



5/27/2025

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN IN SHEET

WELCOME to the City of Grass Valley City Council meeting! Public Comments provide an opportunity for the public to address the City Council on any subject which is not on the agenda but in the jurisdiction of the council. If you wish to speak, please indicate in the appropriate box when you sign in and take the number corresponding to your name. Each individual can have up to 3 minutes of public comment. At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an allotted 30 minutes of general public comments and the remainder of comments will be heard at the end of the agenda. Speakers will be called in order of the numbers given.

When you are recognized by the mayor:

1. Please stand before the podium and give your name and address. (optional)
2. Please limit your comments to three minutes per speaker.
3. If previous speakers have made the same point, you may simply indicate your support or disagreement, unless you have new information.

Thank you for your participation.

#'s	Print Name or N/A	Address (optional)	Self/Business (optional)
1	Lily Marie Mora	11683 Alta Vista Ave GV	Self/neighbors
2	Katherine Thompson	10815 Footwall Dr GV and Up. State Creek GV	Sierra Express Nevada Bicycle Club & County
3	Sam Dudley	_____	Nevada City Bridge
4	Cheryl Shoshana Neel	Grass Valley	
5	Jedidiah Watson		
6	Freedom Cole	Nevada City	self
7	REFUSED TO SIGN		
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Grass Valley City Council

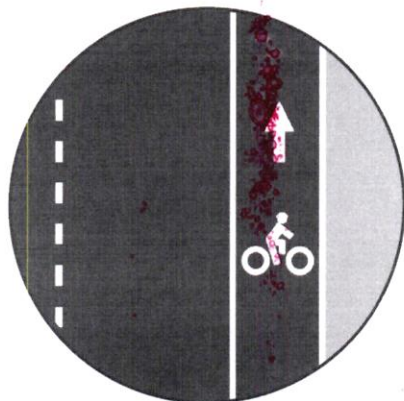
May 27, 2025

Sierra Express Bicycle Club of Nevada County

Support for Improving Bike Safety as Part of East Main Paving Project

- Good evening honorable Mayor and Council members
- Speaker: Katherine Thompson, President, Sierra Express Bicycle Club of Nevada County
sierraexpress.org
 - Report on two things:
 - Our recent Community engagement activities concerning cycling
 - Meeting with City about the Measure E East Main Paving Project
- We ~~also~~ had booths at the May 3 County Recreation Fair and the April 13 Earthfest to promote bike safety. We had a bike safety quiz and we rec'd community feedback.
- The primary feedback we received is the need for a **bicycle connection between Grass Valley and Nevada City—the most logical candidate is East Main and the Nevada City Highway.**
- Regarding the **Measure E East Main Paving Project**, we met with City of Grass Valley on April 24 and presented specific written bike safety proposals which the City is seriously considering. We thank the City for meeting with us and hearing out our proposals. (Please note that much of East Main has existing bike lanes).
- Our proposals deal with restriping to create more of a consistent bike lane for the length of East Main, reducing traffic lane widths, adding bike boxes at intersections and creating more of a separated bike lane using striping and plastic delineators where practical. (Our proposal largely involves striping...no parking removal is involved.)
 - Federal Highways found converting bike lanes to separated bike lanes can reduce serious crashes by up to 53% (Fact Sheet FHWA-SA-21-051)
 - Federal Highways found that decreasing lane width to add a bike lane/bike box as we are suggesting at busy intersections did not result in an increase in crashes or congestion.
 - Federal Highways has specific guidance for repaving projects that highly recommends improving bike lanes as a cost-effective means as improving bike safety. (FHWA Workbook, "Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects").
- In conclusion, we support ^{contributing to} making East Main safer for cyclists as part of the Measure E repaving project. _e

THANK YOU



Safety Benefits:

Converting traditional or flush buffered bicycle lanes to a separated bicycle lane with flexible delineator posts can reduce crashes up to:

53%

for bicycle/vehicle crashes.³

Bicycle Lane Additions can reduce crashes up to:

49%

for total crashes on urban 4-lane undivided collectors and local roads.⁷

30%

for total crashes on urban 2-lane undivided collectors and local roads.⁷



Bicycle lane in Washington, DC.
Source: Alex Baca, Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

For more information on this and other FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures, please visit <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures> and <https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2022-07/fhwas18077.pdf>.

Bicycle Lanes

Most fatal and serious injury bicyclist crashes occur at non-intersection locations. Nearly one-third of these crashes occur when motorists are overtaking bicyclists¹ because the speed and size differential between vehicles and bicycles can lead to severe injury. Many people are not comfortable riding a bicycle because of their fear that this type of crash may occur. To make bicycling safer and more comfortable for most types of bicyclists, State and local agencies should consider installing bicycle lanes. Providing bicycle facilities can mitigate or prevent interactions, conflicts, and crashes between bicyclists and motor vehicles, and create a network of safer roadways for bicycling. Bicycle Lanes align with the Safe System Approach principle of recognizing human vulnerability—where separating users in space can enhance safety for all road users.

