



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 8, 2025

SPONSORED BY

Emily Lazzaro, City Councilor, Isaac
Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

25-055 - Resolution to Support the Release of Rumeysa Ozturk

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas Rumeysa Ozturk was an international student with a legal student visa at Tufts University in Medford, and;

Whereas Rumeysa Ozturk's student visa was canceled because she co-wrote an op-ed in 2024 in the Tufts University student newspaper that was critical of the Tufts administration's refusal to acknowledge and stand against the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and;

Whereas the Constitution protects everyone in the United States regardless of immigration status, and;

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution protects the rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and to petition the government, and;

Whereas it is clear that Ms. Ozturk's visa was canceled because of political speech, which is a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution, and;

Whereas it is the obligation of our local, state, and federal government to uphold and protect the rights of our residents, permanent and temporary, all of whom are protected by the United States Constitution;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Medford City Council condemns the abduction of Rumeysa Ozturk by Immigration and Customs Enforcement as unlawful punishment for political speech and acknowledges and condemns that Rumeysa Ozturk is a political prisoner;

Be it further resolved that the Medford City Council calls for the release of Rumeysa Ozturk immediately so that she may resume her studies of child development at Tufts University and her peaceful residence in Somerville;

Be it further resolved that the Medford City Council requests an update from Tufts University on specific policies to protect their students, faculty, and staff from similar abductions by ICE in the future and to protect their community's right to exercise freedom of speech, assembly, and to petition the government;

Be it further resolved that the Medford City Council requests that our partners in local government and our state and federal delegation speak out publicly against the unlawful arrest of a student in our community in violation of her due process rights and in violation of the United States Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None