

agencies, and over 400 staff members of the Biden-Harris administration – have resoundingly called for an unconditional and immediate ceasefire in Gaza; and

WHEREAS, over 150 countries worldwide voted to demand immediate ceasefire via UN resolution in December; and

WHEREAS, the Nation of South Africa, which has an intimate knowledge and history with violent apartheid, and whose apartheid system was brought down through an international campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions, has brought a highly detailed case to the UN International Court of Justice charging Israel with genocide; and

WHEREAS, prior to October 7th, Gaza was already widely regarded as “the world’s largest open-air prison” due to ongoing, unbearable living conditions imposed by the State of Israel, including a full air, land, and sea blockade, enclosure of its borders by concrete walls and barbed-wire fences, and the strict prohibition of Palestinians from leaving and entering the territory freely; and

WHEREAS, the lives of approximately 120 Israeli hostages in Gaza and nearly 5,000 Palestinian “security prisoners” are being imperiled by the ongoing hostilities, and the most successful moments of hostage return have been facilitated by ceasefire; and

WHEREAS, we mourn all civilian lives lost on, since, and before October 7th, including those Israelis and others killed during the Hamas attack; and

WHEREAS, we condemn all forms of racism, colonization, anti-Semitism, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and collective punishment; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate security of the residents of Urbana and the United States at large depends upon working cooperatively with all nations to eliminate poverty, injustice, inequality, environmental degradation, and other factors that breed war and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana City Council adopted Resolution 2003-01-002R in 2003 to oppose the US war against Iraq on the basis of ethics, international law, and civilian deaths, including the overwhelming deaths of young children; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Defense provides \$3.8 billion in annual military aid to Israel, of which the citizens of Urbana contribute approximately \$425,000 collectively each year through federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, the US government is uniquely positioned to pressure Israel to end its campaign of genocide but has instead used its geopolitical power to veto ceasefire measures and limit aid to Gaza; and