Applications

The FHWA's *Bikeway Selection Guide* and *Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects* assist agencies in determining which facilities provide the most benefit in various contexts. Bicycle lanes can be included on new roadways or created on existing roads by reallocating space in the right-of-way through *Road Diets*. Separated bicycle lanes, which use vertical elements—such as flexible delineator posts, curbs, or vegetation—between the bicycle lane and motorized traffic lanes provide additional safety benefits.^{2,3} For a marked bike lane without vertical elements, a lateral offset with marked buffer can help to further separate bicyclists from vehicle traffic.

Considerations

- In order to maximize a roadway's suitability for riders of all ages and abilities, bicycle lane design should vary according to roadway characteristics (number of lanes, motor vehicle and truck volumes, speed, presence of transit), user needs (current and forecasted ridership, types of bicycles and micromobility devices in use within the community, role within the bicycling network), and land-use context (adjacent land uses, types and intensity of conflicting uses, demands from other users for curbside access). Separated bicycle lanes are recommended on roadways with higher vehicle volumes and speeds, such as arterials.
- City and State policies may require minimum bicycle lane widths, although desirable bicycle lane widths

can differ by agency and functional classification of the road, current and forecasted bicycle volumes, and contextual attributes such as topography.

- Studies have found that roadways did not experience an increase in crashes or congestion when travel lane widths were decreased to add a bicycle lane.⁴
- Studies and experience in U.S. cities show that bicycle lanes increase ridership and may help jurisdictions better manage roadway capacity.
- In rural areas, rumble strips can negatively impact bicyclists' ability to ride if not properly installed. Agencies should consider the dimensions, placement, and offset of rumble strips when adding a bicycle lane.⁵
- Bicycle lanes should be considered on roadways where adjacent land use suggests that trips could be served by varied modes, particularly to meet the safety and travel needs of low-income populations likely to use bicycles to reach essential destinations.⁶

1 Thomas et al. *Bicyclist Crash Types on National, State, and Local Levels: A New Look*. Transportation Research Record 673(6), 664-676, (2019).

2 *Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide*. FHWA-HEP-15-025, (2015).

3 (CMF ID: 11296) *Developing CMFs for Separated Bicycle Lanes*. FHWA-HRT-23-025, (2023).

4 Park and Abdel-Aty. *Evaluation of safety effectiveness of multiple cross sectional features on urban arterials*. Accident Analysis and Prevention, Vol. 92, pp. 245-255, (2016).

5 FHWA Tech Advisory *Shoulder and Edge Line Rumble Strips*, (2011).

6 Sandt et al. *Pursuing Equity in Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning*. FHWA, (2016).

7 (CMF ID: 10738, 10742) *Development of Crash Modification Factors for Bicycle Lane Additions While Reducing Lane and Shoulder Widths*. FHWA-HRT-21-012, (2021).

Date: May 13, 2025 - *update May 27, 2025*

To: Mayor Hodge and Members of the Grass Valley City Council

From: Lily Marie Mora

11683 Alta Vista Ave.

Grass Valley, CA 95945-5523

Email: lilymarie@infostations.com

Cell Ph# 530-210-8931

RE: Public Comment- Future land use and boundary extensions of the city limits

Dear Mayor and Council Members

Appreciation—

Thanks for all your efforts to work with the public to make our town a great place to live.

Special thanks to Duane Strawser for the fire abatement work around the Water Treatment Plant and Cell Tower areas. He has been both thorough to keep on task to get the job completed as fire season approaches and thoughtful to address neighbors concerns.

Points of concern & questions —

1. As you work on your Strategic Plan take special care to look at the revitalization of business areas near housing and best use of the open space that we have left. Think park like settings for business and residents / shoppers to live, relax and support the local economy like Mill St.

Generally, look how to develop strong neighborhoods, that support each other through all kinds of situations that will arise in the future.

2. The property surrounding the old Golf course--maybe converting some of the office buildings into Hotels, instead of building the one proposed by Burger King or do a building conversion to housing? Revitalizing those areas without destroying more of our natural beauty that attracts people to our area. Go to Oakland, CA and see what can happen to a city without long term planning. It has a great effect on the economy, the culture and the quality of life / crime rate.

Much of the infrastructure is already there—building, parking, lighting, etc.

Businesses that stand-alone have more difficulty staying in business too.

3. SPIRIT Center Property at the end of Gates Place, maybe Tiny Homes development and Community Garden like proposed at Mautino Park?

4. The Ridge Rd. development that has been at a stands still for a couple of years,

Maybe, Habitat Homes could be built there? Also, developers need to have strict time lines for their development completions, fees for not staying on time or forfeit these half developed properties to the city to resell or get grant funding to finish the projects.

5. Don't extend the City Limits—we don't need more to take care of and /or increase the degrading of the environment or more city sprawl.

6. Work with local Solar Companies to install solar units over parking lots to create more local power independence and jobs for residents, i.e.—Briar Patch, Nev. Co. Government Center, etc.

Thanks for your consideration,

Lily Marie Mora, 70yr. resident of Nevada County and Retired Social Worker

Rescind Resolution 2025-003, End violence Against Jews and Israelis and Restore Accountability and Common Sense to Local Government

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the Grass Valley City Council rescind **Resolution 2025-003, 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**

Introduction

Last Wednesday evening, May 21, 2025, Yaron Lischinsky, 30, and Sarah Milgrim, 26, two Israeli Embassy staffers, were gunned down by an anti-Israel fanatic just a mile away from the U.S. Capitol. As Bari Weiss wrote in The Free Press, “Anyone who cares about the health of this country will be alarmed by the murder—and the increasing popularity of the anti-American, anti-civilizational worldview of their alleged killer.” Yaron was a Christian man from Jerusalem, Sarah a Jewish woman from Kansas. Yaron had purchased an engagement ring for Sarah a few days before. They were meant to fly to Israel just this past Sunday so that she could meet his parents before he proposed. No matter their specific religious beliefs, it is clear that they were murdered because the assassin believed that they were Jewish and/or Israeli.

“Free, free Palestine!” How many times have we heard this slogan reverberate in the City Council Chambers?

It was also shouted by Yaron and Sarah’s killer during and after his acts.

The alleged manifesto of the killer claims, “Those of us against the genocide take satisfaction in arguing that the perpetrators and abettors have forfeited their humanity.”

Accusations that Israel, and by extension, Jews and Israelis in Grass Valley, are acting in derivation of international humanitarian law are enshrined in the Ceasefire Resolution.

“Genocide!” this accusation is inscribed on the clothing and banners of the advocates of Resolution 2025-003 in the City Council chambers and is enshrined in the Ceasefire Resolution.

The manifesto of Yaron and Sarah’s suspected murderer praised Aaron Bushnell, the 25-year-old active-duty U.S. Airman who committed suicide by setting himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C.

Advocates for Resolution 2025-003 also openly praised Bushnell in comments before the City Council.

No, we are not drawing a straight line between the Ceasefire Resolution in Grass Valley and the specific murders of Yaron and Sarah in D.C. But, the inflammatory, malicious and false accusations against the world’s only ethnic Jewish State by the Grass Valley City Council - egged on by anti-Israel activists relying on templates provided by the Hamas-friendly CAIR -

have caused and contributed to the normalization of antisemitism and hate crimes against Grass Valley's Jewish and Israeli community. In other words, it happened in D.C. and it could happen here.

Below is a description of the malicious, inflammatory and false statements in Resolution 2025-003, an explanation as to why the statements are malicious, inflammatory and false, and the harms these statements have caused to the Jewish and Israeli community of Grass Valley. This is followed by a call for the City Council to take accountability for its actions and immediately remediate those harms by rescinding Resolution 2025-003. (See attached Proposed Resolution).

What is Zionism? Is Zionism Racism?

Zionism is defined as the belief that the Jewish people have the right to self-defense and self-determination in their indigenous homeland, Israel. Zionism has a political dimension, but is also embodied in religious Jewish doctrine, in the Torah. Zionism, as properly defined, is not racism. Zionism is not a "settler-colonial project." 89% of Jews in the Bay Area, for instance, consider themselves to be Zionists. Informal surveys in Grass Valley seem to show similar support for Zionism and Israel. (See *References and Further Reading*, below).

What is Antisemitism? Is Criticizing Israel Antisemitic?

At the December 12, 2023 Grass Valley City Council meeting, two antizionist activists tried to re-define the meaning of "antisemitism," claiming it meant not just hatred and fear of Jewish people, but equally applied to Arabs or anyone who has a semitic ethnic background. This is false.

First, the California Attorney General Criminal Justice Statistics Center tracks and publishes an annual hate crime report. The *Hate Crime Report* (2023) separately and independently tracks hate crimes against Arabs as hate crimes on the basis of ethnicity. The *Hate Crime Report* separately tracks hate crimes on the basis of religion, where hate crimes against Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and others are individually tracked. Characterizing all hate crimes against Jews, Arabs and Muslims collectively as "antisemitic" erases the specific and individualized harms to Jewish people.

Second, there are accepted definitions of antisemitism. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism has been adopted by many organizations, government agencies and educational institutions, including as adapted by the U.S. State Department. It provides: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, and toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

A framework for distinguishing between legitimate criticism of Israel and antisemitic antizionism is the "Three D Test": 1) delegitimization of Israel ("Israel does not deserve to exist" "Israel is not a real country" "Israel is a settler-colonial project"); 2) demonization or dehumanization (referring to Jews, Israelis and their supporters as "Zios" "Zio Nazis" "settlers" or "pigs"); and 3) applying double-standards, by requiring of Israel behavior not expected or demanded of any other nation ("Israel does not have the right to defend itself," accusing Israel of

civil rights violations, while refusing to criticize regimes with far worse human rights abuse records, such as Iran, North Korea and Russia). The IHRA provides examples of antizionist speech that is antisemitic. (See *References and Further Reading* below).

In singling out Israel for appropriation, referring to Jews and Israelis with dehumanizing language, demonizing Israel and holding that its very existence is illegitimate and applying a double-standard to Jews and Israel not expected of any other people or nation, the Ceasefire Resolution and the rhetoric of its supporters engages in antisemitic hate speech.

Who speaks on behalf of the Jewish Community?

The proponents of the Ceasefire Resolution on the City Council claimed that the purpose of the resolution was to heal political, social and religious divisions in the community. Yet, some of most inflammatory language of the Ceasefire Resolution was taken from the Council of Arab Islamic Relations (CAIR) *Cease Fire Toolkit*, an Arab and Muslim advocacy organization.

It was also done without input from the majority of the Jewish community; although we do not question the veracity of antizionist advocates of the Ceasefire Resolution who state that they identify as Jews, they are a distinct minority.

Notably, not a single Grass Valley Jewish synagogue or recognized Jewish organization (Jewish Federation, JCRC, etc.) provided input on or endorsed the Grass Valley Ceasefire Resolution. Rather, the record reflects that the Ceasefire Resolution was passed *over the objections of* the Jewish community and its leadership. Peace, unity and dialog cannot be accomplished by one-sided fiat or when the City Council selectively anoints and tokenizes a minority of our community, to the exclusion of the majority of the Jewish and Israeli community.

Does Israel Illegally Occupy “Palestine?”

No. And this accusation as contained in the Ceasefire Resolution is libelous and displays actual malice towards Jewish people and Israelis.

There are repeated references in the Grass Valley Ceasefire Resolution to “Palestinian territory” and “Palestine,” coupled with calls for Israel to return the “illegally occupied” territory. These accusations misread the historical record, endorse false and damaging narratives, and are stated with actual malice, intended to harm the Jewish and Israeli residents of Grass Valley.

This rhetoric is false and malicious for several reasons. First, Israel is a recognized country that gained independence on May 14, 1948 pursuant to a U.N. declaration. Palestine is not a country, and to refer to the territory in terms that implies that it is creates a false equivalency. Rather, Arabs in the region rejected the U.N. partition plan. To this day, there is no “Palestine” – Gaza, Judea and Samaria are not a Palestinian state; rather, in 2005 Israel agreed to allow Gaza, which is part of Israel, to become an Arab-only territory under local rule. The Palestinian Authority operates in a similar fashion in Judea and Samara in Area A.

At best, the status of these regions is highly contested. Yet, despite this complicated history, the Ceasefire Resolution unequivocally describes Israel as occupying Palestinian territory. As espoused in the rhetoric of the proponents of the Ceasefire Resolution at City Council meetings,

Israel (and by extension, Jews and Israelis) are illegal “colonial occupiers” against whom violent “resistance” is a justified moral imperative.

Moreover, use of this divisive and ahistorical language in the Ceasefire Resolution is contrary to the purpose of the Ceasefire Resolution as stated by its City Council proponents – ostensibly, to heal political, social and religious divisions in Grass Valley.

By falsely and maliciously describing Israelis and Jews as “occupiers” the City caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, the Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and the community here in Grass Valley.

Is Israel an Apartheid State?

No. And this accusation as contained in the Ceasefire Resolution is libelous and displays actual malice towards Jews and Israelis.

Apartheid is defined as discriminatory racial segregation, imposed by law and in contravention of established notions of human equality and equal rights. The most well-known example of apartheid is the treatment of native Africans in South Africa during the apartheid era.

In contrast, Israeli-Arabs are citizens of the state of Israel, with full and equal civil rights under the law. Israeli-Arabs are represented in all levels of government, including the Knesset (Israel’s legislative body) and its Supreme Court. Israeli-Arabs, like all other religious groups in Israel, including Christians and Druze, freely practice their religion. Israeli-Arabs are fully integrated in employment settings. For example, despite representing approximately 18% of the Israeli population, Israeli-Arabs are 24% of Israel’s doctors and 35% of Israel’s pharmacists.

Although they are not required by law to do so (unlike Jewish citizens) Israeli-Arab soldiers volunteer to serve their country, Israel, and in this capacity defended their fellow Israelis during the October 7, 2023 terrorist invasion from Gaza. Tragically, Israeli-Arabs were taken hostage and killed by Hamas and their terrorist allies for the “crime” of being in Israel.

Given the differences between South Africa under apartheid and modern Israel, many South Africans object to the false of equivalency of apartheid era South Africa with modern Israel. (See *References and Further Reading* below).

Arabs in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, some of whom prefer to be called Palestinians, are not citizens of Israel, as international law permits them to retain the status of refugees. Therefore, they do not have the same rights as the Arab citizens of Israel.

In contrast, apartheid does exist, but not in Israel. Rather, Gaza choose to become an apartheid territory; under its agreement with Israel in 2005, Israel was required to withdraw all Jewish residents from Gaza. Under Hamas-controlled Gaza and in Area A under the control of the Palestinian Authority, Jews are not allowed.

Significantly, the language in the Ceasefire Resolution accusing Israel of “apartheid” was taken from the CAIR “Cease Fire Toolkit.” CAIR has deep ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas is also a Muslim Brotherhood entity. (See *References and Further Reading* below).

By falsely and maliciously describing Israel as an apartheid state, and by extension, the Jewish and Israeli people as racist apartheid supporters, the City caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and the community here in Grass Valley.

Is Israel Committing Genocide?

No. And the accusation contained in the Ceasefire Resolution, which is clearly directed at Israel, is libelous and displays actual malice towards Jewish people and Israelis.

The *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as Resolution 260 A (III) on December 9, 1948. It provides that “genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”

No credible international organization has accused Israel of committing genocide in connection with its military campaign in Gaza, as the Ceasefire Resolution suggests. Significantly, the language in the Ceasefire Resolution accusing Israel of genocide is language again taken from the CAIR Cease Fire Toolkit. CAIR has deep ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas is also a Muslim Brotherhood entity. (See *References and Further Reading* below).

By falsely and maliciously describing Israel, and by extension, Jewish and Israeli people as genocidal, the City caused emotional distress to, and justifies violence against, the Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and here in Grass Valley.

What’s Wrong With Calling for a Ceasefire? Don’t Jewish and Israeli People Want Peace?

The Ceasefire Resolution demands an “immediate, permanent, and unconditional ceasefire.” The framing of this statement maliciously demonizes Israel and the Jewish people and paints this community in a false and defamatory light.

Jewish and Israeli people, like all people of conscience, seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts. However, in the context of the current conflict, the call for a “ceasefire” is disingenuous. Israel had a ceasefire with Hamas on October 6, which was irrevocably violated on October 7. Calls for a “ceasefire” began on October 8, while Hamas was still actively engaged in terrorist acts in Israel, and two weeks before Israel’s military response. To this day, hostages and their remains are in Gaza. In this context, the call for a “ceasefire” applies a double-standard to Israel, calling for Israel – and Israel alone among all other nations in the world – to refrain from defending its borders and protecting the lives and property of its people. It also demonizes Israel and the Jewish people, by implying that they are not peaceful.

By falsely and maliciously intimidating that individuals who oppose the Ceasefire Resolution are belligerent and hostile – opposed to peaceful – and applying a double-standard to Israel as

opposed to other nations, the City caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and the community here in Grass Valley.

What is Wrong with Calling for a Return of All Hostages and Unjustly Held Prisoners?

The Ceasefire Resolution calls for a “return of all hostages and unjustly held prisoners....” This statement creates a false equivalency between the innocent civilian hostages kidnapped on October 7, 2023 by Hamas and other terrorist organizations – including the elderly, infirm and children – and convicted criminals in Israel, who were afforded due process and lawfully convicted for crimes including mass murder, arson and rape.

It is important to note that Hamas and other terrorist organizations also kidnapped individuals who were Israeli-Arab, as well as non-Jewish, non-Israeli students and workers from multiple countries, including Thailand, Nepal, the Philippines, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and China.

As discussed in numerous public comments, local residents have ties to hostages and their families. It was distressing in the utmost to have their friends and associates, who are being held hostage in deplorable, inhumane conditions, equated with duly incarcerated convicted murderers and rapists.

