

RESOLUTION NO. NS-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AFFIRMING
SANTA CRUZ'S COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR CEASEFIRE AND PEACE

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz, with a population of 62,000 residents, has adopted a Health in All Policies framework which calls on the City Council and residents alike to value and prioritize diverse community perspectives and to advocate for the health, safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, in the 1982 Planetary City resolution, the City of Santa Cruz resolved that “to solve world problems and live in peace, all people must share global responsibility for international cooperation and extend their citizenship responsibilities beyond state and nation” and declared itself a “Planetary City, dedicated to international cooperation and just world law”; and

WHEREAS, the people of Santa Cruz recognize the suffering of the peoples of Palestine and Israel and the current humanitarian crisis that has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions of civilians and children

WHEREAS, over the last several months, hundreds of community members have reached out to city leaders through written communications, phone calls, meetings, and a presence at City Council meetings regarding concerns about the mass and rapid loss of human life; and

WHEREAS, some community members have shared how the mass and rapid loss of human life has impacted their own lives, through connections and painful stories of loved ones, friends, and family members who have been killed or displaced, as well as discrimination and hate incidents experienced *at home* in Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, many community members have called upon city leaders to adopt a resolution that calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by all parties to protect the safety and security of innocent civilians; the release of all hostages; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, including the restoration of food, water, electricity, medical supplies; and the respect for international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, some community members have also asked the City Council to not call for a ceasefire due to concerns about what a ceasefire means for them, specifically the destruction of Israel and its people and the creation of further divisions within our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz recognizes that members of our community are feeling anxious, hurt, and fearful about the impacts both in Palestine and Israel and within local communities around the world, and

WHEREAS, in spite of differences within our community, all express a shared desire to prevent further violence and deaths of civilians and children, many of whom are connected to people right here in Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with other national and international leaders and organizations, we must do all we can to voice advocacy for all parties to find a way to a sustainable ceasefire, leading to a sustainable peace.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Santa Cruz:

1. Acknowledges the mass suffering of the peoples of Palestine and Israel, and the direct impacts to the people of Santa Cruz.
2. Stands united against violence and affirms our shared humanity and wish for peace.
3. Supports all efforts to establish a collaborative monitored agreement to end violence and support peaceful dialogue among all parties.
4. Calls for a permanent, sustainable, and immediate ceasefire by all parties such that a future can be created where Palestinians and Israelis can live together with dignity in peace, equality, and justice.
5. Urges the release of all hostages, and immediate entry of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza, including the restoration of food, water, electricity, medical supplies; and the respect for international humanitarian law; and
6. Encourages our community to develop and participate in activities that bring us together, foster tolerance, empathy, education, and understanding of each other and people of all backgrounds and religious faiths.
7. Declares that January 2024 will be “City of Santa Cruz, California Peace *Month*” where all can have the opportunity to participate in activities and dialogue that promotes peace in Santa Cruz, Palestine and Israel, and around the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution expressing the voices of our community be sent to the offices of Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, Assemblymember Dawn Addis, State Senator John Laird, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta, U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. President Joe Biden, and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to help be a voice for an end to violence, to prevent the further loss of civilian lives, and to advocate for peace and compliance with international humanitarian law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of January, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

APPROVED: _____
Fred Keeley, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Bonnie Bush, City Clerk Administrator