



Jewish Community Statement:

My name is [NAME] and I am from [community/municipality].

The Jewish Community respects free speech for all, and thanks the council for supporting the democratic right of all citizens to express their opinion.

On October 6, there was a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. On October 7, this all changed when Hamas attacked Israel, massacred over 1300 Israelis, violently raped countless women, carried out hundreds of executions, beheadings, and kidnappings of Israelis of all backgrounds, religions, and ages.

This must not be forgotten.

Failing to recognize and remember this reality outright ignores how this conflict began and ignores accountability for Hamas's actions.

Widespread misrepresentations of how this war started foster misinformation stoking anti-Israel and antisemitic sentiment and threats — and do nothing to solve the real problem.

This cannot be ignored. The truth of this situation cannot be denied.

Be assured that the Jewish Community affirms and encourages peace-minded people of good faith and good will to affirm that the suffering of all innocent people including Palestinians AT THE HANDS OF HAMAS is very real and tragic and the concern for their wellbeing is unquestionable.

Pressuring Israel to cease offensive military attacks and compromise its security and stating false accusations against it, is sorely misdirected. Both fuel anti-Israel sentiment aimed at Jews in this country and our local New Jersey communities, creating a demoralizing and unsafe situation while failing to advance workable solutions.

Facts matter.

War kills and harms civilians with a catastrophic effect on the health and well-being of all involved.

Life is a gift that has been given to us all. We can give ourselves the gift of living well. This means focusing on what unites our communities and makes [City You Are In] so beautiful – our diversity. Any cease-fire resolution is not only harmful to our community, it ignores the facts, and is beyond the scope of responsibility and governance of this body. Let's focus on what we need for our home, here.

Thank you.