the war they declared on Ukraine? Other than a perfunctory reference to the attack by Hamas on October 7, the text of the resolution is a diatribe against the Jewish state. Using Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health figures, the resolution authors conveniently ignore the fact that on May 8 the United Nations dramatically revised the number of women and children in the death toll. The text places the blame for civilian deaths on the Israeli military rather than on Hamas, who broke a ceasefire, declared war on Israel and uses their civilians as human shields. Any resolution on the Israel-Hamas War should incorporate all the following points: 1. The October 7th attack was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas wiped out entire families. Israel has the right and moral obligation to defend itself. 2. Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that uses human shields and operates from civilian areas. 3. Hamas committed rape and sexual torture on October 7th – and subsequently later in Gaza. We believe women, ALL WOMEN, when they say they've been sexually assaulted. We acknowledge the widespread failure to

honor this commitment, has caused immeasurable grief for the victims and for Jewish women globally. 4. Hamas rejected and continues to reject Israeli ceasefire offers. On June 3, 2024, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, "The roadblock right now to a ceasefire is not Israel – the roadblock to a ceasefire is Hamas." 5. We acknowledge there was a ceasefire in place on October 6, 2023 which was broken by Hamas. It has been confirmed that many of the civilian population of Gaza have been complicit in war crimes by holding hostages in their homes, and that Hamas has said it plans to carry out attacks like October 7 "again and again". For these reasons, it's clear that the elimination of the governing and military capabilities of Hamas is an absolute necessity in order to have a lasting ceasefire. It is important to understand that Israel wants peace, not only in Israel but with their neighbors. If the people of Gaza are ever be free, they must be free of Hamas. Thank you, Barbara Fort

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Fort

**Date Submitted:** 06/24/2024 05:25 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0656

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