

**APRIL 16, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

***WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY***

1. **Frank DiBenditti** (Naperville) I support the proposal for a vote on a cease fire resolution. Unfortunately this is an unpopular position in our community. Many fear speaking in support of the resolution as fear being deemed anti-semitic, supporters of terrorists, baby killers and or rapists. I am none of those, I am an American we can criticize foreign nations governments and should be able to do so without fear of doxing, harassed, personal insults or being accused of hate speech. At a peaceful protest in Naperville, cease-fire supporters were harassed, called terrible things by local pro-israel activists who Naperville police had to escort away. There is video of this on social media. I support Israel protecting itself, but to what end? Israel now attacked Iran and the US should not be involved in that spread of violence. Naperville is a peaceful town and we should support a peace agreement and cease-fire resolution. Thank you
2. **Rima Imburgia** (Naperville) Women's Leadership Collaborative - I support the humanitarian ceasefire resolution already submitted. Resolution included return of hostages from October 7 attack and those taken prior to that date. Bring this to a vote and pass it. This is a humanitarian request to end suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis and their families located here in Naperville. I am against ANY funding in the form of my Naperville, Illinois & federal tax dollars to support Israel militarily. An active genocide is being committed NOW. I will not be a bystander and neither should you. Please choose humanity over politics.
3. **Kasey Huff** (Oswego) I support the ceasefire resolution and wish for Naperville City Council to bring it to a vote and pass it." I am against ANY funding in the form of my local/federal tax dollars to support Israel militarily. A genocide is being committed NOW. I will not be a bystander and neither should you...
4. **Awad Sifri** (Naperville) I support the ceasefire resolution and wish for Naperville City Council to bring it to a vote and pass it. I am against ANY funding in the form of my local/federal tax dollars to support Israel militarily. A genocide is being committed NOW. I will not be a bystander and neither should you. Thank you for your service for our community.
5. **Abby Bingham** (Naperville) I am writing to you to express my relentless support for my Palestinian neighbors and friends and to again encourage the council to add a Gaza ceasefire resolution to the new business agenda tonight.  
After more than 6 months of near constant onslaught with bombs, missiles, snipers, white phosphorous, forced starvation and displacement of millions of indigenous Palestinians, we must finally, and minimally, in our capacity as fellow human beings, send a clear message to higher levels of government that we do not accept the genocide occurring in Gaza.  
Naperville residents have appeared before this council for weeks, pleading for this statement, a small gesture to show solidarity with an oppressed community. This council has also had to unfortunately endure the outright lies of an opposition that is a self-centered, discriminatory, propaganda-driven machine. Please, do not give time or credence to this fear mongering. Let our words provide you with the courage and

support you need to be the loud voice to show the desperately needed support for Palestinian lives in Gaza.

