

**From:** Ometz lev <[ometzlev18@gmail.com](mailto:ometzlev18@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2024 1:55 PM  
**To:** Heather Van Wijk <[Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov](mailto:Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov)>  
**Subject:** Ethics Commission Agenda Item 4-Communication-Correspondence

**-EXTERNAL-**

Two requests in this email explained in detail below.

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Request 1:

Make available, if possible, to the Ethics Commissioners, prior to the February 14, 2024, Ethics Commission meeting, in a manner that you deem most appropriate, this "real life" example described below for consideration when they are formulating and making recommendations on Agenda Item #4 , *"to enhance transparency surrounding the work of Charter Commissions and Council-established advisory boards, commissions and committee."*

Request 2:

If the actions of the EHRC Commissioners described below were not permitted, would you please forward the concerns expressed to the City Attorney and other appropriate City Officials to address the concerns raised; timely take appropriate action regarding accountability and to be transparent to the public on the actions taken.

Thank you.

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On December 19, 2023, prior to the start of the City Council Meeting, I sent the attached email to you (my name redacted) with a photo that Chris Covington was more than happy to pose holding a sign.

I asked Mr. Covington directly if he thought that perhaps his presence at the meeting holding a sign with the Palestinian flag was a conflict of interest. He replied that he was there as a private citizen and therefore could do so.

I was concerned about his possible personal interests and biases that may have influenced his involvement and decision making on the EHRC's recommendations that were before City Council and the Mayor.

My understanding is that Commissioners are permitted to publicly speak about issues to City Council and that they may identify whether speaking as a commissioner or as a private citizen. Free speech is important and should be respected, however, if speaking as a private citizen or as a commissioner creates the appearance of a personal interest and/or bias, it should be reviewed by City Officials to determine if the commissioner should be recused from participating in discussions or voting on those matters.

Subsequent to the December 19th meeting, I requested the public comment documents (323 pages in total) that were submitted regarding the Proclamation. I discovered among the comment documents a letter submitted by the Islamic Center of Long Beach dated December 19, 2023. **(Letter Attached)**

Mr. Covington, along with five other Long Beach Commission members (3 other EHRC members) signed in their Official City Government EHRC Titles as top signatories to Islamic Center of Long Beach's Letter dated December 19, 2023. **(pp.2-3 of Letter Attached with Sponsors and Partners)**

The Letter supported the Proclamation and even proposed stronger language be incorporated.

In addition to the Official Support of the Commissioners of the Islamic Center of Long Beach Letter, the sponsors of the Letter included organizations such as those calling for the Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions of Israel and AMPAC, the American Muslim Political Action Committee, with Official Facebook Posts saying:

"Dear God please #destroyNetanyahu#DestroyIsrael#DestroyBiden." (December 2023 FB Post Attached)

## Commissioners who signed the Letter in their Official Appointed Government Commission Positions as Long Beach Community and Partners:

1. Dr. Eduardo Lara, Chair, Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission
2. Christopher Covington, Vice Chair, Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission
3. Alyssa Gutierrez, Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission
4. Keyona Montgomery, Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission
5. Dr. Sara Zaidi, Chair, Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families
6. Naida Tushnet, Commissioner, Senior Citizen Advisory

At this week's Ethics Commission meeting on February 14, 2024,  
Agenda Item 4 includes:

Recommendation to discuss ideas for possible recommendations to the City Council to enhance transparency surrounding the work of Charter Commissions and Council-established advisory boards, commissions and committees

**The current attachment to Agenda Item #4 states:**  
NO CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK (562) 570-6101 (562) 570-6789 (FAX) [cityclerk@longbeach.go](mailto:cityclerk@longbeach.go)

If it is determined that the actions of the Commissioners did not violate a City Policy or Code, I suppose that means that even Ethics Commissioners or other appointed commissioners could sign/endorse in their Official Government Commission Roles third party letters, actions and activities of third party's position/interest in business being considered/voted upon by the Mayor and City Council, with no sanctions or repercussions for doing so.

