



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

April 8, 2025

**SPONSORED BY**

George Scarpelli, City Councilor

**AGENDA ITEM**

**25-059** - A Resolution Encouraging Peace, Unity, and Constructive Dialogue on the Israel-Palestine Conflict and Condemning Antisemitism

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

WHEREAS, the City of Medford values diversity, inclusivity, and the peaceful coexistence of all its citizens, regardless of race, religion, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, Medford is home to a vibrant and diverse community, including Jewish, Muslim, and other faith-based populations, who contribute to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our city; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex and longstanding issue, with a history of suffering on both sides, and acknowledges the pain and hardship faced by both Israelis and Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, Medford affirms that the right of Israel to exist and its right to defend itself from violence should be recognized as an important principle of international law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford expresses sorrow over the tragic events of October 7, 2023, when Hamas carried out an attack that led to the loss of over 1,200 lives and the abduction of innocent civilians; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford condemns all acts of violence, including terrorism, and stands with the victims of violence, regardless of their nationality or religious background; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford recognizes that antisemitism is a serious issue with a painful history, and we must stand against all forms of hate and discrimination in our community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford also acknowledges the difficulties faced by Palestinians, including displacement and the lack of a permanent homeland, and supports efforts to find a peaceful resolution to their challenges; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford believes that the path forward in the Israel-Palestine conflict lies in peaceful dialogue, mutual respect, and a commitment to human rights for all individuals, regardless of their ethnicity or religion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford recognizes that while individuals may have differing views on the appropriate responses to the conflict, it is essential to ensure that these differences do not lead to the division of our community or the demonization of any group; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford encourages dialogue and peaceful discussion as the means to foster understanding, and believes that divisive actions, such as divestment or boycotts, may undermine these efforts and should be approached with caution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medford acknowledges the painful history of antisemitism and other forms of hatred, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that such bigotry has no place in our city or in our collective future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Medford City Council:

1. Condemns all forms of hate, including antisemitism, and commits to fostering an environment of respect and understanding for all people, regardless of their background or identity.
2. Affirms the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state and its right to protect its citizens from violence.
3. Encourages continued dialogue and efforts toward a peaceful and just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, where the rights and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians are respected.
4. Supports the people of Medford in engaging in thoughtful, respectful dialogue on this important issue, recognizing the need for understanding and reconciliation between communities with differing viewpoints.
5. Urges caution in considering measures such as divestment or boycotts, and instead encourages actions that promote diplomacy, mutual understanding, and peace.
6. Encourages all citizens of Medford to unite in standing against violence, hatred, and extremism in all forms, while advocating for peace, security, and justice for all people.
7. Supports educational efforts in the community to increase awareness and understanding of the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict, and to promote constructive and respectful discussions on this and other important issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Medford City Council will continue to encourage peace, unity, and understanding, and will work to create opportunities for meaningful dialogue among all members of Medford's diverse community.

## RECOMMENDATION

## FISCAL IMPACT

## ATTACHMENTS

None