

From: [Naa-Sakle Akuete](#)
To: [PDR Land Use Admin](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Resident Opposed to Ellwood/Floyd Special Use Permit Application
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 1:31:51 PM

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Hello!

Hope you're doing well. My family and I live at [REDACTED] and have been here for four years. This summer, we received a notice that a developer is applying for a SUP for a parking lot between Floyd and Ellwood, a parking lot my property directly borders.

I am firmly against this SUP as I have serious concerns around the developer and needs of the surface lot. This developer has not maintained his property over the past several years and when the developer went ahead and paved the lot they did it so poorly that instead of water running off into the large storm drain in the alley, it all pools in the middle of the lot and collects mosquitos and debris. Between their lack of action in the past to upkeep and maintain this lot, and their lack of ability to even pave it properly I have serious concerns about ensuring any tenants use this lot appropriately.

There are a number of families on this block with young children, myself included, and adding additional traffic with non-local residents will not add to the safety of the area.

Second, there is no need for this lot. All the surrounding blocks are non-permitted and we personally have never struggled to find parking.

Also in the Richmond 300 Master Plan RVA is looking to get rid of surface parking as we already have an abundance.

Lastly, while this does add a few EV charging stations I would be hard pressed to find someone who buys an EV that does not have charging at their personal residence. If someone who may work in the area is looking for a place to charge, there are 3 additional EV charging stations within a 1/2 mile radius from here. Adding these few to a private lot down an alley does not solve any problems that exist today.

Please take into consideration what myself and others are sharing. This is a serious concern for us and our families as we want what is best for Richmond and its residents.

Thank you for your time,
Naa-Sakle

From: [Joyce Fiedler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Closure of Boulevard Bridge due to weather
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:24:52 AM

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Fully understand why bridge is closed. Please find a way to let people know before they arrive on Westover Hills Blvd. THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WHEN THEY DRIVE FASTER THAN USUAL THRU THE NEIGHBORHOOD MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME. SOMEONE IS GOING TO GET HURT

From: [Ephraim Seidman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: To members of the Richmond City Council
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:25:33 AM
Attachments: [RVA City Council - 22 Jan 24.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Please pass on my enclosed comments to the members of the Richmond City Council before this evening's meeting.

Thank you.

Regards,
Ephraim
ER Seidman



22 January 2024

Dear members of the Richmond City Council,

It has come to my attention that pro-Hamas & pro-Palestinian advocates are again attempting to pressure Richmond City Council to consider a ceasefire resolution regarding the current conflict in Gaza.

First let me state that international politics are not what I want my City Council to get involved with. As a 30+ year RVA resident, I want my City Council to work on things that impact me, my neighbors, my neighborhood, and my City. Any discussions about a ceasefire resolution are the work of our federal government, **not** Richmond City Council.

Second, much of what you will hear regarding a call for a ceasefire is false, inaccurate, and lacks any context. As emotional and tragic as civilian losses in Gaza are, the root cause for all the death and destruction in Gaza are the responsibility of Hamas.

Hamas is to blame for all the destruction and pain in Gaza as well as in Israel. There already was a ceasefire in effect on the morning of 7 October. Hamas broke that ceasefire with a savage, horrific, inhumane attack on Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists - on anyone that was in the area of the Gaza/Israel border that morning.

Let us not forget what happened on October 7th with Hamas' ISIS-style barbarism. Hamas' attack was characterized by unimaginable cruelty: the terrorists indiscriminately tortured, brutalized, disfigured and dismembered the victims. Entire families were killed together, many burned alive in their homes.

In particular, what happened to girls and women at the hands of those jihadist marauding terrorists was unspeakable. So unspeakable that to this day, outside of Israel, hardly anyone is even talking about it.

Thirty-eight Americans were killed during Hamas's terror onslaught on October 7, and eight US citizens and permanent residents are among the roughly 135 currently being held hostage in Gaza.[1] How could we have just passed 100 days in captivity and the world has forgotten the hostages and moved on?

War is brutal. It is terrible. Israel didn't ask for this war, Israel didn't want this war, and most importantly, Israel did not start this war. But Israel must finish this war. Sadly, war can be lawful... and still awful.

No modern military has faced 12,000 plus rockets being launched over their heads at their homes while conducting their war/battle/operation.

Unlike in other wars, the Hamas strategic goals are **not** to hold terrain or defeat Israel's military but to sacrifice their civilians (so not human shields, but human sacrifices) to cause the international community to force Israel to stop their counter-attack.

And as tragic as civilian losses are in Gaza, it should be noted that no casualties numbers coming out of Gaza can be verified. The Health Ministry in Gaza, run by Hamas, also includes in its numbers Hamas terrorists killed fighting Israel (presently over 9,000 in Gaza, plus the 1,000+ killed in Israel on 7 October[2]), civilians killed by misfired rockets launched by the Hamas terror group that fall within Gaza (it is estimated that of the 12,000 rockets fired at Israel, up to 20% fell short into Gaza causing untold casualties [3]), civilians killed due to the collapse of building built over the tunnel city under Gaza that Hamas has built, civilians killed by Hamas trying to flee battle zones, and even civilians that have died from natural causes.

So more than 50% of those killed have been terrorists, compared to about 10% in other conflicts, so Israel has been about 5 times as efficient as typical armies in killing enemy combatants rather than civilians.[4]

In fact, when compared to other wars, there is a similar or much higher number of civilian casualties. In the recent Yemen-Saudi war, there were at least 150,000 direct war deaths and 377,000 casualties.[5] Between 160,000 and 600,000 died in the Tigray war,[6] and up to 500,000 people have died in the Ukraine war.[7]

And the devastation of so many homes in Gaza? Hamas had booby-trapped “every other house,” in the words of IDF officials. Despite the IDF’s efforts and its repeated pleas to noncombatants to leave, the bombardment led to high numbers of civilian casualties from within whose ranks Hamas gunmen fight in civilian clothes.[8]

Hamas used over 6,000 tons of concrete and 1,800 tons of steel to build the tunnels in Gaza. Just think of how much could have been done with those tens of millions of dollars of foreign aid that that in no way helped the people of Gaza.[9]

This is a just war against a threat not just to Israel, but to all of civilization. Hamas says it, we in the West are next.

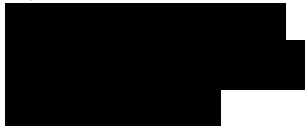
There is a danger of passing such a divisive resolution, which is filled with anti-Israel talking points and does not acknowledge the role of Hamas in committing atrocities on October 7th or talk about releasing hostages. Such a resolution would do **nothing** to help the people in Israel and Gaza, and would only serve to divide our city and increase antisemitism.

So the bottom line? This is not the work of Richmond City Council.

Thank you.



Ephraim Seidman



**Open Comment Period
Richmond City Council
January 21, 2024
Amy Melnick-Scharf,
Board Member, Jewish Community Federation of Richmond**

Good evening, MY NAME IS AMY MELNICK SCHARF AND I LIVE ON SUNSET AVENUE IN CARILLON NEIGHBORHOOD. I ALSO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION OF RICHMOND. I WANT TO THANK ALL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONSTANT FOCUS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND. YOUR WORK TO KEEP ALL CITY RESIDENTS SAFE, PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US, IMPROVE ACCESS TO HOUSING AND ACCESS TO A QUALITY EDUCATION IS COMMENDABLE. WE HAVE MANY MORE CHALLENGES FACING OUR CITY.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU DEFER TAKING ANY ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MATTERS. I ASK CITY COUNCIL TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING YOUR PRECIOUS TIME TO TRY AND SOLVE THE MIDEAST CRISIS – THE WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS.

