

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, Gaza, home to approximately 2.3 million people, almost half of them children, has been subjected to one of the heaviest conventional bombing campaigns in the history of modern warfare; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a ceasefire is not achieved and humanitarian aid is not delivered without delay; and

WHEREAS, the brutal attacks by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023 is unequivocally condemned as is the response of Israel that has led to the deaths of civilians, journalists, and healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, the recent rise of anti-Semitism, anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and xenophobia-fueled attacks across the nation is condemned; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza has led to significant loss of life, immense humanitarian crises, and continued suffering for innocent civilians, including those with ties to Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day, with the only remaining hospitals running out of fuel and medical supplies, and millions of Palestinians facing displacement, homelessness, and starvation, as well as disease resulting from unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, international organizations like Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Rescue Committee, and many others have made a call for a ceasefire in order to prevent the further loss of civilians and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, since October 2023, residents of Columbia have demonstrated every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. that they want to see an end to this horrific violence; and

WHEREAS, all people – Israeli, Palestinian, and others – are entitled to live in safety, free from violence; and

WHEREAS, the United States should use its significant diplomatic power to call for an immediate bilateral ceasefire as requested by the strong and urgent plea of our community for peace;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of the City of Columbia, Missouri do hereby recognize Sunday, January 14, 2024 as the marking of 100 days since the war broke out in Gaza and ask for all community members to encourage the urgent need for an immediate bilateral ceasefire; release of all hostages; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies; respect for international law; and measures that protect the security of all innocent civilians.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the seal of the City of Columbia, this 16th day of January, 2024.



Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor



ATTEST:



Sheela Amin, City Clerk