

February 7, 2024

I am a former member of the Richmond (Virginia) City Council, having served from 1998 through 2003. I am aware that only a sitting member of Council can patron a proposed resolution. Since I am not aware that a resolution regarding the humanitarian crisis which is ongoing in the Gaza Strip has been proposed or patroned by a member of Council, I am presenting this proposed resolution

With the assistance and input of my students in Civic Responsibilities classes at Al Madina (High) School of Richmond the attached proposed resolution was crafted which we hope a member of the Council will patron. This will trigger a public hearing and then be voted on at a future City Council meeting.

Sa'ad El-Amin, M.A., J.D.

**Proposed City Council Resolution Regarding The
Catastrophic Humanitarian Situation In The Gaza Strip**

WHEREAS the 1949 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide obligates those nations which signed this document not to engage in genocide which is defined as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”.

WHEREAS the United States signed this on 11 Dec 1948 and Israel signed it on 17 Aug 1949 and on 9 Mar 1950; and

WHEREAS there is an ongoing catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip causing great suffering of the Palestinian civilian population which began in October 2023 and continues unabated; and

WHEREAS the Palestinian civilian population must be protected consistent with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS there are many persons living in and near the City of Richmond, Virginia who believe that this City should call on the United States to eliminate or alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip; and

WHEREAS this City Council agrees that the Palestinian civilian population living in the Gaza Strip must be protected consistent with international humanitarian law and

WHEREAS that continuous, sufficient, and unhindered provision of lifesaving supplies and services for civilians trapped inside the Gaza Strip enclave must be allowed into the Gaza Strip to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip,

WHEREAS there is a need for an immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian cease-fire, and for all parties to comply with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS there is a need for the immediate release of Palestinian and Israeli hostages, which should happen without preconditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

That the Council immediately adopt this resolution and thereafter, send it to the President of the United States and the elected representatives from the State of Virginia in the Congress of the United States; and, that this Resolution also be disseminated to the local and national press and media.