

Introduced by: Councilmember Fulcher

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2024-09**

**CALLING FOR BILATERAL CEASEFIRE, HOSTAGE RELEASE,  
AND HUMANITARIAN AID IN GAZA**

**WHEREAS,** all life is precious and any killing of innocent civilians is an atrocity; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park has a long history of and commitment to building a welcoming, caring, inclusive, and strong community which celebrates its diversity; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is home to people of diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and faiths for whom the current conflict in the Middle East has a real and personal impact; and

**WHEREAS,** the terror attack on October 7, 2023 by Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis which was the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust; and

**WHEREAS,** since October 7, 2023, the ensuing Israel-Hamas war killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and wounded tens of thousands more; and

**WHEREAS,** thousands of Israelis and other foreign nationals have also been killed or injured; and

**WHEREAS,** millions of Palestinians, as well as tens of thousands of Israelis, who live in Gaza or near its borders have been displaced from their homes or unable to leave the area due to violence since October 7, 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** millions of Palestinians are at imminent risk of death in Gaza without access to necessities such as food, clean drinking water, shelter, and medical attention; and

**WHEREAS,** the lives of all the remaining hostages in Gaza are also at imminent risk; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park affirms the importance of the human rights principles of dignity, equity and opportunity, and has a long history and tradition of condemning violence locally and globally; and

**WHEREAS,** prior City Council resolutions have called for humanitarian assistance, supported displaced people and refugees, and committed to protecting the rights of all people, such as in Resolution 2022-5 supporting Ukrainians, Resolution 2020-1 upholding our commitment to inclusivity, and Resolution 2015-66 welcoming Syrian refugees; and

**WHEREAS,** the community in the City of Takoma Park across all faith groups and backgrounds supports an end to the continued violence and hopes for a permanent solution where Palestinians and Israelis can live side-by-side in enduring peace, safety, justice and dignity; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Takoma Park City Council calls for an immediate humanitarian bilateral ceasefire, release of all hostages, and unrestricted access for humanitarian aid; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Council urges our Federal elected officials to support and work for the adoption of policies aimed at achieving the goals in this resolution; including supporting permanent peace in the region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Council reaffirms its call for humanitarian assistance for all civilians and for all displaced persons and refugees worldwide; and

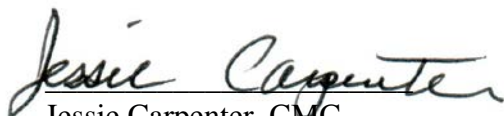
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Council expresses its unwavering support for all Arab, Israeli, Palestinian, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and all other members of the community who are impacted, each of whom has the right to learn, work, worship, gather, advocate, mourn, express themselves, and celebrate freely and without fear of violence or discrimination; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the City Council reaffirms its commitment to being a welcoming community to all and condemns antisemitic and Islamophobic rhetoric and attacks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that upon passage of this resolution, a copy be provided to the United States Congressional Delegations from Maryland and the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

**ADOPTED by the Takoma Park City Council this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.**

Attest:

  
Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk