



COUNCIL AGENDA: 3/28/2023
ITEM: 2.4

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Cohen

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXCUSED
ABSENCE**

DATE: 3/22/2023

RECOMMENDATION

Excuse my absences from the **Regular Meeting of the San Jose City Council** on March 21, 2023, and the **Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee** on March 22, 2023. due to the following:

☒ Authorized City Business:

Location: **Various locations in Israel**

Meeting Dates: **March 17-27, 2023**

Purpose: For over 20 years, JCRC's Israel Seminar has hosted leading Bay Area elected officials, civic/community leaders, nonprofit directors, and other change makers. The trip has been described as "life-altering" and "deeply moving" by past participants, including Vice President Kamala Harris, Treasurer Fiona Ma, Mayor London Breed, City Attorneys David Chiu and Barbara Parker, Senator Scott Wiener, and 200+ other Bay Area leaders. The Seminar involves a 9-day trip to Israel and the West Bank. Key themes include: 1) engaging with changemakers on social and economic issues relevant to the Bay Area; 2) deepening understanding of Israel's geopolitical challenges and relationships; 3) exploring different dimensions and viewpoints on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The trip includes a visit to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and exploration of Israeli water policy, including desalination. Jewish Community Relations Council is a 501(c)3 organization in good standing with the State of California.

☐ Illness

☐ Death of a close family member

☐ Other: Personal Travel