

which also bans the severe restriction of aid as a punishment in response to the actions committed by a select member(s) of the group; and

WHEREAS, the Gaza strip has been blockaded over the course of 20-plus years, is referred to by a variety of scholars and human rights groups as “the world’s largest open air prison,” and is one the most densely populated places on Earth; and

WHEREAS, Israel's blockade on Gaza has resulted in a 42% unemployment rate, with 84% of the population relying on humanitarian aid, and 60% of Palestinian children suffering from anemia; and

WHEREAS, the UN Relief and Works Agency has reported that 1.6 million Gazans have been displaced, and has corroborated the count of over 11,000 Palestinians killed since October 7th including at least 4,700 Palestinian children; and

WHEREAS, Israel has historically exercised full control of Gaza’s access to drinking water, food, electricity, and humanitarian aid, which has been further restricted since the events on October 7th; and

WHEREAS, the UN says approximately 2 million people in Gaza may soon run out of drinking water and all medical care; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and the broader population of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, Jewish people, and allies across the U.S. who have and are taking part in protests and demonstrations against Israel’s disproportionate counter-assault on Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank have faced harassment, doxxing, and threats of violence, including anti-Arab sentiment, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville condemns the claims that advocacy, protest, and demonstration for Palestine is synonymous with anti-semitic beliefs, and that this serves to exacerbate anti-Arab and Islamophobic sentiments and actions; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville recognizes the conflation of the state of Israel with all Jewish peoples is harmful, and further serves to exacerbate anti-Semitic sentiments and actions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has financially enabled the state of Israel to continue its onslaught and attacks on Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lives are at risk of further starvation, injury, displacement, and death if a cease-fire and end to the blockade is not achieved, and humanitarian aid and support provided immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE: