

# Documenters

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## City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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## Summary

- Several community members expressed displeasure with a statement made by Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Israel.
- The meeting agenda was not followed due to council members' absences.

## Follow-Up Questions

- What, if anything, has Bibb done to better understand and acknowledge the perspective of local Palestinians?

## Notes

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. The roll was called. Council President Blaine Griffin asked for a moment of silence for the situation in the Middle East.

Public comment:

Kathy McDonald from Hyacinth Block Club said she wants parents to be more responsible for their children's behavior. She also said she doesn't feel that having police officers work 12-hour shifts is the solution to police staffing issues.

Dontez Taylor from Ward 4 said he wanted to know what City Council can do to help rehabilitate youth at the juvenile detention Center. He said he also wants to get the lead pipes out of the city.

Stephen Katanovic said he wants to be a household name and that he was wrongfully banned from Erieview Plaza.

Faten Husni Odeh, the interim executive director of the Cleveland and Northern Ohio

chapter of the [Council on Arab-Islamic Relations](#), said statements from leadership saying “Cleveland stands with Israel” are one-sided. She said what happened on Oct. 7 was a response to decades of cruel and brutal occupancy of Palestinians by Israel. She said families were ethnically cleansed and are living without food, water and electricity.

Abbas Hamideh, from [Al-Awda](#), made similar statements. He said it’s appalling that a mayor would jump on the bandwagon and make statements like Mayor Justin Bibb did. He said Palestinians have a right to resist occupation. He said words have consequences and Palestinians and Muslims are experiencing hostility because of leaders’ rhetoric.

Haneen Hamideh said that there are acts of terrorism being committed against the two million people being held hostage in Gaza. She said Israel used white phosphorus bombs, which are prohibited by protocol 3 of the UN’s Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Summer Husein said that the Cleveland area is home to 25,000 displaced Palestinians and Bibb’s tweeted statement made them feel less safe.

Multiple other people came forward to express dissatisfaction with Bibb’s statement in support of Israel.

After public comment, the secretary read communications and resolutions of condolences

In a sidebar, Griffin was told that there are only 11 members present and they can’t pass anything under suspension.

Council Member Kerry McCormack recognized the [Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio](#) for Sunburst Enterprises, an adult employment initiative to prepare and connect adults with Down Syndrome to employment. Bibb and Griffin joined in recognizing the participants and organization for their work.

Council Member Kevin Conwell recognized [My Sister’s Keeper](#), which provides services and support for women with cancer. They recently had a cancer walk to raise awareness in Glenville.

First reading emergency ordinances:

1182 2023- State funding to improve Shaker Blvd.

1183-2023- Food shop licenses  
1184-2024- Revolving loan fund for home improvement  
1185-2023- Lease of space at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport  
1186-2023- Public swimming pool fees  
1187-2023- Grant for the Department of Transportation to reconnect Cleveland-I-90 program  
1188-2023- Court to apply for grant from ADAMHS Board  
1189-2023- Renovate space for training in construction trades  
1190-2023- Employee healthcare, Cobra/ HIPAA compliance  
1191-2023- Contract Aecom  
1192-2023 Greater Cleveland Sports Commission as marketing  
1193-2023- Improve Johnston Parkway  
1194-2023 Improvements to Parma Pump Station  
1195-2023 Sell air rights interest for residential development  
1196-2023 MGT consulting for Department of Finance  
1199-2023 Greater Cleveland Film Commission  
1200-2023 Consulting for City Planning

First reading emergency ordinances to be passed:

1196-2023- Habitat for Humanity  
1198-2023- Senior Transportation Connection  
1201-2023- Literacy through the Arts summer academy  
1202-2023- Bellaire-Puritas housing code enforcement  
1203-2023- Hispanic Police Officers for Puerto Rican Expo

Griffin held passage and second readings due to members being out.

He acknowledged Judge W. Moná Scott from Cleveland Housing Court, who introduced her new director of communications, Amanda Harnocz.

Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones thanked the Palestinian community members for their courage during their public comments.

Conwell talked about the violence at Cleveland muni football games. He said fathers need to get involved.

The absences were excused. Jones, Kazy, Maurer, Spencer and Santana were absent.

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