

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE JANUARY 26, 2024 ORDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

RESOLUTION NO: _____

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Parker
PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ **PAGE**

WHEREAS, all life is precious, and the Council of the City of Knoxville advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville mourns the devastating loss of life among Palestinian and Israeli civilians since October 7, 2023, including the loss of over 140 relatives in Gaza of Knoxville's Palestinian community, and denounces all indiscriminate killing of civilians; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of American voters support a ceasefire, according to an October 20th, 2023 Data For Progress poll, and want to see the U.S. leverage its diplomatic relationships "to prevent further violence and civilian deaths;" and

WHEREAS, On December 29, 2023, the Republic of South Africa filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice (hereinafter "ICJ") against the State of Israel concerning alleged violations in the Gaza Strip of obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (hereinafter the "Genocide Convention"); and

WHEREAS, On January 26, 2024, the ICJ issued provisional measures ordering the State of Israel, in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the Genocide Convention, particularly 1) killing members of the group; 2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; 3) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and 4) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, before October 7, 2023, on average, about 500 trucks entered Gaza every day, carrying aid and commercial goods, including food, water, animal fodder, medical supplies and fuel, and following the order of the ICJ, an average of 105 trucks a day are now allowed to deliver aid to Gaza; and

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2024, South Africa approached the ICJ with an urgent application for the provisional measures the court ordered on January 26, 2024, to be strengthened to prevent a catastrophic famine in the Gaza Strip; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government of the United States possesses significant diplomatic and appropriations powers capable of safeguarding Palestinian and Israeli lives.

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Knoxville calls upon our U.S. Congressional delegation, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives, to join us in:

- 1) Calling upon the Biden Administration to fully comply with its obligations as party to the Genocide Convention and refrain from providing support to Israel that conflicts with the provisional measures issued by the ICJ, including providing weapons and military support that may be used in a manner inconsistent with the ICJ provisional measures; and
- 2) Urging the Biden Administration to use its immense diplomatic and appropriations powers to promptly secure an immediate cessation of any acts or measures capable of
 - a. killing or continuing to kill Palestinians,
 - b. causing serious bodily or mental harm to Palestinians, or
 - c. creating conditions of life for Palestinians that is calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part.

SECTION 2: Upon adoption, the City Recorder is hereby respectfully requested and directed to forward a true and correct copy of this Resolution to U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn, U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty, and U.S. Representative Tim Burchett to apprise them of City Council’s respectful request.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the City requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Council

City Recorder