



# Memorandum

**TO:** Honorable Mayor &  
City Council

**FROM:** Toni J. Taber, CMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** The Public Record  
April 11 – April 18, 2024

**DATE:** April 24, 2024

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## **ITEMS FILED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD**

### **Letters from Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

#### **Letters from the Public**

- 1-2. Letters from two members of the public, dated April 11 – 15, 2024, regarding: Ban City-Sponsored Travel to Israel.

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Toni J. Taber, CMC  
City Clerk

## FW: Ban City Sponsored Travel to Israel

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Thu 4/11/2024 4:14 PM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Merfet A [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Ban City-Sponsored Travel to Israel

[External Email]

San Jose City Clerk ,

I urge you to take action and ban city authorized travel to Israel. In 2022, the City Council blocked then Mayor Sam Liccardo from traveling to Qatar due to concerns about that country's human rights record, yet said nothing when he made a taxpayer-funded official trip to Israel in 2019. As Israel's extreme violations of human rights grow day by day, I ask that you act consistently and institute a policy ending official City travel to Israel.

Today, residents of San Jose are hurting, witnessing families and innocent civilians being killed by Israel in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Over the past 100+ days, Israel has killed over 27,000 Palestinians, besieged educational, cultural, and medical institutions in Gaza, and committed countless human rights violations against the Palestinian people. According to the United Nations Human Rights Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, these violations include the targeted destruction of civilian infrastructure, the intentional deprivation of food, water, and healthcare from the civilian population of Gaza, and the indefinite detention of Gazans without trial.

In 2019, the City Council rejected then Mayor Liccardo's trip to Qatar based on a report by Amnesty International that Qatar had committed human rights abuses. Here is how Amnesty International described Israel's human rights record before that country began its military invasion of Gaza:

"Israel's continuing oppressive and discriminatory system of governing Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) constituted a system of apartheid, and Israeli officials committed the crime of apartheid under international law."

The Amnesty International report further noted that Israel has "imposed arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement and closures that amounted to collective

punishment" and employs "torture and other ill-treatment" against Palestinian detainees. These are serious and ongoing human rights abuses that require our City to act consistently and institute a policy against official travel to Israel to avoid lending legitimacy to these unconscionable acts.

We cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We need to see concrete action from the San Jose City Council to pressure Israel as it carries out a genocide with the U.S.'s financial and diplomatic backing. I ask that you safeguard our city's commitment to human rights just as you did in 2022. Ban city authorized travel to Israel now.

Merfet A



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**Fw: Ban City Sponsored Travel to Israel**

Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Tue 4/16/2024 10:46 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas &lt;rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:45 AM**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** FW: Ban City-Sponsored Travel to Israel

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**From:** Melissa Le-Lewis [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 3:59 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Ban City-Sponsored Travel to Israel

[External Email]

San Jose City Clerk ,

I urge you to take action and ban city-authorized travel to Israel.

Israel has shown time and again that it is a racist apartheid regime. It does not care about human rights for anyone other than Israelis and its apartheid and genocidal practices are constantly costing US taxpayers money.

I do not support Israel. I know so many San Jose natives who do not support Israel. I want my city council to reflect my values as a member of the Bay Area and a tax paying, voting resident of San Jose.

In 2022, the City Council blocked then-Mayor Sam Liccardo from traveling to Qatar due to concerns about that country's human rights record, yet said nothing when he made a taxpayer funded official trip to Israel in 2019. As Israel's extreme violations of human rights grow day by day, I ask that you act consistently and institute a policy ending official City travel to Israel.

Today, residents of San Jose are hurting, witnessing families and innocent civilians being killed by Israel in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Over the past 100+ days, Israel has killed over 41,000 Palestinians, besieged educational, cultural, and medical institutions in Gaza, and committed countless human rights violations against the Palestinian people. 15,000 children of the deaths have been children. According to the United Nations Human Rights Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, these violations include the targeted destruction of civilian infrastructure, the intentional deprivation of food, water, and

healthcare from the civilian population of Gaza, and the indefinite detention of Gazans without trial.

In 2019, the City Council rejected then Mayor Liccardo's trip to Qatar based on a report by Amnesty International that Qatar had committed human rights abuses. Here is how Amnesty International described Israel's human rights record before that country began its military invasion of Gaza:

"Israel's continuing oppressive and discriminatory system of governing Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) constituted a system of apartheid, and Israeli officials committed the crime of apartheid under international law."

The Amnesty International report further noted that Israel has "imposed arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement and closures that amounted to collective punishment" and employs "torture and other ill-treatment" against Palestinian detainees. These are serious and ongoing human rights abuses that require our City to act consistently and institute a policy against official travel to Israel to avoid lending legitimacy to these unconscionable acts.

We cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We need to see concrete action from the San Jose City Council to pressure Israel as it carries out a genocide with the U.S.'s financial and diplomatic backing. I ask that you safeguard our city's commitment to human rights just as you did in 2022. Ban city authorized travel to Israel now.

Melissa Le-Lewis



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