

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA**

WHEREAS, DeKalb County is dedicated to fostering a community that embraces diversity, values all life, and upholds the principles of equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and antisemitic bigotry and violence are on the rise within our country, posing a significant threat to the well-being and safety of our diverse communities and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and condemnation for the tragic loss of Israeli civilians, including children and the elderly, in the terrorist attack on October 7th by Hamas; and

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the loss of innocent Palestinian lives including children and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel, which has resulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian population of Gaza; and

WHEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary narrative and dehumanization is being used to rationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the death of civilians, within this ongoing conflict; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County 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, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, or country of origin is a violation of International humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 2, 2023 war and armed violence have claimed the lives of over 15,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and 1,200 Israelis, including Americans, and thousands more have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at imminent risk if a permanent cease-fire is not achieved and continuous humanitarian aid is not assured; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners calls for the United States Federal Government to facilitate and demand:

- (1) an immediate permanent cease-fire to urgently end the current violence; and

- (2) the immediate release of all hostages; and
- (3) an immediate end to the blockade and siege of Gaza; and
- (4) the prompt provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza including supplying food, water, fuel, and medical supplies which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population of Gaza; and
- (5) all parties to fully comply with their obligations under international law; and
- (6) continue to condemn the rising antisemitism and Islamophobia that has been seen in the United States and worldwide.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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**ROBERT PATRICK**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners DeKalb  
County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer DeKalb  
County, Georgia

**APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:**

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**ZACHARY L. WILLIAMS**  
Chief Operating Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Office

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia

December 12, 2023