

City pulls plug on letter of support for Israel

November 16, 2023



The horrific events of the October 7 Hamas attack murdering, raping and kidnapping some 1,400 Jews, including some enjoying a music festival near Gaza prompted City Councilors Jason Greenough and Blake Inscore to co-craft a city letter of support to the Consulate General in San Francisco.

Debate was somber and very emotional. After hearing several public comments expressed during the comment period, Councilor Inscore stated he needed to step back and reevaluate his role in crafting the letter of support for the Jewish state. Though Inscore publicly repudiated the Hamas genocide, he equated similar instances of native tribes' genocides during America's history. He weighed in with his comments, "maybe this is not the right time to send this letter." He continued, "30 days or even two weeks ago, conditions were different. Sometimes I have to step back, think about things and listen to others on an issue I may not fully understand."

Councilor Greenough, who attended the meeting via Zoom, was passionate and articulate in his comments rebuking "unadulterated Hamas evil. He continued, " don't know who we are as a people if we can't stand up and condemn these acts of terror on innocent people."

When comments were completed, Mayor Isaiah Wright sensed there would not be a consensus on sending the letter and stated so; nonetheless Greenough made the motion to sign and send the letter. There was no second to the motion. Greenough expressed his disdain, uttering "despicable."

Mayor Wright quickly moved on to the next issue of selecting a new mayor and mayor pro tem. The Council appointed five-time mayor Blake Inscore as the new mayor and selected Ray Altman as mayor pro-tem.

The Council adjourned and will meet again, Monday, November 20.

Proposed City Letter of Support for Israel

Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest 456 Montgomery St. #2100 San Francisco, CA. 94104

Honorable Ambassador Marco Sermoneta,

It has been said that silence in the face of great evil is evil. It is with that spirit we send this letter. We, along with the world, were shocked and saddened by the barbaric terrorist act of October 7, 2023. People who were just trying to live their lives in peace were brutally attacked without provocation. This attack was not only on the people of Israel but on the hearts and spirit of the Jewish people. Premeditated acts of murder, rape and kidnapping directed at innocent people should be forcefully condemned.

Therefore, we, the City Council of the City of Crescent City do adamantly condemn these acts by the terrorist organization Hamas. We send our condolences and our prayers to those affected by these atrocities and pray for the safe return of those who were kidnapped. No person should have to fear perpetual acts of violence just because of who they are.

We hope for a quick resolution to the current conflict, but not at the expense of Israel's safety and security. Please express our support to the people of Israel along with our hope that Israel will be blessed with future peace and prosperity.

Respectfully,

[Signature here]