

Submitted by Charles Foskett, TMM Precinct 10

Dear Arlington Friends and Neighbors:

I thank you all for writing to me and other Town Meeting Members about this difficult and complex subject. In Israel, Gaza, and Palestine we need a ceasefire, and a just and lasting peace, and I hope and pray for this outcome.

Some have passionately and justifiably advocated to relieve the suffering of Gazans. Others have explicitly or implicitly tied this article to a form of antisemitism; I am not sure anti-Semitism is behind this article, but it could be. In any event, I deplore and condemn anti-Semitism, anywhere at any time, and I am also extremely pained by the suffering of the Gazans, the hostages, Israelis, and many others proximate to this human disaster.

I believe that Article 5 has no place in Arlington's Town Meeting. We do not have the time or the expertise to produce a solution to recovering the hostages, securing Israel's right of self-defense and security, eliminating Hamas, and protecting civilians in Gaza. There are dozens if not hundreds of expert minds addressing this complex matter, so far with no apparent solution. I will vote against Article 5, not because of its merits or lack thereof, but because it does not belong in Arlington's Town Meeting.

I have also rejected past articles on ending nuclear war, and other similar articles, and will do so in the future. Town Meeting should only address subjects where its vote affects Arlingtonians, and where the Town has some potential effect on or control over the outcome.

Respectfully,
Charlie