

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RESPECTFULLY CALLING ON THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO URGE AN IMMEDIATE DE-ESCALATION AND CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINE AND TO EXPRESS THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE'S SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE FACING GENOCIDAL LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AT THE HANDS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

RESOLUTION NO: _____

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Parker

PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ **PAGE** _____

WHEREAS, 1,200 Israelis were killed by Hamas on October 7th and over 11,000 Palestinians, including over 4,000 children, have been killed by the state of Israel in this escalated conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville mourns the loss of all civilian lives lost from October 7th to the present and also throughout the decades of displacement, occupation, oppression, and blockade endured in Gaza and the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Council stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza, the West Bank, and those in the diaspora who are currently facing collective punishment by the state of Israel, resulting in levels of death and violence unseen in the area in the last 75 years; and

WHEREAS, collective punishment is considered a war crime under international law, and refers to a form of sanction imposed on persons or a group of persons in response to a crime committed by one of them or a member of the group; and

WHEREAS, the state of Israel is engaging in collective punishment against the Palestinian people in Gaza in response to Hamas attacks on Israel; and

WHEREAS, this collective punishment of the Palestinian people includes a mass bombing campaign and military operation as well as the shutting off of all access to electricity, drinking water, food, and humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza by the state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the collective punishment and bombardment of hospitals, schools, and refugee camps of Palestinians by the state of Israel, aided by billions in U.S. taxpayer dollars, is a violation of international law, per Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention,