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City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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Summary

- For the third meeting in a row, many residents were critical of how Mayor Justin Bibb and Cleveland City Council have failed to make statements in support of the Palestinian people. Several commenters were frustrated by a lack of action following criticism in past weeks. They said that City Council is ignoring constituents by remaining silent in regards to Israel's attacks on Palestinian people in the days following the Hamas attack on Israel.

Follow-Up Questions

- What sorts of [changes](#) is City Council exploring in regards to public comment? Will the procedure of signing up in advance remain the same?
- What other events or actions have been taking place in the City of Cleveland supporting the Palestinian people?
- Is there enough space for public comment to support the number of interested people? If you miss out one week, can you sign up for the following week? How far in advance can you [register for public comment](#)?

Notes

The meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Fourteen members of [Cleveland City Council](#) were present. Council Members Kevin Bishop, Kerry McCormack and Jenny Spencer were excused.

Quorum achieved at 7:01 p.m.

Council President [Blaine Griffin](#) called for a moment of silence for “everyone that have tragically lost their lives in the conflict” in Israel and Palestine.

Public comment

In a continuation of the [past two](#) council meetings, public comment was almost entirely criticisms of Mayor Justin Bibb and City Council members' pro-Israel statements. (See [Mayor Bibb's Oct. 7 tweet](#) in support of Israel.)

Of seven public commenters, six were definitively critical of city leadership's handling of the issue. Residents asked city leadership to take back their past statements, affirm their support for the Palestinian people, and call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Between comments, the crowd often broke into applause or standing ovations. Kameron Damaska, representing the [Party for Socialism and Liberation](#), read a proposed resolution he would like City Council to adopt.

In the audience, residents held up signs with names and ages. One commenter, Christin Li, said that "these are names and ages of children killed by Israel in the past month."

Emergency ordinances referred

Ordinances passed and meeting agendas are available on City Council's [Legistar page](#)

Eleven total ordinances were referred to committees in bulk, with "yeas" from all 14 council members in attendance.

First reading emergency ordinances read in full and passed

Four ordinances were passed with 14 yeas after a first reading.

Three of the ordinances would authorize the director of the Department of Community Development to enter agreements with community development corporations for the purpose of providing the 2023 Food Card Distribution Program through the use of casino revenue funds. (Ordinances [1260-2023](#), [1261-2023](#), [1262-2023](#))

The other ordinance approved a permit for the sixth annual Cleveland [Kurentovanje](#) Kurent Dash. (Ordinance [1259-2023](#))

Second reading legislation

Fourteen ordinances were passed after second reading, with 13 yeas. Some notable

ordinances:

1004-2023: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Public Safety to enter into one or more agreements with Cuyahoga County for administration and operation of the Family Justice Center; and to pay the county for its share of the costs, for a period up to four years.

1005-2023: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE to amend Section 6 of Ordinance No. 866-2021, passed Oct. 18, 2021, relating to applying for and accepting a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the FY21 Port Security Grant Program for the purchase of a police boat.

1081-2023: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Capital Projects to enter into an agreement or agreements with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) regarding the public improvement of constructing infrastructure improvements as part of the Woodhill Choice Estate project, to, among other things, allow CMHA to make the public improvement to Woodhill Choice Estates; to apply for and accept any gifts or grants for this purpose from any public or private entity; authorizing any relative agreements; and to cause payment to CMHA for the city's portion of the improvement.

1192-2023: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Economic Development to enter into a grant agreement with [the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission](#), or its designee, to provide financial assistance to organize and administer programs for marketing the City of Cleveland as a venue for sporting events and to actively market the Public Auditorium as a premier site for the hosting of major events.

Crowd chants at the end of the meeting

Following the conclusion of legislative items, a crowd began performing several chants. They included "Shame on you," "Free, free Palestine," and "Mayor Bibb you can't hide. We charge you with genocide."

[At the request of Council President Griffin, the protesters either left voluntarily, were escorted out by security or ceased chanting and remained in the chamber.](#)

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