facebook

Log in



**American Muslim Political Action  
Committee (AMPAC)**



Dec 31, 2023 · 🌐

Good luck that you can learn something new from this little girl. Happy new year. Dear God please [#destroyNetanyahu](#) [#DestroyIsrael](#) and [#DestroyBiden](#)





**February 14, 2024**

**NO CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM**

**THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
(562) 570-6101  
(562) 570-6789 (FAX)  
[cityclerk@longbeach.gov](mailto:cityclerk@longbeach.gov)**



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**Chris Covington**

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Chris Covington  
To: heather.vanwijk@longbeach.gov

Tue, Dec 19, 2023 at 5:21 PM

Chris was more than happy to show me Presley the sign that he is holding up at city Council meeting.

Sent from my iPhone



**IMG\_2308.jpg**  
110K

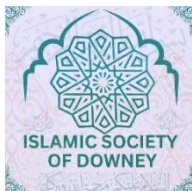
3. **Recognition of the Devastation:** Include acknowledging the losses, recognizing the true devastation, and conveying the volume of loss and suffering.
4. **Palestinian Voices and Inclusion:** Acknowledge anti-Palestinian rhetoric and ensure that Palestinian and Jewish Voices are centered in the continued work.

As residents, we are convinced that our City Council will provide unwavering leadership during these challenging times. Supporting a permanent Ceasefire isn't just about symbolism; it's about ensuring the protection and well-being of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and it's an imperative step toward lasting peace and justice. You will find the suggested revisions to the Proclamation at the end of this document.

In Solidarity,

**Imam Tariq Muhammad**

Long Beach Islamic Center



## Long Beach Community and Partners:

**Rev. Jerald Stinson**, Senior Minister Emeritus, First Congregational Church of Long Beach (90804)

**Dr. Eduardo Lara**, Chair, Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission (90802)

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**Myrella Gonzalez** (90005)

**Aimee Barraza** (90813)

**Kadisha Aburub** (90623)

**Adam Sepulveda** (90804)

**Aaron Giesel** (91104)

**Amir P** (90802)

**Ahmad Khalifa** (90803)

**AJ Kim** (90804)

**Aisha Jones** (90804)

**Amanda Killian** (90802)

**Aki Ito** (90813)

**Dani Alderete** (90814)

**Allison Ledesma** (90712)

**Alejandra Martinez** (90650)

**Alesha Walker** (90804)

**Alex Salas** (90804)

**Alicia Nyein** (90802)

**Allison T** (90802)

**Aliyah Doering-Shaikh** (90802)

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**Amar Abusamrah** (92683)

**Amber Kiwan** (90804)

**Amber Ajluni** (90802)

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**Amor Afanador** (90802)

**Dylan Wood** (90808)

**Rachel Dixie** (90044)

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**Anna Carella** (90814)

**Anna Christensen** (90803)

**Annalisa Bejarano** (90755)

**Annamarie Calomay** (90064)

**Anna Villarreal** (92840)

**Analetta Ehler** (90029)

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**Asmaa Ahmed** (93313)

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**Raina Beigler** (90804)

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**An anonymous signer** (90805)

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**Brandon Johnson** (90805)

**Breanna Dickson** (90813)

**Joshua Frank** (90807)

**Bryanna Siguenza** (90802)

**Bryce Maniex** (40214)

**Reyn Ou** (90813)

**Emelyne Camacho** (90042)

**Heather Camp** (90815)

**Carla Alvarado** (90802)

**Baldwin Carli** (90803)

**Carlisle Huntington** (98014)

**Carlos Villicana** (90805)

**Carrie McElwee** (90813)

**Cassie Beucherie** (90814)

**Cassandra Ramos Cruz** (90802)

**Cynthia Avina** (90805)

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**Luis Duran** (90814)

**Chelsea Mosher** (90807)

**Cheryl Santos** (90807)

**Cheyenne Gonzales** (90813)

**Citlali Perez** (92672)

**Chris Shank** (90814)

**Christian Estrada** (90814)

**Christie Iobst** (90815)

**Christina Stewart** (90804)

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**Brenda Covarrubias** (90007)

**Diana Leo** (90712)

**Cristhian Tapia-Delgado** (90813)

**Carlos Ovalle** (90806)





# LONG BEACH ISLAMIC CENTER

December 19, 2023,

Dear Mayor Rex Richardson and Long Beach City Council,

We are a united community advocating for peace in Palestine and Israel and want to thank the City Council for engaging in this critical discussion regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. While we appreciate the City's commitment to peace, unity, and understanding, we assert that a significantly more robust response is required to address the severe humanitarian crisis unfolding in that region.

In just 70 days, over 80 percent of Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, enduring deprivation of necessities such as water, electricity, and fuel. According to the United Nations Security Council, civilians throughout Gaza are in grave danger. Since the start of Israel's military operation, more than 18,000 people have been killed, with over 40 percent being children. Thousands more have been injured, and over half of all homes have been destroyed, displacing 1.5 million people. This has led to overcrowded and undignified conditions. The Gaza healthcare system has collapsed, with overwhelmed hospitals unable to provide adequate care.

Palestinians have endured 75 years of Military occupation and apartheid, as documented by the United Nations and prominent international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and B'Tselem in Israel, and face unique challenges such as the imprisonment of children for throwing rocks. Unlike the majority of nations that employ civil courts to adjudicate civilian matters, the Israeli Government prosecutes all Palestinians in military court. There are currently thousands of political prisoners in Israeli jails held without charge or due process.

We firmly understand that the situation in Gaza necessitates actions beyond symbolic gestures. However, we recognize the political complexities and challenges in achieving a comprehensive resolution. We hope the Mayor and City Council will commit to continuing to learn about the unjust conditions and treatment that Palestinians face every day both in Israel and Palestine.

It is also of paramount importance that our City acts to safeguard the First Amendment rights of residents, ensuring that individuals who advocate for Palestine and Israel, including students and educators, are shielded from discrimination and violence.

We believe that, at a minimum, these additions will more accurately reflect an unwavering dedication to peace and justice.

1. **Lasting Ceasefire:** rearrange the wording from a "humanitarian ceasefire" to a lasting ceasefire, recognizing the need for a permanent end to the cycle of violence.
2. **Historical Acknowledgment:** Recognize that the conflict in the region has persisted for over 75 years and did not begin on October 7th.

3. **Recognition of the Devastation:** Include acknowledging the losses, recognizing the true devastation, and conveying the volume of loss and suffering.
4. **Palestinian Voices and Inclusion:** Acknowledge anti-Palestinian rhetoric and ensure that Palestinian and Jewish Voices are centered in the continued work.

As residents, we are convinced that our City Council will provide unwavering leadership during these challenging times. Supporting a permanent Ceasefire isn't just about symbolism; it's about ensuring the protection and well-being of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and it's an imperative step toward lasting peace and justice. You will find the suggested revisions to the Proclamation at the end of this document.

In Solidarity,

**Imam Tariq Muhammad**

Long Beach Islamic Center



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**Diana Leo** (90712)

