

FEBRUARY 20, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **Asil Elkhatib** (Naperville) - What's happening in Gaza is a genocide. There is no denying it. Our taxpayer money is funding it. The US is complicit in carpet bombing and killing of over 12,000 children.
2. **Osama Elkhatib** (Naperville) - I am requesting that a ceasefire resolution be added to the current or upcoming meeting. The war on Gaza is one that has a deep impact on the Naperville community and humanity as a whole. Passing support for a ceasefire resolution will show that the local government is listening and supports what the peace loving people of Naperville stand for. It reaffirms Naperville's mission of safety, belonging, and compassion for all. This is extremely vital for the Palestinian, Muslim, Jewish, and minority groups in Naperville who have been directly or indirectly affected and feel like their calls for peace and an end to fighting have been ignored.
3. **Sabrina Hamdan** (Naperville) - Request a ceasefire resolution added to the current and or any upcoming Naperville city council meeting
4. **Peter Kozak-Rivera** (Bolingbrook) - I am writing to you as a concerned friend and frequent visitor of Naperville- I am also writing as a member of the Jewish community. The purpose of my letter is to express my deep concern and heartfelt support for a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the safe return of all hostages. As a Jew, witnessing the ongoing conflict in the region causes me profound pain. While my heart aches for the suffering of my fellow Jews, it distresses me even more to witness any group, including Jewish people, inflicting suffering on others. The disproportionate violence inflicted on Gazan civilians, particularly innocent children, is nothing short of horrifying. It is crucial to acknowledge the suffering on all sides of the conflict and to realize that it neither began or ended on October 7th.
I understand the complexity of the situation, and I do not condone the actions of groups like Hamas. However, I also recognize that the conditions in Gaza have contributed to the emergence of such groups. The Israeli government's policies have played a role in creating an environment where organizations like Hamas could arise, making it inevitable in the desperate conditions of Gaza.
The primary point I wish to emphasize is that supporting a ceasefire and expressing concern for Palestinian civilians is not an act of antisemitism. It is a plea for humanity and compassion. Rejecting a resolution on such grounds would be unjust and only perpetuate the cycle of violence.
Occupation, ethnic cleansing, and the deliberate killing of civilians as a form of collective punishment do not align with my understanding of Judaism. Zionism, when it involves the creation of an exclusive ethnostate, is not reflective of my beliefs. I firmly believe that no one has the right to claim any part of our planet exclusively for one particular group of people.
Some may argue that such a resolution is outside the scope of a village board or that it won't make a difference. But in a time of national crisis, when the Washington establishment refuses to listen to our voices on a national level- over 60% of Americans support an immediate ceasefire- your support for a ceasefire and a commitment to a just and peaceful resolution can act as an amplifier and give us a voice. In Judaism it is taught that to save one life is to save the world. One seemingly small act can have an outsized impact. Let us strive for a world where the dignity and rights of every individual are respected, regardless of their background.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make decisions guided by the principles of fairness, compassion, and a commitment to a better future for all.

5. **Kathy Bridge** (Naperville) - I am sickened by the recent actions and words of Councilman McBroom. His disingenuous sign up for those willing to house migrant families as a 'owning the libs' gotcha, reveals he's not a nonpartisan council member willing to represent all his constituents. Then he lied about there being no takers. Please refer to FOIA. I've been reading his comments on his public Naperville Council Facebook page where he mocks his constituents and it's so juvenile and demeaning. I read the texts between he and Councilwoman Bruzan Taylor saying Scott (our mayor) is having a breakdown about this issue ,lol, and how that's good. I thought we had adults in our City Council. It's so embarrassing as a Naperville resident for over 34 years that this is how our city is being represented locally and nationally in the media. At the very minimum, Councilman McBroom owes our city and council an apology. Please address this in a public manner so that our Council can get on with actually working for the city and not just trying to create even more acrimony amongst citizens. Don't we have enough of that already?Thank you
6. **Ahmed Ebaid** (Naperville) - We urge an immediate halt to hostilities and the prompt delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population.
7. **Maryam Sultan** (Naperville) - It is of the utmost importance that, as American citizens who, knowingly or unknowingly are financially supporting the ongoing genocide of Palestinian people in Gaza, we make a clear stance by calling for a ceasefire. Calling for an end to the unceasing and indiscriminate murder of civilians is not a complicated or controversial stance-it is a human one. As a city, we have the power to join the several other communities that have called to an end of this genocide, the first step of which is calling for a ceasefire. This issue must be put on the agenda for future meetings.

POSITION STATEMENT

O1 Request to overturn the Historic Preservation Commission's denial

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **George Howard** (Naperville) - Dear City Council & Mayor, I respectfully request that you choose option B and deny the appeal request for COA for the Center Street property. It seems that this is a matter of seeking forgiveness for demolition errors and lack of knowledge of historical preservation rather than taking adequate care and oversight by closely following prior HPC and city permit approvals. The decision by HPC should be upheld. petitioners should be precluded from further development of the property. Regardless of your action, the petitioners should be fined based the gross disregard for historical preservation requirements.
2. **Susan Fitch** (Naperville) - I am a resident of the district, a former member of the HPC, was involved in the rewrite of th Guidelines and have applied for COAs for my own home. It is unfortunate that we have reached this situation. It is not the first time a property slated for renovation is effectively demolished. It may not have been malicious, but the City has procedures in place that a licensed contractor should know. The Municipal Code has a provision for sanctions in this instance. I would encourage you to explore the appropriate sanctions prior to moving forward with review or approval.
3. **Mike Tannura** (Naperville) - Dear City Council, In regard to the 223 N Center Street demolition, I strongly support the HPC vote to deny the COA. The demolition of 223 N. Center Street within a COA or permit from the City is an insult to every homeowner and developer in Naperville. Regardless of the condition of the home, homes inside the historic district cannot be torn down without approval from the City. The demolition of this home is a flagrant violation of those rules, and an insult to everyone who follows construction rules in Naperville -- either inside or outside the District. If a severe penalty is not imposed, then the historic district no longer exists.

Thank you,
Mike Tannura
213 N Sleight Street