



**Equity and Empowerment Commission  
Thursday, November 30, 2023  
Room 2402 - Civic Center  
6:30 PM**

To view: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/equity-empowerment/equity-and-empowerment-commission>

**AGENDA**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89468103486?pwd=VWtKeElJNHcxYisrT2U4aTY5cnJxdz09>

**Passcode**

455014

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4. DISCUSSION**

**A. Resolution: Ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian People  
[Evanston CeaseFire Resolution](#)**

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**5. CONSIDERATION**

## 6. COMMUNICATION

## 7. REPORTS

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

### **Mission Statement**

The Equity and Empowerment Commission's (EEC) mission is to develop shared recognition, and language of the history and impact of structural racism in Evanston, and develop tools and practices to achieve racial equity for all residents.

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING EVANSTON'S SUPPORT FOR A CEASEFIRE AND THE  
RETURN OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN HOSTAGES**

WHEREAS, [the City of Evanston](#) deeply mourns the devastating loss of life in occupied Palestine and Israel and [stands in firm opposition to the taking of civilian lives](#), holding of innocent hostages, and acts of collective punishment by any state government; and

WHEREAS, over 200 [innocent Israeli civilian hostages](#) are being held by Hamas, and we desire their safe return to their loved ones and family; and

WHEREAS, [Over 2000 innocent Palestinian civilian hostages are being held in Israeli jails without charges](#), just processing, and an additional [8000 plus have not been given due process and are being held in inhumane conditions](#); and

WHEREAS, the death toll in Gaza stands above [14,100 people](#), with at least [5500 of whom are children](#) and with another 30,000 people injured; and

WHEREAS, the city of Evanston acknowledges the principles of proportionality and international law in self-defense; and

WHEREAS, collective punishment is considered a [war crime under international law](#), and [refers to a form of sanction imposed on a person or a group of persons in response to a crime committed by an individual or a member of a group](#); and

WHEREAS, the city of Evanston believes that collective punishment and violence against civilians is against international law; and

WHEREAS, this collective punishment of the Palestinian people includes [shutting off all access to electricity, drinking water, food, and humanitarian aid](#); and

WHEREAS, the UN says approximately 2.3 million people in Gaza are already without access to [water safe for human consumption](#), and access to [adequate medical care is non-existent](#), and

WHEREAS, over [1.7 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes](#), in further disregard of international law's constitution of war crimes; and

WHEREAS, Israel has also bombed multiple [36 health facilities](#), [22 hospitals](#), [52 mosques](#), and [239 schools](#); all of which are [protected under international law in times of war](#); and

WHEREAS, the largest number of United Nations employees [\(101\)](#) have been killed in the [history of their involvement in armed conflict](#), and [42](#) journalists have been killed, the largest number in any armed conflict, since the Committee to Protect Journalists started [tracking armed conflict deaths in 1992](#).

WHEREAS, the [Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated places on Earth](#), has repeatedly been referred to by human rights groups as “the world’s largest open-air prison” [prior to this conflict](#); and

WHEREAS, Gaza, known as “[the world’s largest open-air prison](#)” due to the ongoing, unbearable living conditions imposed by the state of Israel, including [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, before Oct 7 the blockade on Gaza had already caused [a 42% unemployment rate, 84% of the population relies on humanitarian aid, 41% of Palestinians have too little food, 60% of Palestinian children are anemic, and the Gazan population cannot count on more than 2-4 hours of continuous electrical power a day](#); and

WHEREAS, prior to this current water shortage, [only 1% of Gaza’s population has access to safe drinking water](#), leaving its population, [half of whom are children, increasingly vulnerable to waterborne diseases, infections, and dehydration](#); and

WHEREAS, all these conditions have been made immeasurably worse by the [destruction of water pipes](#); severe damage to [roads](#) and [utility infrastructure](#), the destruction or damage of over [45% of the residential housing in Gaza](#), and the continued trauma of the people of Gaza; and

WHEREAS, the level of suffering being experienced daily by Palestinians in Gaza is inhumane and does not align with our collective sense of a just and non-violent world;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, that the City of Evanston condemns Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian sentiments in all its forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Evanston urges President Joe Biden and members of Congress to support [H. Res. 786](#) calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine put forward by Congresswoman Cori Bush and others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Evanston calls for an immediate cease-fire and

lifting of the siege on Gaza to allow much-needed aid to flow at a rate of 500 trucks (previous levels) or more through the Rafah border daily; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Evanston calls for the safe return of all hostages held by Hamas, and all Palestinians extrajudicially detained by Israel; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Evanston advocates for the dignity and safety of residents in every community throughout the world, regardless of the crimes individual political leaders may commit or encourage, and that peaceful diplomacy is the only way to achieve the safety, dignity, and freedom of all peoples.