**Cristhian Tapia-Delgado** (90813)

**Carlos Ovalle** (90806)

Cyndi Otteson (90041)  
Cynthia Kombunmah (90717)  
Nina Baek (90814)  
Dain Lopez (90806)  
Danielle Achiro (90802)  
David Meredith (90731)  
Dennis López (90640)  
Diana Silveyra (90805)  
Diana Ruan-McDonald (90806)  
Dinara Cramer (90814)  
Diana Lanzas (90813)  
David Klein (91325)  
Donald Cottrell (90808)  
Doris Maya (90405)  
Alicia Carroll (90814)  
Safwan Rawashdeh (80901)  
Emma Bornstein (90808)  
Eduardo Jimenez (90744)  
Edward Hong (91108)  
Edie Pistolesi (91325)  
Emily Ruiz (90815)  
Enshera Bashar (90813)  
Eleanor Nicklin (92845)  
Elizabet Antonio (90802)  
Ellinoa Blake (90802)  
Mike Rodriguez (92835)  
Emar Mohammed (92116)  
Emilie Douglas (90803)  
Emily Padilla (95076)  
Elizabeth Kibbey (90803)  
Erika Barrios (90804)  
Erin Grissom (90803)  
Esa Syeed (90813)  
Estee Chandler (91602)  
Emma Stewart (79411)  
Esther Sims (90803)  
Evelyn Crofts (90814)  
Farah Bartlett (90808)  
Fatima Iqbal-Zubair (90248)  
Fawzia Imreish (92801)  
Lee Thorne (90807)  
Kathy Flores (90240)  
Erin Foley (90813)  
Forrest Osburn (90804)  
Francisco Mayer (90807)  
Gabriella Imai (90505)

Gabrielle Garcia (92116)  
Gabriela Romo (90715)  
Gaby Hernandez (90814)  
Teresa Uribe (90802)  
Gillian Bailey (90813)  
Genesis Jara (90240)  
Gillian Claycomb (90065 )  
Gina Viola Peake (90068)  
Gordana Kajer (90803)  
Natalie Hernandez (90805)  
Marjan Goudarzi (90034)  
River Coupwood (9806)  
Gregory Locklear (90039)  
Gregory Abellanos (90723)  
Samantha Guerra (90814)  
Denise Gutierrez (91402)  
Hala Attia (90803)  
Haley Trunkett (11104)  
Hannah Legaspi (90810)  
Erin Hanohano-Lira (90814)  
Harriet Harmon (90068)  
Helen Boyer (90814)  
Ogechukwu Okeke (90804)  
Celeste Mendez (90802)  
Elise Velasco (90814)  
Ryan Yeung (91755)  
Monica Lopez (93727)  
Isaac Martinez (90805)  
Jess De Ocampo (92102)  
Iris Camacho (90026)  
Isaiah Mendoza (90814)  
Alicia Roninson (90803)  
Nazir A (90814)  
Ashley Sandoval (90042)  
Sarah Izzo (90803)  
Jaime Andrews (90014)  
Jack Elkhayleh (90744)  
Jackson Goode (90802)  
Jacob Cook (90813)  
Jacqueline Villaviray (90805)  
James Suazo (90806)  
James Acosta (90804)  
Janice Mendez (90804)  
Janielle Chris Torregosa (90815)  
Jasmine Aguilar (90802)

Jasmin Sheth (90814)  
Jason Simmons (90813)  
Jason Martinez (90805)  
Jazmin Angulo (92201)  
Jazlyn Tabar (90813)  
Wisdom Ibole (90502)  
Jennifer Thunyakij (90804)  
Jen Hofer (90065)  
Jennifer Nguyen (92126)  
Jerrad Abatay (90806)  
Jessica Padron (90802)  
Jesus Aguilar (90755)  
Joshua De Leon (90807)  
Jasmine Harrison (90803)  
Jose Padilla (90802)  
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Jenny Kattlove (91711)  
Johana Esquivel (90805)  
Joe Nino (90814)  
Olivia Johnson (90813)  
Jonathan Linares (91402)  
Josie Van Langevelde (91208)  
Joy Yamaguchi (90807)  
Jennifer Funes (90037)  
Gregory Newton (90815)  
Juan Garcia (90813)  
Jude Moore (90804)  
Julia Messinger (93727)  
Julian Ponce (90802)  
Julie Haq (90802)  
Juliet Hwang (90807)  
Julie Dean (90803)  
Rosy Jimenez (92843)  
Justine Lockerby (90802)  
Jasper Love (99802)  
Kailee Caruso (90804)  
Holmes Ayanna (90806)  
Kara de los reyes (90813)  
Kelly Archbold (90808)  
Kash Trivedi (90814)  
Bana Katraf (92688)  
Kate Jones (90803)  
Katherine Moreno (92804)  
Kathryn Erbeling (90813)  
Kathryn Horsley (90814)  
Corinne Allen (90814)

