

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and City Manager Mark Washington
300 Monroe NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Mayor Bliss and City Manager Washington:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Community Relations Commission regarding a matter of utmost importance: our city's involvement with companies that contribute to the ongoing conflict in Palestine. After receiving input from community members and conducting thorough research and deliberation, we strongly recommend that the attached resolution be promptly reviewed and considered.

First and foremost, it is imperative to emphasize that this suggested resolution is not a request for divestiture. Rather, it calls for a cessation of business dealings with companies that directly support the war, as well as a commitment to refrain from engaging in future business with such entities using taxpayer dollars. Our intention is to uphold moral principles and stand in solidarity with those affected by the violence and injustice in Palestine.

The genesis of this resolution lies in the unwavering values of our community, which reject racism, discrimination, and inhumane treatment in all forms. The escalating crisis in Palestine, resulting in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, including many children, has deeply resonated with our residents. We cannot stand idly by while such atrocities unfold, particularly when members of our own community are directly impacted by these tragic events.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize the precedent set by our city when it comes to addressing issues of dire significance, even if they extend beyond our local borders. We have consistently taken a proactive approach to championing causes that affect our citizens, regardless of whether they are of local, national, or international concern. This commitment to prioritizing the well-being and voices of our community members is a cornerstone of our governance.

In light of the foregoing, we suggest that the attached resolution be passed by the City of Grand Rapids to affirm our stance and make our community's voices heard.

We believe that by adopting this resolution, we can demonstrate our unwavering support for justice, peace, and human rights, both within our community and beyond. Thank you for considering this matter with the gravity it deserves, and for your continued dedication to serving the best interests of all residents of Grand Rapids.

Sincerely,

Justine Bryant

Justine Bryant, Chair
Community Relations Commission
City of Grand Rapids