By falsely, maliciously and insensitively equating innocent hostages with convicted criminals, the City of Grass caused emotional harm and distress to, and justified violence against, the residents of Grass Valley, including, but not limited to, the Thai, Nepalese, Filipino, Sri Lankan, African, Jewish and Israeli communities.

Did Israel Engage in “indiscriminate retaliation?”

The Ceasefire Resolution states that the City condemns “indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel.” This statement is false, libelous and made with actual malice towards Jewish people and Israelis.

As City Council members had been informed in public comments made at prior meetings, all credible evidence supports the fact that the Israeli military goes to great lengths, above and beyond what is required under international law, to avoid unnecessary civil casualties. This is done despite Hamas’ well-documented practice of utilizing the civilian population as “human shields” and embedding military infrastructure in civilian facilities, such as hospitals and schools, in violation of the international humanitarian law (the Geneva Convention Rules of War.) As international law recognizes, using civilian infrastructure to shield military operations or for other military purposes can make that infrastructure a legitimate target. In fact, Israel has the lowest ratio of civilian to military deaths in the history of urban warfare, according to West Point’s John Spencer. (See *References and Further Reading*, below).

The use of the term “retaliation” is a libelous, deliberate attempt to mischaracterize Israel’s actions in defending its borders, rescuing its hostages and protecting the lives and property of the people of Israel, as all rational nations have the right, authority and obligation to do.

By falsely and maliciously accusing Israel, and by extension, Jewish and Israeli people as engaging in acts of “indiscriminate retaliation” and applying a double-standard to Israel as

opposed to other nations, the City acted with actual malice, caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and here in Grass Valley.

Did Israel Violate the Leahy Law?

No. The Leahy Law refers to Section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. It restricts U.S. assistance to foreign security forces implicated in gross violations of human rights.

The Ceasefire Resolution condemns violations of the Leahy Law and calls for an arms embargo against Israel, and Israel alone. In this way, the Ceasefire Resolution makes clear that it is the view of the City Council that Israel, and only Israel (and by extension, Jewish and Israeli people) are violating the Leahy Law.

The implication that Israel is violating the Leahy Law is false. In an NPR interview on March 26, 2024, Charles Blaha, head of the State Department office that oversaw the administration of the Leahy Law in the Biden Administration, unequivocally stated that “there has not yet been a finding by the State Department that any Israeli unit has ever committed a gross violation of human rights.” This finding has not been disputed or updated since.

By falsely and maliciously accusing Israel, and by extension, Jewish and Israeli people, of violating the Leahy Law and calling for arms embargo of Israel, the City acted with actual malice, and caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, the Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and here in Grass Valley.

The Ceasefire Resolution’s Failure to Condemn Hamas is an Antisemitic Double-Standard.

While the Ceasefire Resolution is replete with condemnation of Israel and its military operations, nowhere does the Ceasefire Resolution recognize that Hamas is U.S. State Department listed terrorist organization and that October 7 was a terrorist act committed by Hamas and other U.S. State Department listed terrorist organizations.

By failing to condemn Hamas and other terrorist organizations and failing to accurately describe their actions as acts of terrorism, while singling out Israel and its military for appropriation, the City acted with actual malice, caused emotional distress to, and justified violence against, the Jewish and Israeli people in Israel and here in Grass Valley.

The Ceasefire Resolution’s Antisemitic Language and Framing: Consequences for Grass Valley’s Jewish and Israeli Community.

The libelous, false and inflammatory language used in the discourse surrounding the Ceasefire Resolution and in Resolution 2025-003 itself has caused actual harm to Grass Valley’s Jewish and Israeli residents, visitors and businesses.

During the February 25, 2025 City Council meeting where the Ceasefire Resolution was adopted, City Council Members Tom Ivy and Joe Bonomolo specifically stated that they were personally in touch with their constituents, the vast and overwhelming majority of whom, they alleged, supported the Resolution.

First, this is false. The record reflects that the majority of comments received were opposed to Resolution 2025-003. Second, considering their stated level of involvement with the local community, these same City Council Members must surely be aware of the stark and alarming increase in antisemitic hate crimes in Grass Valley, including crimes against *children*, as relayed to the City Council in public comments and summarized below:

