

LAID-ON-THE TABLE

Submitted by: Assembly Member Bronga,
Assembly Member Martinez, and
Assembly Member Rivera

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: March 5, 2024

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2024-87(S)**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY URGING OUR**
2 **CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LEAD**
3 **TO AN IMMEDIATE BILATERAL CEASEFIRE IN THE ISRAEL-HAMAS**
4 **CONFLICT.**
5

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage strives to be an inclusive, welcoming,
8 and safe place for all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin, and
9 is proud of our cultural diversity, boasting the three most culturally diverse high
10 schools in the nation with over 100 languages spoken in the Anchorage School
11 District; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage has a history of public engagement
14 on events happening around the world when those events impact members of
15 our community, and the Israel-Hamas conflict is personal and painful to many
16 Alaskans; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage is a Bridge Builder and Welcoming City that values
19 making the world a better place through the virtues of peace, mutual respect,
20 understanding, compassion, and cooperation; and
21

22 **WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department recognizes Hamas as a known**
23 **terrorist group which broke the ceasefire October, 7, 2023, killing 1,200**
24 **Israeli citizens and taking over 200 hostages; and**
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the taking of hostages and the willful killing of civilians, no matter
27 their faith, ethnicity, or national origin, constitute grave breaches of international
28 law, and all people have a right to dignity, security, freedom, and self-
29 determination; and
30

31 **WHEREAS, Israel has the obligation to defend itself against attacks; and**
32

33 **WHEREAS**, between October 7, 2023, and January 10, 2024, the Israel-Hamas
34 conflict has claimed the lives of **tens of thousands of civilians, including**
35 **several Americans**~~over 1,400 Israeli civilians and 24,000 Palestinian~~
36 ~~civilians, with several Americans counted among the dead on both sides];~~
37 and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the temporary 6-day ceasefire from November 24 to November 30,
40 2023, facilitated the most significant release of hostages and the most
41 substantial influx of humanitarian aid into Gaza; and
42

WHEREAS, humanitarian aid must be allowed to flow freely into Gaza to assist both Palestinian citizens and Israeli hostages; and

WHEREAS, as of January 10, 2024, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) estimates that 85% of the people in Gaza have been displaced; and

WHEREAS, without **Hamas’ surrender and** an immediate long-term ceasefire, restoration of necessities, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid, hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk of death, injury, and permanent displacement;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly encourages our residents to continue supporting the Bridge Builder values of peace, mutual respect, understanding, compassion, cooperation, and public engagement when world events impact members of our community.

Section 2. The Anchorage Assembly reaffirms the dignity inherent to all human beings and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia, and ethnically or religiously motivated violence in all its forms.

Section 3. The Anchorage Assembly affirms Israel’s right to exist and the Palestinians’ right to a place to call home free of Hamas.

Section 4[3].The Anchorage Assembly calls on our federal delegation to support negotiations that lead to an immediate bilateral ceasefire, the release of all hostages, **immediate access to**~~[the safe passage of food, water, medical supplies, and other]~~ life-saving humanitarian aid into Gaza **for civilians and hostages**, and ultimately long-term peace and security for the people of Israel and Palestine.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk