

Sarah McKinnon, Precinct 20

Elizabeth Dray, TMM Pct 10 Letter of Support for STM Article 5 Resolution for a  
Ceasefire

Dear Honorable Select Board members,

I am writing to you as a 23 year resident of Arlington, a Town Meeting member and a mother to ask you to support STM Warrant Article #5 Ceasefire Resolution. Supporting this Ceasefire is not a binary decision. It does not mean taking sides or supporting Hamas and it is not anti-semitic. It is a vote that demonstrates your trust in the AHRC and their process. It is a vote that, above all else, centers our common humanity.

Supporting a ceasefire is not a zero-sum decision that benefits one party at the expense of another. Nor is it a vote to endorse Hamas or their abhorrent actions on October 7, 2023. Rather, it is a call for an immediate pause in hostilities based on humanitarian grounds that benefits all sides by preventing further loss of innocent civilian lives and creating an opportunity for dialogue and peaceful resolution.

Supporting a ceasefire does not equate to being anti-Semitic or against any nation. It is crucial to distinguish between criticism of government policies and actions, and prejudice against a people or religion. Your vote for a ceasefire is a commitment to human rights and the protection of all civilians, regardless of nationality or religion.

The Arlington Human Rights Commission endorsed this article and in their statement they encouraged both the Select Board and Town Meeting to “vote favorably in support of this proclamation”. They did not endorse the resolution without undertaking a thorough process of listening sessions, processing those comments and writing a report that centers on “common humanity and the impacts on Arlington”.

*“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.”*

They have lived up to their mission. Please listen to them. **To disregard their recommendation would be a vote of no-confidence in their judgment. If you don’t trust their process and judgment and vote contrary to their recommendation then I would anticipate that the Select Board would immediately move to dismiss all eight commissioners who voted to support this Resolution.**

The principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence in humanitarian response call for an immediate ceasefire to prevent further loss of life and to ensure humanitarian aid can be safely delivered to those in need.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I urge you to vote “yes” tonight.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Dray

TMM Pct 10