Kalie Sabajo (92782)  
Kelsey Vidic (90814)  
Kenneth Tran (92126)  
Mulford Kerry (90814)  
Kesic Schafer (90802)  
Khairi Mdnor (91030)  
Kiana Highsmith (94117)  
Jordan Brown (90807)  
Kimberly Anderson (90805)  
Kimberlee Fite (90802)  
Kimberley Lynne (90803)  
Kimberly Amaya (90810)  
Kimberly Contreras (90802)  
Kimberlie Valadez (90804)  
Kim T (90814)  
Kimberly Ramirez (92113)  
Kevin Martin (90740)  
Kelly Lopes (90806)  
Veronica Martinez (90814)  
Robert Cota (90805)  
Kelsey Weymouth-Little  
(90813)  
Kyran Joughin (90065)  
Darnell Kearns (90802)  
Alaja Gundy (90814)  
Kyro Davis (90810)  
Anastasia Lankford (90802)  
Larina Corbell (90807)  
Kristen Van de Houten (90806)  
Lars Olson (90712)  
Laura Merryfield (90814)  
Sabrina Alimahomed (90803)  
Jake Wilson (90803)  
Leila Sakkal (90803)  
Lesley Vazquez (90706)  
Leslie Bibin (90813)  
Michelle Lewis (90802)  
Alexus Guzman (90808)  
Lily Taylor (90004-4626)  
Lina Mousa (90680)  
Lindsay Dumas (90807)  
Sara Chapin (90815)  
Li Yun Alvarado (90814)  
Liz Barnett (90803)  
Regina N. (90814)  
Louis Rosen (90755)

Lulu Hammad (92656)  
Will Luster (90804)  
Logan Vournas (90815)  
Madison Chadwick (91350)  
Maddy Montgomery (90803)  
Madeline Topp (90802)  
Madison Moreno (92130)  
Madison S. (90804)  
Liza Gesuden (90805)  
An anonymous signer (90302)  
Marcial Romero (90007)  
María yi (90806)  
Mariella Saba (90032)  
Mario Salgado Jr (92544)  
Marlene Alvarado (90802)  
Mary francine Co (90650)  
Mary Simmons (90813)  
Mary Nguyen (91733)  
Matthew Hom (90703)  
Charlene Saddul (90804)  
May Lin (90804)  
Diego Mayen (90745)  
Maylei Blackwell (90813)  
McKenzie Stribich (90807)  
Claire Brown (90805)  
Maura O'Neill (90034)  
Melissa Mednick (90803)  
Megan Ahrens (90802)  
Megan Emme (90802)  
Mei Louie (90804)  
An anonymous signer (90813)  
Melissa Gomez (90502)  
Melissa Alatraste (90804)  
Melissa Atwood  
(90803)  
Laura Stinger (90065)  
Marco Flores (90803)  
Mike Belous (90802)  
Michael C (90814)  
Michael Gearin (90807)  
Michelle Barber (90807)  
Mikayla Scanlan-Cubbege  
(90815)  
Mimi Ford (92054)  
Misa Lokibe (90804)  
Misha Choudhry (90804)

