

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO VIOLENCE BETWEEN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

WHEREAS, The City of Grass Valley, California, stands committed to the Universal truth that all human life is precious, no matter a person's faith, ethnicity, culture, ability, or political or religious affiliations, and that every human being deserves to live a life of peace and dignity; and

WHEREAS, recent and ongoing armed violence against the Palestinian and Israeli people has resulted in the tragic loss of life of Palestinians and Israelis and injuries to many more innocent people on all sides; and

WHEREAS, Palestinians and Israelis both have a right to life, liberty, safety and security; and

WHEREAS, there are a growing number of people on all sides of this tragic conflict who are calling for a ceasefire and new direction, engagement, and negotiations to lead to peace; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government and Members of Congress hold immense diplomatic, military, and financial power that could save Palestinian and Israeli lives and seek a lasting peace, in our time and for all time; and

WHEREAS, the continued violence against the Palestinian and Israeli people and the rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and bigotry across the United States and the world deeply impact the people in our community in Grass Valley, California, many of whom have direct ties to the Israeli and Palestinian region and peoples; and

WHEREAS, Grass Valley, California, with a rich history of advocating for justice and peace, supports the dignity and safety of residents in every community regardless of what crimes any government may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to achieve these permanent goals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is united in protecting Grass Valley, California residents against acts of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, as well as against hate crimes toward people of all faiths and religions, including our Arab, Jewish, and Muslim residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley, California, recognizes the importance of the First Amendment and the fundamental tenets of respect, dignity, and thoughtful civil discourse that are hallmarks of this community, upholding the value of our residents expressing and listening to differing opinions and points of view, especially on subjects where there is disagreement; and

WHEREAS, conflict among ourselves and among our community members can either exacerbate divisions or, if we are willing to engage with each other in difficult and important dialogues, can open doors to opportunities to find solutions that allow us to move forward as one community; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley stands unequivocally against all forms of genocide and ethnic cleansing, recognizing these as crimes against humanity that must be prevented and condemned wherever they occur;

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley stands unequivocally against apartheid and the construction and expansion of illegal settlements and illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, recognizing these actions as violations of international law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, calls on the California Congressional Delegation to advocate for the following actions with regard to the conflict in Gaza and Israel:

1. Call urgently for an immediate, permanent, and unconditional ceasefire, an end to violence in the region, the safe and immediate return of all hostages and unjustly held prisoners, and the complete end to the occupation of all Palestinian territories; and
2. Immediately increase and ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including fuel, water, food, medical supplies, and medical personnel, which are indispensable for the survival of Gaza's civilian population.
3. For all parties to fully comply with national and international law obligations and ensure strict adherence to the Leahy Laws and international humanitarian laws by immediately suspending military aid and weapons transfers to any country or state credibly suspected of committing war crimes or human rights violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Grass Valley, California, condemns all forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli bigotry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, on behalf of Grass Valley, California, the City Council extends condolences to those in our community who lost loved ones, including children and elderly, in the terrorist attack on October 7, 2023, by Hamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, on behalf of Grass Valley, California, the City Council expresses profound sorrow over the loss of Palestinian lives, including children and elderly, by the indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, comprised of leaders of this community encourages all residents to embody the values of this City by seeking, inviting and practicing civil discourse, especially when we disagree, to strengthen our ties as a diverse, multicultural, and welcoming community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Grass Valley at a regular meeting held the 25th day of February, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:

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ABSENT:
NOT VOTING:

Hilary Hodge, Mayor
City of Grass Valley

ATTEST:

Taylor Whittingslow, City Clerk
City of Grass Valley

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael G. Colantuono, City Attorney
City of Grass Valley