

JUNE 4, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **Joan Murray** (Naperville) I was at the Naperville Memorial Day parade and was shocked that the entire “right wing” of the city council dais (except for the Mayor) was nowhere to be seen. Did they have better things to do on Memorial Day? Shame on Josh McBroom, Jennifer Bruzan-Taylor, Paul Leong and Nate Wilson for being no shows. Thank you, Benny White, Allison Longenbaugh and Ian Holzhauer, for representing city council, the City and for your leadership in honoring those who have given their lives in service to our country.

2. **Jen Hannon** I’m writing today in support of the City of Naperville providing financial support to NCTV17.
When I was younger, my dream job was to be the Morning News Anchor in San Diego, California! After going to college in Naperville, NCTV17 was the obvious choice to start. NCTV17 was my first real job out of college, and my years there shaped my entire professional career.
When I graduated in 2007, I started my career as a part time news and sports reporter. After several years covering Naperville sports like football, softball and cheerleading, I transitioned and focused fully on news. Over the years, I became the News producer, leading a team of reporters and cameramen; and anchor, bringing the news to Naperville residents.
While I didn’t stay in television beyond NCTV17, the experience I learned still helps me in my current role.
After seven years working in television, I transitioned to a different career path. I spent three years working as Communications Manager at Naperville CUSD 203, then left the Naperville area and spent three years as Director of Community Relations at Lincoln-Way 210.
In 2021, I made a major career change and entered the corporate world as Community Relations Advisor for CITGO Petroleum Corporation Lemont Refinery. After a year and a half, I was promoted to my current role as Public Affairs Manager and manage a team of three. Our department maintains all internal and external communications, and I serve as the Public Information Officer. We are also responsible for many fundraisers and volunteer events. I sit on a number of community boards throughout the region.
With working in the communications field, many of the skills I learned I still utilize today! Also, many of the connections I made at NCTV are still relevant in my career today. I’m currently in a very public facing role, and I still interact with many folks I met through my time in the Naperville community - I just saw Mayor Wehrli a few weeks ago!
And I still edit videos from time to time!
Thank you!

3. **Samee Ali** (West Chicago) Moving on from our un-met requests to even discuss a ceasefire resolution, we now demand that Naperville fully divests from any company which profits from the ongoing genocide in Palestine — specifically Boeing, to which Naperville’s tax dollars are invested, in the form of corporate bonds. Boeing manufactures equipment & weaponry that is directly being used to murder, disable, orphan thousands of Palestinians, & eradicate a people’s history and culture in Gaza. As Naperville’s “highest priority,” our local public safety & comfort is not the be-all and end-all. We — city council members included, whether you like it or not — are global citizens whose responsibility it is to speak out loudly against oppression & injustice

especially when our government is in direct support of the merciless violence, which the majority of Americans are actually desperately calling for an end to after... 242 DAYS.

4. **Lauren Reyes-Yu** (Naperville) My name is Lauren Reyes-Yu. I grew up in Naperville and now live here with my own family. I am submitting a written comment tonight to make my support known for Naperville's divestment from Boeing. The Boeing Company supplies various weapons to the IOF, including combat aircrafts, missiles, and bombs. These weapons are being used daily to murder Palestinian civilians. To date, more than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza. An overwhelming number of them have been children.

After knowing this information, it would be heartless for Naperville to continue partaking in the funding of this genocide. Let's make it known that we value the safety and well-being of all people, not just those who are privileged enough to live within Naperville city limits. Let's divest from Boeing now.
5. **Carol Tritschler** (Naperville) My name is Carol Tritschler and I am a Naperville resident. As a Christian, I believe the Naperville City Council needs to endorse a resolution that includes an immediate permanent ceasefire in Gaza, international efforts to provide social and economic justice for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and frees all hostages held by combatants in the current war.

Recently, here in downtown Naperville, a group of us commemorated the 76th anniversary of Nakba Day. As explained by the Electronic Intifada, in 1947-49, more than 500 Palestinian villages were destroyed and some three-quarters of the Palestinian population – between 750,000 and 1 million Palestinians – were killed, expelled at gunpoint or otherwise forced to flee. Palestinians refer to this period as the Nakba, “disaster” or “catastrophe” in English”. The current Palestinian refugee population is estimated at more than 6 million”. The illegal occupation and oppression of the Palestinians continues and has escalated essentially into a second Nakba.

I follow Democracy Now, where they explained that last Friday, President Biden finally announced the proposed terms of a ceasefire resolution, calling it an Israeli proposal. However, initial reports are that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu rejected a permanent ceasefire and stopping the fighting. We need to cut off weapons to Israel and make it harder for Israel to reject the deal.

This year, I have been participating in webinars entitled “Confronting Christian Zionism” sponsored by Friends of Sabeel, the Presbyterian Church, and other organizations. To recap briefly in my own words, presenters have explained that Christian Zionism is a settler-colonialism model. It is based on genocide, expulsion, racism, and discrimination toward the Palestinians. Political conclusions are being unjustly used to seize Palestine for Jewish settlers with backing of the United States. Christian Zionists assert that good Christians should support US and Israeli governments unconditionally. Instead of Zionism, we need to unite with a message of love, equal rights for all regardless of religion, and respect for international law.

As explained by Jewish Voice For Peace in one of many action alerts, on May 26, the Israeli military bombed displaced families huddled in tents, killing at least 45 people. Human beings, including babies, were burned alive and torn apart. This is just one example of genocide. Israel is able to carry out violence against unarmed Palestinian families because of funding and weapons from the U.S. government. We are demanding from Congress and President Biden an arms embargo and an end to military funding to Israel.