6. **Tatiana Sifri** (Naperville) I support the ceasefire resolution and wish for Naperville City Council to bring it to a vote and pass it.
7. **Nancy Meyer** (CA) Women's Leadership Collaborative - Please bring the ceasefire resolution to a vote as a show of support for the ending of retaliatory action against innocent civilians in Gaza by the state of Israel. all we want is citizen voices heard from all avenues open to us which includes local governments across the country. we stand for peace, for the end of the war return of hostages, resumption of aid through UNWRA and a negotiated settlement.
8. **Samroz Jakvani** (Naperville) - I Support a resolution for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and call on you as our elected officials to represent this sentiment and call to action to the highest level possible, and at the very least through the actions of this body.
9. **Rhoda Sifri** (Naperville) - Last night, we heard 2 American doctors who were recently in Gaza and were again reminded of the suffering - even genocide taking place. Unfortunately, we hear more details from European news than we hear in U.S. news - print & media. PLEASE bring it to a vote and support a CEASEFIRE. Thanks for your time, patience & consideration.
10. **Reem Townsend** Naperville United for Ceasefire - I'm writing to encourage the board to pass a ceasefire resolution in Gaza. Those who are opposed to a resolution that calls for an ending to killing civilians, calling for the release of hostages, and wanting humanitarian aid and food to Palestinians are not good representatives of any community, let alone Naperville. If Naperville wants to be a nice place to live, it needs to stand against genocide. Don't listen to hateful people that want more innocent children to die. Listen to your Conscience. Any decent person should say "this needs to stop" and work towards doing anything and everything to stop it. Being silent only helps the murder and destruction continue. Palestinians deserve better. We are people too.
11. **Mir Rizwan Ali** (Glen Ellyn) - There are many community members who have been negatively impacted by the ongoing genocide taking place in Gaza. The city should pass a ceasefire resolution to show that they are against the indiscriminate killing of women, children and civilians.
12. **Jessica Dyer** (Westmont) - Israel, with the help of the United States, has killed over 34,000 Palestinians, decimated entire families, caused unspeakable trauma to those surviving, and destroyed cultural heritage sites important to the collective identity of the Palestinian people. We need an immediate ceasefire which includes the release of all hostages and prisoners, and allows for the delivery of desperately needed aid to all areas in Gaza. Our federal government is failing us and continuing to send money and weapons to Israel for further death and destruction. Local government has the power to pressure our federal representatives to DO something. Please do the right thing for our community and for humanity, and pass a ceasefire resolution!
13. **Asma Nizamuddin** (Bloomingdale) - I grew up in Naperville in the 80's and have always considered my upbringing to be very unique and always cherished. My parents still own the house that I grew up in. I wore hijab to Naperville North high school and I was always treated very kindly. Naperville has a legacy of appreciating diversity. It is vital that Naperville shows its commitment to its community and stands up for the rights of humanity. Your voice in this work that we live in will show that the community cares for

the humanity of not only its people but for the humanity of the world. This issue will not divide your community but will bring it together. As people of all faiths stand for equality and justice to all.

14. **Hanna Grace Hernandez** (Bolingbrook) - I unequivocally support a resolution from Naperville calling for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Recent events, particularly the tragic murder of American aid workers by the Israeli Military, underscore the urgent need for de-escalation in the Middle East. The current trajectory risks entangling America in an unnecessary, costly, and senseless war. Naperville must heed the voices of its residents, particularly those from the Palestinian community who express profound concerns about their safety and security within our community. By passing this resolution, Naperville sends a clear message: we stand with our residents, we hear their fears, and we prioritize their safety and sense of belonging above all else. Let us unite in advocating for peace, justice, and the protection of innocent lives in Gaza and beyond.
15. **Lauren Reyes-Yu** (Naperville) Naperville United for Ceasefire - As a resident of Naperville, I'd like to implore the city council to pass a Permanent Ceasefire Resolution. I believe that passing one would move both our state and national governments to action as well as send a message that Naperville is indeed a place where people of all ethnicities, cultures, religions, and backgrounds can call home. As a Latina who grew up here as a child, I can say with my own experience that I did not always feel welcome here. Passing a Permanent Ceasefire Resolution would have a positive impact on our community and would allow Naperville to be seen as leaders in standing up to global injustice.
16. **Faiza Khan** (Bolingbrook) - As a concerned citizen of Bolingbrook that lives close to the edge of Naperville, this is a place where I often spend my time. Passing a ceasefire resolution for Gaza should not be this hard, this is a symbolic but important resolution that I urge the council members to pass. How many more lives need to be lost in order to recognize that a genocide is being committed in our name? With our tax dollars - money that can be used to fund schools and healthcare. I urge the members to pass a resolution swiftly and stand on the right side of Justice.
17. **Eakta Gill** (Naperville) NU4C, PAC - I would like to encourage the city council to bring a resolution for ceasefire in Gaza to the table and to vote on this matter. It is a matter of principle and public safety both at home and abroad.
18. **Annan Shehadi** - Local issues are connected to international issues, especially with regards to our tax dollars being used to fund Israel's genocide of the Palestinians. Naperville should stand on the right side of history by supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. This not only stop tens more thousands of innocent people being slaughtered, but it also brings the Israeli hostages home to their families. There is no good reason not to support a ceasefire! Follow in the footsteps of other nearby cities passing ceasefire resolutions and show that Naperville stands on the side of humanity — ALL of humanity.
19. **Osama Elkhatib** (Naperville) - I have been a part of the Naperville community for over 20 years. The fact that so many constituents are invested in this issue makes it a Naperville issue. The mayor and city council are our representatives and should be given an opportunity to vote on a topic important to so many Naperville residents. I believe a ceasefire resolution (calling to stop the killing of civilians and release of all hostages) by Naperville can influence the federal government to do the same. This is an

