

**A PROCLAMATION AFFIRMING DENVER'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SUPPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA**

WHEREAS, All life is worth protecting and the City of Denver calls on elected officials and residents alike to protect life and stand united against violence; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver condemns antisemitic, anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, racist, and xenophobic attacks in our city and across the nation, and further condemns threats of violence and retaliation directed at elected officials, students, professors, journalists, and others engaged in the exercise of First Amendment rights; and expresses our deepest concern for the increase in such attacks and threats in our city in recent months and support for all impacted;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, Over twelve hundred people in Israel and more than twenty-two thousand people in Gaza have been killed in a matter of weeks, of whom over eight thousand are children, and countless others have been injured, traumatized, or left grieving loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver condemns acts of terrorism and specifically the unconscionable attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The City of Denver recognizes that the current crisis takes place within a long history, affirms in the strongest possible terms that all Israeli and Palestinian people deserve to live in security, freedom, and peace and that it is for them to design that future, and affirms that the role of the United States is to support the pathway to lasting peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, The past teaches us that escalation and continued loss of life makes peace and justice ever less likely; and

WHEREAS, Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day, with the only remaining hospitals running out of fuel and medical supplies, utilities shutting down, and some 2 million Palestinians facing displacement, homelessness, disease outbreaks, and imminent starvation; and

WHEREAS, Some 140 civilian hostages taken captive in violation of international law on October 7 are being held in Gaza and are at grave risk of death; and

WHEREAS, Several thousand Palestinians have been detained by Israel since October 7 in deteriorating conditions and at least 100 citizens of Israel have been arrested for speech on social media; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of Denverites have lost loved ones in this conflict and hundreds more continue to fear for the lives of loved ones living in Gaza or held hostage there, living in Israel, and living in the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, International organizations like the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Rescue Committee, and many others have made a call for a permanent ceasefire in order to prevent the further loss of life of civilians and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law, which prohibits collective punishment; and

WHEREAS, Sixty one percent of American voters support a ceasefire, according to a December 5, 2023 Data For Progress poll, and want to see the United States leverage its diplomatic relationships “to prevent further violence and civilian deaths;” and

WHEREAS, Cities across the United States including Denver are facing a refugee crisis and the City of Denver believes federal tax dollars should be used to first and foremost to alleviate that crisis; now, therefore, be it

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver joins other cities in calling on our Members of Congress to demand: an immediate bilateral ceasefire; release of all hostages taken in Israel and of all arbitrarily detained Palestinian prisoners; the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; respect for international law and principles of human rights; adherence to U.S. law regarding arms transfers; and funding to alleviate humanitarian crises; and be it

Section 2: That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be

transmitted to the offices of Denver-area state Senators and House Representatives, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, U.S. Representative Diana DeGette, U.S. Representative Joe Neguse, U. S. Representative Lauren Boebert, U.S. Representative Ken Buck, U.S. Representative Doug Lamborn, U.S. Representative Jason Crow, U.S. Representative Brittany Pettersen, U.S. Representative Yadira Caraveo, U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper, U.S. President Joe Biden, and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, urging them to take immediate action to accomplish these goals.