1. A woman spat on in her face in front of her children for speaking Hebrew at Safeway.
2. A worker in a restaurant got a threatening hateful note in the tip jar.
3. Members of the Jewish community were assaulted outside the Briar Patch Co-op and told they were not welcomed there by visible proponent of the Ceasefire Resolution.
4. In a separate incident at the Briar Patch, a Jewish person was falsely accused of harassment (proved false by the video footage of the co-op).
5. Jewish children have been bullied at school, with hateful notes left in their backpacks.
6. Jewish people have been blocked from entering Grass Valley City Council meetings, while being yelled at with such slogans such as "From the River to the Sea" "Intifada" "ISIS Liberation" and "I would have joined Hamas if I could."
7. Inside Grass Valley City Council meetings: "Zionist lies" signs held up behind Jewish and Israeli speakers, who were recounting atrocities of October 7th. Callers proclaiming "Israel should not exist, these people are finally getting some karma" "Do I feel bad about what happened on October 7th? Not one bit." "Kill all Niggers, Kill all Jews" "Heil Hitler" "I support the KTP" (Kike Deportation Program).
8. Jewish members were followed to their cars after City Council meetings, intimidated and photographed.
9. Antisemitic and pro-Palestinian graffiti on Jewish homes and business.
10. A plaque in Nevada City for the Jewish Pioneers was vandalized with red paint.
11. The Grass Valley Historical Commission sought to put a plaque at the local historical Jewish cemetery, but under the current circumstances, the Jewish community doesn't want it, fearing it will ignite further vandalism.
12. A false rumor spread that a local Israeli resident reported a pro-Palestine activist, who is an immigrant, to the Department of Homeland Security. The victim of this false rumor believes this was done in an attempt to incite violence towards her, her family and/or her property.

Notably, several of these events occurred at City Hall and even in front of City Council members. Yet, rather than take steps to protect their Jewish and Israeli constituents, the Council persisted

in repeating, amplifying and enshrining antisemitic rhetoric, and acted with actual malice causing emotional distress to, and justifying violence against, the Jewish and Israeli community of Grass Valley.

The Majority of Grass Valley Residents Did Not Support the Substance or Intent of the Ceasefire Resolution and the City's Foray into Foreign Affairs

As reflected in the public record of comments received in opposition to the Ceasefire Resolution (over 85 calls, letters and public comments) and readers' responses in The Union and in submissions to the City of Grass Valley's email and phone lines, the majority of Grass Valley residents recognize Resolution 2025-003's rhetoric as antisemitic and inflammatory.

These comments also reflect that the residents of Grass Valley disapprove of the City delving into foreign affairs, which are outside of the City's jurisdiction, authority, or operational duties, and that the conflict in the region is a matter outside the City's subject-matter jurisdiction and does not directly affect City governance, infrastructure or services, as defined by the City's Code of Conduct (approved as revised on March 25, 2025).

Yet, despite overwhelming disapproval of, and lack of support for, Resolution 2025-003 the City Council voted 4:5 to agendize the matter and 3:4 to approve it. The only logical explanation for the Council's insistence on acting on this inflammatory, divisive and ultra vires resolution is that the Council was motivated by actual malice towards Grass Valley's Jewish and Israeli residents with reckless disregard for their safety and well-being.

Rescind Resolution 2025-003

Resolution 2025-003 is irredeemably based on false, malicious statements that malign the Jewish and Israeli community of Grass Valley and justify violence and hate crimes against them, as described in detail above.

In approving Resolution 2025-003, the City Council abused its discretion, by legitimatizing and enshrining this dangerous rhetoric as City policy. The Council did so with full knowledge of the emotional distress and harms that such rhetoric has had, continues to have, on the Jewish and Israeli residents, visitors, businesses and property of and in Grass Valley, including children.

As the tragic events of May 21, 2025 demonstrate, far from healing political, social and religious divisions in the community, this divisive and antisemitic rhetoric has resulted in an escalating pattern of violence and discrimination against Jewish and Israeli people.

Attached is a proposed Resolution which rescinds Resolution 2023-0025. Nevada County BRIDGE respectfully and urgently implores the City Council to act immediately, before tragedy strikes again, *this time closer to home*. We can be contacted at nevadacountybridge@gmail.com and look forward to working with you.

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Resolution No. 2025-XX
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF GRASS VALLEY, TO RESCIND RESOLUTION
2025-003, CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO VIOLENCE BETWEEN
PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

WHEREAS, the City Council of Grass Valley is elected to represent the will of the people of Grass Valley;

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley is an inclusive community, which endeavors to embody the values of peace, tolerance, empathy and productive dialog;

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley Code of Ethics states that “Council Members will work for the common good of the people of Grass Valley and not for any private or personal interest, and they will endeavor to treat all persons, claims, and transactions in a fair and equitable manner”;

WHEREAS, the City of Grass Valley Code of Ethics requires that “Public officials be independent, impartial, and fair in their judgments and actions”;

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2025, the City of Grass Valley did vote to agendize a resolution “Calling for a Ceasefire and an End to Violence Between Palestine and Israel” for the February 25, 2025 regularly scheduled City Council Meeting;