THERE ARE OTHERS HERE WHO DISAGREE WHO CONTINUE TO PETITION, I WOULD SAY HARASS, CITY COUNCIL TO PASS A DIVIVISE, RHETORIC FILLED, ONE SIDED RESOLUTION WHICH RABBI MIRVIS HAS CALLED : “A PERVERSE MORAL INVERSION – CLAIMING ISRAEL IS COMMITTING GENOCIDE”. And what I believe will foment hate against the Jewish residents of Richmond.

If there is a genocidal force in this war, IT IS HAMAS. FULL STOP.

WE HEARD 2 WEEKS AGO IN THIS ROOM A DEAFENING AND CRUSHING SILENCE ABOUT THE ATROCITIES HAMAS HAS INFLICTED ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS FROM NOT JUST ISRAEL BUT FROM OTHER NATIONS AS WELL, AND THE PLEDGE FROM HAMAS – THE PROMISE TO REPLAY OCT 7 OVER AND OVER UNTIL ISRAEL AND ALL JEWS THEREIN ARE WIPED OFF THE MAP. THIS IS PURE EVIL AND IT IS ANTISEMITISM. CALL IT BY ITS NAME.

MAYA ANGELOU SAID IT BEST: WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS YOU WHO THEY ARE. BELIEVE THEM.

OCT 7TH

As you know, Hamas, the terror organization that controls the Gaza Strip, attacked Israel on October 7th in what may go down in modern history as one of the most brutal, barbaric, depraved acts of collective violence. Women were gang-raped and mutilated, children were murdered in front of their parents, and parents in front of their children. HUNDREDS OF YOUNG People were slaughtered at a music festival and burnt alive in their homes. Children were tied up and slaughtered like animals; some were left with their heads detached from their bodies.

More than 130 people, including women, children, and the elderly, remain hostages in Gaza, serving as human shields to protect the perpetrators of this massacre.

IF THE CITY COUNCIL IS GETTING INTO THE BUSINESS OF PASSING RESOLUTIONS – LETS WORK TOGETHER TO CONDEMN THE ATROCITIES OF OCT 7TH AND ASKING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES INCLUDING FORMER RICHMONDER, HERSH GOLDBERG-POLIN, AGE 23.

HAMAS proudly broadcast THESE CRIMES to the world-NOW THAT IS clear evidence of dehumanization of Jews.

WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS YOU WHO THEY ARE BELIEVE THEM.

Shortly after October 7th, detractors of Israel began to blame Israel for the attack, questioned the facts despite visual evidence, and praised Hamas as freedom fighters. Their chants sent chills down the spines of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE IN RICHMOND. When they shout “gas the Jews” AT PROTESTS - we know what that means. When they say “globalize the intifada” we know what that means. When they say “from the river to the sea” we know what that means TOO. It means Jews ARE under attack; it means Jews ARE BEING dehumanized; it means Jews HERE IN RICHMOND ARE afraid to leave their homes TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES ON FRANKLIN ST OR GROVE AVE OR WEAR A STAR OF DAVID AROUND THEIR NECK; and ultimately it means Jews WILL BE THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.

The inflammatory rhetoric we hear at protests and HERE DURING PUBLIC COMMENT creates a divisive, dangerous environment that creates fertile ground for antisemitism. The simple enduring fact is that this war would end tomorrow if Hamas released Israel's hostages and laid down THEIR weapons.

CITY COUNCIL: **ALL OF THE MAJOR** JEWISH NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS PEOPLE AGAINST TERRORISTS WHO SOLE MISSION IS THEIR ANHILATION.

I WANT THIS WAR TO END – I WANT THE tragic suffering of innocent Palestinians TO END, SO DO MOST ISRAELIS. HAMAS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CONTINUES TO FIGHT WITHOUT ANY REGARD FOR ITS CITIZENS.

In conclusion, the Jewish community here in Richmond, those that attend synagogue and are involved in our community are opposed to this resolution and implore you to focus on what you have been elected to do – be the good stewards of our beautiful city. Thank you.