Michelle Zacarias (90802)  
Melissa Lanto (90808)  
Marilu Gonzalez (90807)  
Max (90020)  
Melissa Banda (90808)  
Mohammad Zaidi (90814)  
Moin Hussaini (90803)  
Kellie Morales (90802)  
a a (90802)  
Mona Schnall (92614)  
Myles Chaney (40202)  
Nadia Shah (92618)  
Nadith Schuster (90814)  
Nataly Delgadillo (90803)  
Niko Cababa (90807)  
Lilith Mahmud (90802)  
Nicole Hawkins (93023)  
Nikki E (90808)  
Nisreen Radwan (90804)  
Nohemy Martinez (90804)  
Naomi Steinfeld (90815)  
Noreen Hussaini (90803)  
Noreen Rahman (92630)  
Nuri May (75115)  
Nawal Zahzah (90804)  
Naomi Cor (90802)  
Bryana Olmeda (90806)  
Shannon Paaske (90807)  
Pamela Amaya (90810)  
Kellie Brown (90803)  
Alissa Lisanti (92805)  
Paul Solis (90804)  
Andrew Perry (90275)  
Kaitlyn Pha (90815)  
Noelle Wiser (90804)  
Pooja Heragu (45208)  
Char Austria (90815)  
Patrick Redmond (90802)  
Sean Dinces (90894)  
Seema Paul (90815)  
Seif Hamid (90803)  
Selena Arbid (90806)  
Shyamala Moorthy (90814)  
Silvana Alcala (90802)  
Dov Berel (90813)  
Stephanie Ibarra (90802)

Serena Padilla (90802)  
Stephanie Perales (90803)  
Sofia Melkerson (90033)  
Sonya Connolly (90802)  
Fer Landeros (90804)  
Jenny R (90803)  
Sasha Valenzuela (90806)  
Samera Raqueno (90813)  
Salma Soliman (90005)  
Brenda Stone (90814)  
Mars Strozzi (90813)  
Andrew Terranova (90807)  
Thea Montejo (90502)  
Ngoc Nguyen (92683)  
Theresa Jaranilla (90804)  
Tiffany Nakano (90630)  
Tanya Navarro (92707)  
Tracy Luu (90803)  
Tobin DeMarco (90814)  
Carole Dyer (90808)  
Tomas Delos Reyes (90813)  
Tommy Diaz (90804)  
Anelly I (90802)  
Irma Torres (90804)  
Travis Auclair (90814)  
Valerie Millan (91340)  
Vanessa Covington (90813)  
Vanessa Coover (90814)  
Jacqui Viale (90803)  
Vincent Vo (90802)  
Jordyn Watters (90802)  
Whitney Amaya (90810)  
Wijdan Nabulsi (90650)  
Jon Winton (90804)  
Cody Dolnick (92252)  
Wynn Barnard (90802)  
Maya Mandal (92130)  
Xinyu Lin (90814)

Yadi Rocha (90803)  
Yahaira Cortes (90806)  
Yasmin Ahmed (90807)  
Yasmin Mousa (90815)  
Yassaman Rahimi (90803)  
Yasmin Elasmr (90712)  
Yeshi Lemm (90802)  
Yousfa Janjua (92618)  
Zaynab Bundakji (90814)  
Zach Ray (90807)  
Zafirah Khan (90802)  
Eman Zahran (CA 90807)  
Haneen Zatar (90802)  
Tatiana Zavala (92833)  
Zeinah Ajaj (91910)  
Zarek Suque (90713)  
Zoe Mallison (90814)  
Michelle Pujol (90804)  
Emma Jenson (92886)  
Raja Abbas (90814)  
Rachel Berger (90813)  
Rahat Zaidi (90814)  
Rose Vadakan (90815)  
Ramya Harishankar (92620)  
Yuri Preciado (90638)  
Mohammad Raza (90631)  
Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez (90802)  
Carol Castellanos (91602)  
Karim Shuquem (90007)  
Reese (90813)  
Robin Jones (90803)  
Rosario Munoz (90802)  
Roxana Garcia (90805)  
Roxanne Keller (90815)  
RM (90731)  
Rita Santos-Oyama (90803)  
Ronald Trang (90606)

