



City Council AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 12/12/2023

AGENDA OF: 01/09/2024

DEPARTMENT: City Council

SUBJECT: Resolution Affirming Santa Cruz's Commitment and Support for Ceasefire and Peace (CN)

RECOMMENDATION: Resolution affirming Santa Cruz's commitment and support for ceasefire and peace.

BACKGROUND: Over the past several months, many Santa Cruz community members have actively engaged with city leaders, expressing profound concern regarding the mass and rapid loss of human life in Israel and Palestine. Community members have also conveyed the impacts on their own lives, sharing painful stories of loved ones affected by the violence, requesting local elected bodies give voice to their concerns and help advocate for a just and humane resolution.

The City of Santa Cruz embraces a Health in All Policies framework recognizing that local governments play a role in community well-being through policy and decision making by prioritizing the three pillars of equity, public health, and sustainability, and has a historical dedication to international cooperation, positioning itself as a city that values diverse perspectives and seeks global responsibility.

DISCUSSION: The resolution presented by the City of Santa Cruz is rooted in the City's commitment to principles of justice, equality, and international cooperation. With input from a multitude of community members, leaders, and neighbors, with varying perspectives and views, it reflects a comprehensive and nuanced approach to addressing the impacts felt locally from the mass and rapid loss of lives in Palestine and Israel.

The resolution recognizes and incorporates the diverse opinions and differing perspectives within the community about the potential impact of a ceasefire. Despite these differences, the resolution prioritizes a shared desire within the community to prevent further violence and deaths, and advocates for solutions of peace. The City calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and the entry of humanitarian assistance aligns with international humanitarian law.

In addition, the resolution goes beyond immediate actions and encourages the community to engage in activities that foster tolerance, empathy, education, and understanding. The added declaration of "City of Santa Cruz, California Peace Month" for the month of January 2024 reflects a commitment to support ongoing dialogue and peace-building efforts. Overall, the

resolution seeks to address concerns from the people of Santa Cruz, promote peace, and support the community in building understanding and empathy.

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES:

The resolution aligns with the City's Health in All Policies framework, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing diverse community perspectives, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity or nationality, and advocating for the well-being of all residents.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

Submitted By:
Sonja Brunner
Councilmember

Submitted By:
Sandy Brown
Councilmember

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RESOLUTION.DOCX