urgent matter as people are actively starving and dying. We have to do anything we can to stop the violence.

20. **Joan Murray** (Naperville) - I have observed the bullying going on in social media of those locally who support a cease fire. It needs to stop. I didn't want to come and speak in person because of the bullying of speakers by local PACs and activists. I support a cease fire resolution and would like to see the city council vote on it. It is obvious the public agrees as there have been so many Naperville residents speaking publically in support of it. Please vote for Peace
21. **Jean Kokes, PHD** (Washington Island, Wisconsin) - As a former business owner in Naperville and a present land owner, I strongly support our community to take a stand and vote for a permanent cease fire in the Gaza-Israel war.
22. **Dr Renee Garrick** (Matteson) - Good Day Council Members of Naperville~ I am writing to earnestly request the City of Naperville bring to the table for a vote and then pass the Resolution to Cease Fire in Gaza. I wholeheartedly support this action. I am firmly against Naperville supporting military action against citizens, workers and visitors Gaza. It is free of doubt and now my firm belief that the militaristic action perpetrated by Israel is genocide. Innocent children, women, seniors, humanitarian workers, schools homes, hospitals, places of worship are being destroyed free of consciousness. This is a horror. While I am not a resident of Naperville, my practice is in this great city that surely can be better and remain one of the noted best places to live in our country. I currently have many clients and colleagues who live here. It is not solely important the address as we all are citizens of this world. We visit, import-export, connect in sundry ways. This is far from a political stance it is Humanitarian. I urge you to be representative of the best Naperville and by extension, this world has to offer and set a clear, demonstrative example. Bring the Resolution to the table and vote for a Cease Fire. Thank you...
23. **Katalina Rodriguez** (Bolingbrook) Naperville United for Ceasefire - After almost 7 months and over 30,000 Palestinian civilians being murdered (of which over 14,000 are children) we need to stop and use our voices in any way we can to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire, release of all hostages and detainees (thousands who are children being held without due process) and immediate humanitarian aid to Gaza. We are watching a man made famine take the lives of dozens of children and all has escalated to a full on genocide of Palestinian people. Please stand up and pass a resolution that can be sent to our state and federal representatives. It has been the personal request and directive of senator Foster to get local support for ceasefire to make him move to do the same. Please do your part!
24. **Daniel Corral** Naperville United for Ceasefire - I am writing to express my support for a resolution that calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all Israeli and Palestinian hostages, and for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza and the West Bank immediately.  
I am involved because my taxes help pay for this genocidal war, and because my government is involved in a multitude of ways.  
Please use the power that we entrust you with and pass a Resolution for a Ceasefire.  
Thank you.
25. **Kate Kownacki** (Chicago) - I urge City Council to take into consideration the many voices of Palestinian and other Naperville residents, many of which have family suffering in Gaza, and are calling for a Ceasefire. Furthermore, a Ceasefire resolution acts as a public denouncement of rampant Islamophobia facing residents, and it should be the

duty of City Council to ensure that all Naperville residents feel safe, welcome, and supported.

26. **Salek Khalid** (Aurora) - I urge the council to pass a resolution that calls for (1) an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, (2) release of all hostages and prisoners unjustly held, and (3) uninhibited flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.