Nick Rubio (90606)  
Julia Campbell (90807)  
Ramón Vargas (92701)  
S.A. Backman (90048)  
Sabrina Toubbeh (92677)  
Sacha Braddock (90813)  
Saima Husain (90804)  
Salik Farooqi (91030)  
Sama Jan (90803)  
Samantha Golding (92336)  
Samar Al-Bulushi (90803)  
Sameen Maali (92130)  
Sashi Adrianzen Alvarez (90755)  
Sarah Cooper (93312)  
Sarah Nolte (90803)  
Sasha Guzman (95822-1829)  
Stephanie Cariaga (90814)  
Scott Volz (90814)  
Dinnie Danger (90802)  
Sonia Uddin (92656)  
Sully Riley (90034)  
Suleima Mednick Coles (90803)  
Stephanie Anderson (90815)  
Sumouni Basu (90802)  
Diana Lopez (90802)  
Maya Cratsley (90029)  
Kyle Dodd (90815)  
Tessa Ehrman (77008)  
Susan McKibben (90807)  
Syona Hurst (92130)  
Tami Ng (90680)  
Tanya Tello (90814)  
Prof. Eman Mohammed (90807)  
Taylor Thomas (90802)  
Viki Yamashita (90808)

ATTACHMENT: SUGGESTED REVISED PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH SUPPORTING A LASTING CEASEFIRE AND A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE ONGOING CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IMPACTING GAZA AND ISRAEL.

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach has a longstanding commitment to advocating for peace, social justice, equity, safety, and fostering mutual respect and understanding for all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach recognizes that the current crisis takes place within a long history and affirms that, for a pathway to lasting peace and justice to be developed, ongoing education and dialogue is needed; and

WHEREAS, since October 8th, 2023, the day following the attacks by Hamas militants on Israel, Long Beach's city leadership has publicly acknowledged the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis impacting Gaza and Israel; and

WHEREAS, on November 14th, 2023, the City of Long Beach issued a statement affirming the City's values of unity, respect, and understanding in light of the significant loss of Palestinian and Israeli lives, and condemning the increasing reports of Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, Anti-Jewish, and Anti-Arab incidents that have occurred since October 7th; and

WHEREAS, following news of a temporary ceasefire and the release of civilian hostages, Mayor Richardson issued a statement on November 28th, 2023, reiterating calls for a permanent ceasefire, the safe return of all hostages, and lasting peace in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Long Beach City Council has previously adopted statements and resolutions on statewide, national, and international affairs deemed important to the diverse residents and constituencies that the Council represents; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities throughout California and across the country have approved or are actively considering statements calling for peace, a lasting ceasefire and the safe return of all hostages, including Stanton, Oakland,

San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Ana, Seattle, Detroit, Providence, and Atlanta, among others; and

WHEREAS, international organizations including the United Nations General Assembly, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the International Rescue Committee have made calls for a ceasefire and the return of remaining hostages to prevent the further loss of civilian lives, and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach proclaims as follows:

Section 1. The City of Long Beach stands firmly on the foundation of peace, unity, respect, and understanding. The City Council recognizes that Palestinian lives and Israeli lives have the same value, and that all human life is precious. The City Council acknowledges the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and has condemned the attacks on Israel. Palestinian people deserve self-determination. Israel has the right to defend itself. Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve dignity, security, and to live without harm.

Section 2. The City Council calls on our federal leaders to support negotiations that lead to a lasting humanitarian ceasefire in Israel and Gaza, to address the humanitarian crisis and the release of all hostages, the safe passage of food, water, medical supplies, and other life-saving humanitarian aid into Gaza, and a peaceful resolution that achieves both an end to the attacks on Israel by Hamas, and the protection of civilian life, and an end to the catastrophic destruction of all aspects of Gaza and the lack of means of life.

Section 3. The City Council requests city staff to identify and promote community education resources and services to support Long Beach residents and community members affected by the ongoing conflict, including counseling and mental health services, and support groups led by cultural and religious organizations that center Palestinian, Arab, Muslim and Jewish Voices.

Section 4. The City Council unequivocally condemns all forms of violence, intolerance, racism, and xenophobia, including the recent rise of Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, Anti Palestinian, Anti-Jewish, and Anti-Arab sentiments, rhetoric, and attacks in our region and across the nation.