

Sarah McKinnon Precinct 20

ARTICLE NO. 5 RESOLUTION FOR A CEASEFIRE PROCLAMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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What is the meaning of this ceasefire resolution?

This resolution is a formal statement calling 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 for Palestinians and Israelis based upon values of dignity, equity, and justice.

Where can I read the full text of the resolution?

The resolution being presented at Arlington Town Meeting [can be viewed here](#).

Who has endorsed this resolution?

This resolution was strongly endorsed by the [Arlington Human Rights Commission](#) on April 24th, 2024:

“The AHRC did not vote to endorse this article until we could read the full draft of the proclamation, because examining the nuances, details, and balance were essential to our decision. We wanted to make sure the proclamation centered on common humanity, civilian welfare, and the impacts in Arlington, rather than trying to place blame and take sides. [...] We encourage both bodies to vote favorably in support of this proclamation.”*

** the Select Board and Town Meeting*

This resolution has also been endorsed by [Jewish Voice for Peace Boston](#).

Why pass a ceasefire resolution and how does it relate to Arlington?

Here are the reasons we are submitting this resolution:

1. To center human rights.

- The events of the past six months have had a tragic impact on the people of Israel. With over [1,200 Israelis killed](#), hundreds of people taken hostage and more than [half not yet released](#), and [more than 135,000 people displaced](#), the suffering in Israel continues and is widespread.
- Concurrently, the situation in Gaza is dire. In the [past six months](#), more than [34,000 people in Gaza](#) have been killed and [more than 1.7 million continue to be displaced](#). More than [9,000 Palestinian people remain detained](#) in Israel. A [famine is underway](#) and over a million people are “critically at risk,” while the vast majority of international aid and support is being blocked.

2. To acknowledge the direct impact on our community members.

In Arlington and nationally, many Arabs, Muslims, and Jews, among others, feel directly impacted by the current crisis due to family and other ties to Gaza and/or Israel. The hurt and harm is further compounded by the history and recent increase of occurrences of Islamophobia, antisemitism and anti-Arab hate.

- 100+ community members participated in the Listening Sessions
- 100+ letters were received by the AHRC.
- The Select Board has received many letters
- The Select Board has extended public commentary to a second meeting

It is clear from this response that many Arlingtonians feel deeply connected to and impacted by this current crisis in Gaza and Israel, and were strongly compelled to “[share their stories at emotional and personal risk to themselves](#).”

3. To address the use of our tax dollars.

We are not just passive observers of this violence. As taxpayers we are invested in this issue, as [billions of US tax dollars](#) pay for weapons being shipped to the region, including bombs dropped on Palestinians. In Arlington, an estimated [\\$706,408 of taxpayer money](#) has gone to funding weapons for Israel.

4. To send a message to our elected officials.

Collective action at the grassroots level can inspire larger movements and policy changes. In fact, history shows that local initiatives can lead to significant impacts when they gain momentum. By passing this resolution, we can encourage our state and federal elected officials to pursue paths of diplomacy and lasting peace.

Isn't a ceasefire resolution outside of the jurisdiction of the Arlington Select Board and Arlington Town Meeting?

Not at all! The impact of international events does not stop at our borders. Arlington Town Meeting has considered and passed warrant articles addressing issues that connect our community to larger events, specifically when those events are seen to have a particular impact in our Town. The Arlington Select Board also adopted a Black Lives Matter Proclamation in June of 2020.

- 2003 - [ARTICLE 81 THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES](#)
- 2007 - [ARTICLE 73 RESOLUTION/WELFARE AND SAFETY OF CITIZENS](#)
 - *WHEREAS, the Town of Arlington through its elected and appointed officials, has responsibility for the ongoing welfare and safety of its citizens.*
 - *WHEREAS, these responsibilities includes [sic] consideration of the impact of an adjacent communities [sic] actions.*
- [ARTICLE 71 RESOLUTION/SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN](#)
 - *WHEREAS, actions to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other GHGs can be taken not only at the national and state levels, but also by local government and households;*
 - *Select Board comment: The Board strongly endorses this resolution that will strengthen the Town's commitment to address how it can best respond to the challenges of global warming.*
- 2012 - [ARTICLE 73 RESOLUTION/US SUPREME COURT DECISION IN CITIZENS UNITED v. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION](#)
 - *"A majority of the Board supports the sentiments expressed in this resolution and feels that Town Meeting is an appropriate venue for expressing these concerns"*
- 2017 - [ARTICLE 59 - RESOLUTIONS/SANCTUARY TOWN](#) (from AHRC, SB - endorses 5-0, TM 173 yes- 19 no)
 - *WHEREAS, the Town of Arlington desires to provide safety, opportunity, access, and equality for all immigrants and people of all ethnicities and religions*
- 2022 - [ARTICLE 25 RESOLUTION/BLACK LIVES MATTER BANNER AT TOWN HALL](#) (TM 166 yes- 34 no- 38 abstain)
 - *"the Board values and recognizes the earnest effort by the proponents and the many persons who signed their petition to place such a proposal before Town Meeting, has heard many of its supporters [sic] messages, and is interested to now hear Town Meeting's collective perspective."*

What other MA towns or cities have passed ceasefire resolutions?

- In MA, ceasefire resolutions have been passed by [Boston](#), [Somerville](#), [Cambridge](#), [Medford](#), [Melrose](#), [Northampton](#), [Greenfield](#), [Easthampton](#), [Amherst](#), [Wellfleet](#), and others.
- Nationwide, [at least 100](#) communities have passed ceasefire resolutions, including the cities of Chicago, Seattle, Detroit, Atlanta, Albany, Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco, and Providence.

What organizations or charities are in support of a ceasefire?

Organizations that support ceasefire include Amnesty International, Jewish Voices for Peace, IfNotNow, Avaaz, Demand Progress, MoveOn, Oxfam America, J Street, Progressive Israel Network, Friends Committee on National Legislation, MoveOn, Oxfam America, the Episcopal Church, and [hundreds more](#).