

Shalom,

My name is Rabbi Shlomo Litvin. I was born and raised in Louisville, and am the second rabbi in the history of Kentucky to be born and serve here. I currently serve as chairman of the Kentucky Jewish Council, the leading voice for Jews across the Commonwealth.

I am writing to you in response to the Resolution proposed before the Louisville Metro Council. calling for a Ceasefire in Israel's war against the Genocidal Hamas Terrorist group, that began following the atrocities of October 7th.

This resolution entirely ignores the slaughter, rapes, and savagery of the October 7th Massacre. The offensive resolution, which does not even mention the word Hamas, ignores 2 crucial facts.

1. I say this, and I hope it doesn't hurt the council member's feelings, but the Louisville Metro Council does not have the power to end the war on Hamas taking place. This is not a substantive project, but a performative one, at a time when the Council has real issues to do with here at home.
2. Secondly, calls for a ceasefire are not necessary, because a ceasefire has already been offered, and has been on the table since before the conflict began in the days after the October 7th Massacre. Israel has offered a full ceasefire, with only two simple and moral conditions, 1: for the release of the hostages who were kidnapped, along with the bodies of the civilians who were murdered, and 2: the disarmament and surrender of the perpetrators of the October 7th massacre, the Hamas Terrorist group.

The Resolution further offends by the deliberative, immoral attempt to conflate the slaughter of civilians in their homes and at a Music Festival, accompanied by rape and torture, with casualties of war. The Resolution also gives slight lip service to the plight of more than 100 hostages, including Americans and children as young as Kfir Bibas, who was kidnapped at 9 months old, yet refuses to lay blame at the feet of the Hamas terrorist group, who is holding these civilians under horrible conditions.

Furthermore, any call for a ceasefire such as this Resolution, that does not call for the disarmament of the Hamas Terrorist Group, seeks only to create the conditions for another October 7th, and another war to follow, with countless innocents endangered.

In conclusion, a ceasefire resolution would not affect the war in Gaza, and would only serve to cause further damage to our community here in Louisville.

Within 24 hours of the Oct 7th massacre and atrocities, a celebratory march was hosted by SJP, a radical antisemitic student group at the University of Louisville, praising the murderers and rapists. This Resolution encourages and endorses these efforts.

The Louisville Metro Council should reject this Resolution, and focus on Louisville.

Am Yisroel Chai

Rabbi Shlomo Litvin

Chairman - Kentucky Jewish Council