

Whereas, the community of Athens, and therefore the Athens City Council, supports the health, safety, and basic human rights of all people, both here and abroad, and

Whereas, the Athens City Council has the power to illuminate the demands of its constituents to larger political entities, and

Whereas, the International Court of Justice found that “the military operation being conducted by Israel following the attack of 7 October 2023 has resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries, as well as the massive destruction of homes, forcible displacement of the vast majority of the population, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure. While figures relating to the Gaza Strip cannot be independently verified, recent information indicates that 25,700 Palestinians have been killed, over 63,000 injuries have been reported, over 360,000 housing units have been destroyed or partially damaged and approximately 1.7 million persons have been internally displaced” and

Whereas the ICJ has called on the state of Israel to cease all actions resulting in the genocide of Palestinians (Dkt. No. 87, ICJ opinion dated January 26, 2024), and

Whereas, as of January 31, 2024, over 27,000 people (more than 1 in 100) have been killed in Palestine, and

Whereas, all schools and institutions of higher education in Palestine have been rendered nonfunctional, either through complete destruction or damage rendering education impossible, and

Whereas, the drinking water in Palestine is non-potable because of the destruction of sanitation services, leading to disease and death, and

Whereas, the people of Palestine are entering into a famine due to the lack of humanitarian aid caused by these atrocities, leading many to find sustenance in livestock feed, and

Whereas, the pregnant women of Palestine are forced to give birth in unsanitary and unsafe conditions, risking the lives of 50,000 pregnant women and their babies, and

Whereas, the wounded in Palestine are forced to undergo surgeries and amputations without anesthetics, and

Whereas, the United States has suspended funding to UNRWA, an essential agency that was providing essential food, water, education facilities, and health care to Palestinians suffering this genocide and whose work can not be replaced in a timely manner, and

Whereas, the majority of Palestinians, wounded, grieving lost family members, and struggling for their own survival, have no safe shelter, with many forced to live in plastic shelters only to be bombed and forced to move again, and

Whereas, the primary funding for the weapons that realize these atrocities is from the United States government, and

Whereas the charges of genocide have been substantiated and deemed “plausible” both by the International Court of Justice (Dkt. No. 19-6, Declaration of Drs. Cox, Sanford, and Trachtenberg) and by the United States Federal Court in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-PALESTINE, et al., Plaintiffs, v. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, et al., Defendants. (Case No. 23-cv-05829-JSW O), which stated in its decision of 1-31-24, “Both the uncontroverted testimony of the Plaintiffs and the expert opinion proffered at the hearing on these motions as well as statements made by various officers of the Israeli government indicate that the ongoing military siege in Gaza is intended to eradicate a whole people and therefore plausibly falls within the international prohibition against genocide. (See, e.g., Dkt. No. 19-6, Declaration of Drs. Cox, Sanford, and Trachtenberg, at ¶¶ 9-14.) **It is every individual’s obligation to confront the current siege in Gaza,...**” [emphasis added], and

Whereas, per the ICJ and Federal District Court January 2024 decisions, it is therefore incumbent on all Americans to work to stop U.S. complicity in genocide under international law and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and

Whereas, the Athens City Council is aware of these facts,

Therefore be it resolved that the Athens City Council join over 50 U.S. cities to call on our state and federal government leaders to demand and facilitate: 1) an immediate and permanent ceasefire by the Israeli government in its war on the people of Palestine, 2) restoration of U.S. funding of urgently needed humanitarian aid by UNRWA, and 3) a halt to U.S. funding of Israel’s war.