WHEREAS, such resolution was placed on the agenda for the February 25, 2025 City Council Meeting, and was ultimately adopted as Resolution 2025-003;

WHEREAS, the City Council received over 85 public comments from the local community, opposing Resolution 20025-03 on the basis that this was an issue, policy, project, or concern that does not fall within the City's jurisdiction, authority, or operational duties; that international conflicts do not directly affect City governance, infrastructure, or services; that the drafting and consideration of the resolution inappropriately consumed and redirected the City's limited resources away from City business; and that the resolution was divisive, antisemitic and would and has caused actual harm to the residents, visitors and businesses of Grass Valley, among other concerns;

WHEREAS, public comments submitted and stated opposing Resolution 2025-003 far exceeded the public comments submitted and stated in support of Resolution 2025-003;

WHEREAS, at the February 25, 2025 meeting, City Councilmembers stated that they could not identify the origin of the language that formed the basis of Resolution 2025-003;

WHEREAS, at the February 25, 2025 meeting, City Councilmember Bonomolo admitted that he was unable to submit input on Resolution 2025-003 as he had intended to do, due to a recent illness;

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Caravelli was unable to attend the February 25, 2025 meeting and provide input on Resolution 2025-003, due to illness;

WHEREAS, City Council Members thus acted without full knowledge of the origin of the document that they approved, without a full opportunity to review and comment on the document and/or participate in the February 25, 2025 meeting, including for reasons beyond their control at the time the meeting was held;

WHEREAS, Resolution 2025-003 contains clauses with divisive language and unsupported claims as to the country of Israel, and by extension, Jews and Israelis, targeting these groups for specific condemnation and approbation;

WHEREAS, these clauses and language do not appear on resolutions on this same topic, considered by other local Nevada County agencies, including the Nevada City Resolution 2024-033;

WHEREAS, at the February 25, 2025 meeting, it was acknowledged by the Grass Valley City Council that Resolution 2025-003 comments on current affairs of an international character, over which the City of Grass Valley has no jurisdiction and authority to influence, control or meaningfully impact;

WHEREAS, at the February 25, 2025 hearing, it was acknowledged by the Grass Valley City Council that drafting and considering Resolution 2025-003 consumed City resources;

WHEREAS, such City resources were necessarily directed away from the tasks and business under the subject-matter jurisdiction and authority of the City of Grass Valley;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2025 the City of Grass Valley adopted a Code of Conduct, adopting a policy that "Agenda items must be directly related to and affect the City of Grass Valley. Only issues, policies, projects, or concerns that fall within the City's jurisdiction, authority, or operational duties may be placed on the City Council agenda. Matters outside the City's subject-matter jurisdiction that do not directly affect City governance, infrastructure, or services will not be considered for inclusion";

WHEREAS, Resolution 2025-003 is not directly related to and does not affect the City of Grass Valley. Resolution 2025-003 does not concern issues, policies, projects, or concerns that fall within the City's jurisdiction, authority, or operational duties. Resolution 2025-003 concerns matters outside the City's subject-matter jurisdiction and does not directly affect City governance, infrastructure, or services.

WHEREAS, by adopting the revised Code of Code after Resolution 2025-003 was considered and approved, the City of Grass Valley created a *post hoc* exemption for Resolution 2025-003, which permitted the City to agendize matters related to Israel, with

less ethical guidance and oversight in comparison with other substantially similar matters as would now be permitted under the Code of Conduct;

WHEREAS, hate crimes against Jewish people are the leading form of religious-based hate crime in California, as stated by the California Attorney 2023 Hate Crimes Report, which further provides that anti-Jewish bias events rose from 189 in 2022 to 289 in 2023, an increase of 52.9%;

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, May 21, 2025 in the nation's capital of Washington D.C., Israeli Embassy employees Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky were murdered by alleged gunman Elias Rodriquez, who was arrested at the scene of the crime. During the commission of the murders, it is alleged that Elias Rodriquez shouted "Free, free Palestine" and admitted to arresting officers that "I did it for Gaza";

WHEREAS, the tragic events of May 21, 2025 have been acknowledged by the bipartisan community as a hate crime, and furthermore, that such divisive rhetoric must be recognized as a call for violence against Jewish and Israeli people; and

WHEREAS, in light of the documented, escalating violence against the Jewish and Israeli community in Grass Valley, in the State of California and the recent, tragic events of May 21, 2025, Resolution 2025-033 could be perceived as providing a justification for, inciting, promoting or condoning violence against the City of Grass Valley's Jewish and Israeli residents, visitors, businesses, synagogues and historic property. This is contrary to the values of peace, tolerance, empathy and dialog which the City of Grass Valley endeavors to uphold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA THAT:

1. Resolution 2025-003 is RESCINDED.