

Jewish Community Relations Council

Toledo City Council passes ceasefire resolution – Here’s what you should know

By Daniel Pearlman, JFGT Vice President, Community & Government Relations

On February 14, Toledo City Council passed a ceasefire resolution that is both pro-Israel and supportive of Palestinian citizens. Rather than trying to impose an unbalanced ceasefire on Israel like in previous resolutions introduced by Councilman Nick Komives, the new resolution introduced by Councilman Adam Martinez and Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson calls for a “lasting negotiated bilateral ceasefire” that by definition would only take effect if Israel agrees to it, which Israel has said it will not agree to as long as Israeli hostages are still kept in Hamas captivity in Gaza and as long as Hamas remains a threat to Israeli civilians. The resolution also calls for the “release of all hostages” who are suffering under Hamas rule in Gaza and calls for “unrestricted humanitarian aid” for the Palestinian people. Such aid has been restricted by Hamas, which is estimated to [hijack over half](#) of the humanitarian aid that enters Gaza, and by the incompetencies of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), whose employees are too busy [murdering and kidnapping Israelis](#) to effectively distribute the warehouses of stockpiled aid across Gaza, leading to scenes of Palestinian civilians [storming](#) these warehouses for food.

Throughout this entire process, we were disappointed by the lack of leadership and civility expressed by certain Members of Council and anti-Israel activists. We were never contacted by Councilman Martinez or Councilwoman McPherson for our thoughts on the newly-passed resolution language, and our emails and calls to them went unanswered. When motioning to table the previously

introduced ceasefire resolution last month, which was agreed upon unanimously, Councilman Komives stated that he would like to have City Council organize roundtable discussions between local Jews and Palestinians to try to reach some sort of consensus language for a future resolution. As such, it was surprising to us and inappropriate for Council to introduce yet another ceasefire resolution before putting in the difficult work of doing what they had originally promised. We were never contacted to take part in any discussion, and it appears that Councilman Komives and others made no effort to try to organize such a discussion. Perhaps this is because they are aware that American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), the local group that has been leading most of the anti-Israel protests in town, issued [guidance](#) to their chapters instructing them to avoid working with mainstream Jewish groups like Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, and Hillels. Locally, AMP-Toledo [lied](#) to the media when one of their leaders claimed that they “have close ties with many in the Toledo-area Jewish community” as a way of refuting accusations of antisemitism. In reality, this group has followed the instructions of their national office and has refused to engage with local Jewish leaders.

We were disappointed but not surprised that AMP-Toledo has [tokenized](#) our local Jewish community by bringing one person, supposedly Jewish, with extreme, unrepresentative views of our Toledo Jewish community from out of town as a way of trying to demonstrate that they aren’t antisemitic. To our knowledge, not a single Jewish leader or person active in our diverse Jewish community has been approached by anyone from AMP-Toledo or

other local anti-Israel groups. Then, AMP-Toledo organized the sending of hundreds of emails to Council that accused the Jewish Federation of trying to “intimidate” Council, stemming from antisemitic tropes of Jewish power while simultaneously gaslighting Council into ignoring AMP’s role in attempts to intimidate Members of Council and Toledo residents by their increasingly aggressive protests across town and interruption of Council meetings. In short, AMP-Toledo and other local anti-Israel groups are uninterested in dialogue and only seek to push their extreme agenda through intimidation tactics and lies. Still, this does not excuse Toledo City Council from trying to fulfill their promise prior to introducing and passing another ceasefire resolution, and we are particularly disappointed by this lack of leadership from Councilman Komives and Council President Carrie Hartman.

Regardless of Council’s vote, Hamas will not agree to a lasting ceasefire. The terror group has a history of breaking ceasefires in 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2021, and 2023, and it has repeated assertions since the war began that they will [continue to attack Israel again and again](#) until it is destroyed. There was a ceasefire in place the morning of October 7, and it was broken by Hamas. Since then, for over four months, Hamas has had the ability to end this war by releasing all hostages and laying down its weapons.

Instead of a ceasefire, we advocate for lasting peace in the region. Peace is impossible when Hamas remains a threat to Israel. Peace cannot be reached until the terrorists who committed the October 7 atrocities are brought to justice.

A better use of City Council’s time and resources would have been

a resolution that simply calls out increased forms of hate and expresses support for local Jews and Palestinians, as local elected officials should model exemplary behavior and compassion rather than taking a one-sided stance on an international issue that further alienates a minority group already facing increased hate. We presented this idea to Councilman Komives weeks ago, and after we sent him possible language for such a resolution per his request, he decided to incorporate much of this language into his original problematic ceasefire bill despite our repeated assertions that this will only create more division between local groups and communities. He then ignored repeated attempts to further discuss.

Toledo residents want City Council to spend its time fixing the city’s infrastructure rather than on international affairs. It is clear that Council passed this resolution due to pressure from extreme anti-Israel activists. Voters will remember this in November.

We thank all the community members who responded to the action alert campaigns and sent emails to City Council to oppose the problematic resolutions introduced by Councilman Komives. Your emails helped make the difference. We will continue to monitor all local government activity that may affect our community and Israel. Please be on the lookout for future action alerts. Together, we can ensure that our community’s interests are understood and respected.

We continue to pray for the release of the hostages taken by Hamas on October 7, the unconditional surrender and dismantling of Hamas, and for Palestinian leaders who will support peace with Israel.

Daniel Pearlman accepts new position at Cleveland Federation



It is with great pride but considerable sadness that we are announcing that Daniel Pearlman, JFGT Vice President of Community and Government Relations, will be leaving Toledo on April 19, 2024 to take a role as the Senior Director External Affairs for the Cleveland Jewish Federation. This is a new position and an outstanding opportunity for Daniel.

Daniel’s selection to this important role will allow him to advance his considerable skills at a time when his abilities are most needed. We are fortunate that he was a part of Jewish Toledo since November of 2020. We are thrilled that Daniel will remain in Ohio and be part of the Ohio Jewish Communities so that we can continue to interact with him at the state level.

