

Arlington Town Meeting, Arlington MA

Dear Town Meeting Members,

Our community members, our neighbors are affected by international events, as previous generations were during the Irish Famine & Troubles, Armenian genocide, WWI & II, during the 1930s and 1940s when isolationism prevented safe harbor here to refugees in Europe, during Vietnam when brothers, fathers, neighbors fought and many died and recent conflicts; the USA for some a model of democracy, a beacon of human rights to the world, also a purveyor of weapons systems, if our neighbors ask us to consider a Resolution, respectfully, I think a discussion merited.

Monday Town Meeting heard from the mayor of our sister city in Japan, Nagaokakyo. Arlington engages internationally. The world is a much smaller place than it was when a generation sailed off to defend democracy at the behest of FDR.

In 1797 here in Menotomy, Prince Hall, shared a Charge*, a vision of hope, brotherhood, the promise of democracy and community while acknowledging the suffering of neighbors near and far.

I ask Town Meeting to continue this Menotomy and Arlington tradition, to build on our international engagement, I ask Town Meeting to suggest a consideration of peace with their vote.

As a resident of Arlington I ask you to vote yes for Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 5: Arlington Resolution for a Ceasefire Proclamation, which calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Palestine and Israel, the release of all hostages, the immediate provision of lifesaving aid, and a diplomatic resolution to the violence.

Prince Hall tirelessly advocated for his fellow enslaved Africans, and rejoiced when US sailors were freed by Barbary pirates, (A Charge). Take up his mantle, take up the example of one of our Founding Fathers who spoke out forcefully against bondage, who believed in the words of the Declaration of Independence; speak for a Ceasefire and return of hostages. Be the compassionate, be with the Peacemakers.

Respectfully,

Beth Melofchik, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 9

[*A charge, delivered to the African Lodge, June 24, 1797, at Menotomy. By the Right Worshipful Prince Hall. ; Published by the desire of the members of said Lodge. | Evans Early American Imprint Collection | University of Michigan Library Digital Coll](#)