

Alder Maldonado, Alder Vafadari  
Introduced by

Alder Maldonado, Alder Vafadari  
Prepared by

Direct Referral  
Referred to

June 11, 2024  
Date

## RESOLUTION R-123-24

### CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fitchburg acknowledges that all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their religion or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Palestinian occupation has been long-standing, between October 7, 2023, and June 3, 2024, more than 36,972 lives have been lost in Gaza, and over 82,697 men, women, and children have been wounded, and tens of thousands more have been taken as hostages or are missing, and presumed dead. Occupied West Bank have lost the lives of 527 people, including 132, and more than 5,000 injured. The recent airstrike at the Rafah encampment for displaced people where at least 45 were killed, and;

**WHEREAS**, this conflict is perpetuating a dangerous and costly lack of access to basic human needs in Gaza, such as food, water, medical supplies, and more, which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population. Every hour in Gaza, 15 people are killed - six of whom are children, 35 people are injured, 42 bombs are dropped, and 12 buildings are destroyed. Around 85 percent of the population (1.9 million people) is displaced and currently concentrated in an increasingly smaller geographic area, and;

**WHEREAS**, more than half the homes have been destroyed in Gaza, 86% of school buildings, 267 places of worship have been damaged or destroyed, only 14 out of the 34 hospitals are partially operating, 83% of water wells are not functional, and 80% of commercial facilities have been damaged or destroyed, and;

**WHEREAS**, between December 8, 2023, and June 3, 2024, the entire population in the Gaza Strip (about 2.2 million people) has been classified as IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) Phase 3 or above (crisis or worse), and;

**WHEREAS**, until a ceasefire is achieved, humanitarian aid cannot reach all people in need. In order to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, both sides must agree to any ceasefire, and the ceasefire must be guaranteed by the physical presence of international partners who have a vested interest in seeing peace and stability in the region, and;

**WHEREAS**, the United States federal government holds immense diplomatic power, and a ceasefire should be the highest priority to prevent the loss of any more innocent civilian lives. At least 64 members of Congress have publicly called for a ceasefire in Gaza, and;

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities across the nation, including Cudahy, San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond, California; Wilmington, Delaware; Carrboro, North Carolina; Providence, Rhode Island; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Madison, Wisconsin; Dane County, Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin have passed resolutions calling for a ceasefire, and;

**WHEREAS**, there are Muslim, Jewish, Palestinian, and Arab residents who call Fitchburg, Dane County, and Wisconsin home and are personally and emotionally affected by this conflict, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fitchburg Common Council calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and urgent political action both to de-escalate the crisis and to prioritize truth, reconciliation, restitution, and the building of a future for the Israeli and Palestinian people, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fitchburg Common Council urges support for an immediate release of all hostages and cessation of hostilities toward civilians by all parties in this war, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fitchburg Common Council urges the Biden Administration and elected Senate and Congress members to oppose additional funding for military action against Israelis and Palestinians in this war, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fitchburg Common Council urges the U.S. government to facilitate immediately the sending of humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and medical supplies, into Gaza, and;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the City Clerk to President Biden, Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and Congressional Representative Mark Pocan.

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

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Julia Arata-Fratta, Mayor

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Tracy Oldenburg, City Clerk