

775 South Michelle Ave,  
Kerman, California 93630  
March 17, 2024

City of Kerman  
850 South Madera Avenue  
Kerman, California 93630

RE: Position on the proposed proclamation on the Gaza Conflict

Dear Kerman City Council,

I have undertaken in this letter to write down the statement I made at the City Council meeting on March 13, 2024. I am doing so, as I will be out of town at the next meeting when the tabled proclamation will be discussed. Thanks in advance for carrying this statement forward in my absence.

I am opposed to the issuing of the proclamation for three reasons:

1. There are many worthy causes that sadden and alarm us, but only this one is being addressed.
2. This proclamation puts the onus on Israel, not the terrorists who brought the fight to Israel
3. The Councilmembers and Mayor were elected to govern Kerman, not for foreign policy platforms.

In explaining the first point, I do want to agree that it is a deplorable situation in Gaza that should sadden us all. However, there are a multitude of deplorable situations in our world.

- What about the lives that are lost to abortion?
- What about the genocide happening in Myanmar?
- What about the attack on Ukraine?
- What about human trafficking?

The Council could spend all their time writing proclamations but that is not the intent for these elected positions. Achieving community consensus would require a lot more time and take away from the Kerman centric needs.

My opposition to the proclamation is also on the perspective of the proclamation. It puts the onus and therefore the blame on Israel for the state of the situation. Israel was the one attacked and they are still under daily attack by rockets. Why did we not issue a proclamation on October 7 when they were attacked? Israel has offered ceasefire terms but those were rejected by Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist group, as classified by our government. They want to tear down and destroy or control not just Israel, but our United States also. They are not interested in peace, as they have themselves spoken about. They have lied throughout the process and hidden underneath hospitals and United Nations buildings because they do not care what happens to the civilians.

My last point is that the Council and Mayor were elected to govern the City of Kerman. Votes were not based on a foreign policy platform. We want our elected officials working on our issues:

- We have our own racial reconciliation needs
- We need to continue to pursue sustainable economic growth
- We pride ourselves on our quality of life, but that is a priority that is never finished.

Please focus your work on issues like these and let voters take their up their support or opposition up with their federal elected officials whose job it is to decide these matters.

Sincerely,



William Winchester, resident and registered voter.