


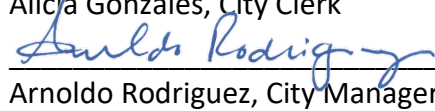


## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**Approved by:**



Alicia Gonzales, City Clerk



Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

**Council Meeting of:** February 7, 2024

**Agenda Number:** E-2

**SUBJECT:**

Proclamation Affirming Madera's Commitment and Support for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in all of Palestine

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Minute Order approving a Proclamation Affirming Madera's Commitment and Support for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in all of Palestine

**SUMMARY:**

The City Council, during its regular meeting on August 2, 2023, adopted a policy governing the guidelines for City-issued Ceremonial Documents. This policy establishes the framework for the issuance of proclamations, ensuring a systematic and transparent process.

On December 20, 2023, the Council approved the 2024 List of Annual Proclamations, outlining the scheduled commemorations for the year. However, the policy allows for proclamations not identified on this list to be considered on a case-by-case basis, with a written request required 45 days before the requested presentation date.

In this context, Mr. Omair Javaid submitted a timely request on January 11, 2024, seeking a proclamation for a peaceful resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Significantly, during its meeting on January 17, 2024, the Council, by majority vote, directed staff to agendize the same item for discussion. In an effort to streamline the process, staff consolidated Mr. Javaid's request and Council direction, recognizing their shared focus on the

City issuing a proclamation for a ceasefire. Importantly, Mr. Javaid has expressed understanding and agreement with this approach.

With this unified proposal, staff seeks the Council's direction. If approved, staff will present a Proclamation at the February 21, 2024 Council meeting.

Per the Ceremonial Documents policy, signatures shall be reserved for Councilmembers who vote in the affirmative. For Councilmembers that vote in the negative, their signature block shall be omitted from the ceremonial document unless they notify the City Clerk in writing otherwise at least five business days prior to the meeting at which the Proclamation will be issued.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There were nominal expenses for the preparation of this report or the proclamation. Costs related to custom supplies such as proclamations, certificates, frames, and folders have been purchased and funds were appropriated in the adopted budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Council may direct staff to prepare a proclamation. If the majority vote is in the affirmative, staff will proceed with presenting the Proclamation at the February 21, 2024 Council meeting. In the alternative, Council may consider:

- Deferral for Further Discussion: Council may opt to defer the decision for further discussion, allowing additional time to address specific concerns or gather more information.
- Denial of Proclamation Request: If the majority vote is not in the affirmative or no action is taken, the request will be considered denied.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Email requesting a “Proclamation Affirming Madera’s Commitment and Support for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in all of Palestine” from Mr. Omair Javaid dated January 11, 2024

*a. Requests shall be in writing and made 45 days before the requested presentation date.*

*At a minimum, request shall identify:*

*i. Desired date of issuance*

Feb 7th, 2024

*ii. To whom the Proclamation will be addressed:*

The proclamation will be addressed to the City Council and City of Madera

*iii. The purpose or reason for the Proclamation*

To end the Genocide in Palestine and a call for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine Most importantly to ensure the safety and peace in the region, and to ensure the protection of Palestinian citizens and their right to live peacefully and justly.

*iv. At least three (3), but no more than five (5), descriptive statements about the nature of the event/organization to be recognized.*

1. Close to twenty five thousand Palestinians in Gaza and the West bank have been killed in a matter of weeks, of whom over 60% are children.
2. Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day, with the only remaining hospitals running out of fuel and medical supplies, and over 2 million Palestinians are facing displacement, homelessness, ethnic cleansing and starvation;
3. 2.3 million Palestinians are relying on only 1/3 hospitals which is causing a healthcare crisis.
4. Due to Airstrikes 1.1 million people were forced to flee to the southern part of Gaza.
5. There is an extreme food and water crisis in Gaza.

***v. How or why the recognition has local significance.***

Palestinians are an integral part of this community and are personally, mentally and physically affected by these events. Palestinians are doctors and healthcare workers, lawyers, Pharmacists, entrepreneurs, educators and they have been personally affected by the genocide. Because of their devotion to serving the community, Palestenains also want to be acknowledged and have these atrocities made known.

Please see the below testimonials about how Palestinian families from Madera have been affected:

1. Dr. Theodore Nasar and Family: Retired Obgyn Doctor who practiced in Madera for over 40 years.

“We have been morally, physically and emotionally affected. My family was born in Jafa and our parents' house was destroyed and our land was taken. Then we were displaced to Lebanon. Recently several members of my son in law's family were killed by airstrikes in Gaza.”

2. Dr. Razan Kaileh and Family: Podiatrist who works and lives in Madera.

“ These events have been devastating for the community. We still have family in the West Bank and they are scared for their lives. My Uncle has cancer and cannot complete his treatment because hospitals have been destroyed. It has Created a fear with our family that the airstrikes will also happen in the West Bank as well.”

3. Zakariya (Zak) and Family: Zaks Security

"I am Palestinian and my family had to leave Jerusalem in 1948 when their homes were destroyed and their lands were taken. I am mentally disturbed and so sorry for the people and especially the babies."

*vi. Who will attend the City Council meeting to accept the Proclamation and anticipated number of participants: 50 people*

Madera Islamic Center

-Sheikh Zia Rehman (Pastor)

-Omair Javaid (OutReach Coordinator)

and

- Yasir Amireh Founder Palestine Liberation Group

*b. If consistent with these guidelines, requests shall be scheduled by staff for Council consideration at the next available City Council meeting.*

*c. At a regular or special City Council meeting, the Council may consider the request and provide direction to staff to proceed with a Proclamation by majority vote. If there is no action taken or the majority vote is not in the affirmative, the request is considered Denied.*

*d. If approved by the City Council at the initial meeting, The Mayor or their designee will present the Proclamation at a subsequent regular or special City Council meeting.*

*e. Signatures shall be reserved for Councilmembers who vote in the affirmative. For Council members that vote in the negative, their signature block shall be omitted from the ceremonial document unless they notify the City Clerk in writing otherwise at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting when the Proclamation will be issued.*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF MADERA

RESOLUTION affirming Madera's Commitment and Support for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in all of Palestine

WHEREAS, the City of Madera, believes that all life is precious and that we stand united against violence; the City of Madera advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and , 67% of American voters support a permanent ceasefire, according to an October 20th, 2023 'Data For Progress' poll, and want to see the U.S. leverage its diplomatic relationships "to prevent further violence and civilian deaths"; and

WHEREAS, More than 32 thousand Palestinians in Gaza and the West bank have been killed in a matter of weeks, of whom over 60% are children. Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day, with the only remaining hospitals running out of fuel and medical supplies, and over 2 million Palestinians are facing displacement, homelessness, and starvation; and international organizations like Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Rescue Committee, and many others have made a call for a permanent ceasefire in order to prevent the further loss of life of civilians and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madera recognizes that the current crisis takes place within a long history and affirms that, for a pathway to lasting peace and justice to be developed, the root causes of the crisis need to be addressed.

WHEREAS,

**RESOLVED that the City of Madera supports and joins other cities in calling on our Congress Members to demand: an immediate permanent ceasefire; release of all hostages, the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; and the respect for international law; and calls for a resolution that protects the security of all civilians;**

FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent throughout city councils in the San Joaquin Valley, to the offices of Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, State Senator Anna Caballero, Representative John Duarte, Governor of California Gavin Newsom, Senator Laphonza Butler, Senator Alex Padilla, President Joe Biden, and Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to end violence.

Signed this 17th day of January 2024 on behalf of the entire city council.  
Santos Garcia Mayor of the City of Madera