MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC)

From: Kelly Wallace, Acting Director

Date: October 13, 2015

Subject: Clarification of Jurisdiction


As you are aware, questions have been raised as to the appropriateness of commissions addressing issues that also fall under the purview of other commissions. It is important for commissioners to be fully aware of their functions and duties as defined in enabling legislation.

As noted in the attached documents, “social welfare” is defined as “that endeavor which is concerned with community-wide and group interests rather than the needs of individual citizens and embraces such areas, among others, as race relations, interfaith relations, special needs of the family, children, youth and the aged, and the way in which people live and work together.” (Ord. 6011-NS § 1, 2006: Ord. 6011-NS § 6, 1990)

Eleven functions of the HWCAC are spelled out in the BMC. The last one (K) states “In prescribing the above duties and functions of the commission, it is not the intent of the of the council to duplicate or overlap the functions, duties or responsibilities heretofore or hereafter assigned to any other City board or commission or to a City board or commission or to a City department. As to such functions or responsibilities above set forth which are partially or wholly the responsibilities of another board or commission or of a department of the City, the commission will render assistance and advice to such a board, commission or department as may be requested.” (Ord. 6011-NS § 7, 1990)

The above suggests that Council intended for HWCAC to focus on its primary duties and exercise deference in considering issues primarily under the purview of another commission, as well as work cooperatively with other commissions on issues that may overlap.
Also important is function (A) of the commission: “The commission shall function as the Board of the Community Action Agency as set forth in California Code Sections 12754 and 12756, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference”. As was discussed briefly at the last meeting, as the Board of the Community Action Agency you play a significant role in making recommendations to Council regarding programs that help move Berkeley residents out of poverty and into self-sufficiency, including making recommendations related to the administration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). With increased requirements from the CSBG funding agency, the time, energy and effort expended on this activity will also increase. This activity should not exclude addressing other issues you deem as important to your mission, but it will take an increasing amount of your time and energy as a commission.

The three take-home messages I hope to leave with you with are:

1) For any issue that you address as a commission there needs to be a clear nexus with the primary functions of the commission as articulated in the BMC;
2) The Commission must communicate with any other commissions, boards and/or departments that share partially or wholly the responsibilities for the issues being addressed; and
3) There will be increased expectations of the HWCAC in meeting your defined role as the Board of the Community Action Agency.

As staff, we will continue to ensure that the process used by the commission in discussions, voting, setting agendas, etc. is in compliance with your responsibilities as an official government body of the City of Berkeley and remain available to support you in your work.

Thank you again for all you do.

Attachment:

1. BMC Chapter 3.78
Chapter 3.78
HUMAN WELFARE AND COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

Sections:

3.78.010 Creation of the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission.
3.78.020 Term of office.
3.78.030 Vacancy and removal.
3.78.040 Temporary vacancies.
3.78.050 Officers, meetings and procedures.
3.78.060 Social welfare defined.
3.78.070 Functions of the commission.
3.78.080 Elections for representatives of the poor.

3.78.010 Creation of the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission.

A Berkeley Human Welfare and Community Action Commission is hereby created. The membership of such commission shall be fifteen:

A. Nine of the members shall be appointed by Berkeley City Councilmembers, in accordance with the Fair Representation Ordinance.

B. Six of the members shall be representatives of the poor, to be elected two from each of three districts as established by the City Council and shown on the map attached hereto, made a part hereof and marked "Exhibit A" (see Ch. 3.999).

C. The community service block grant (CSBG) target area shall comprise the total area from which three election districts are drawn. Each district will have approximately equal numbers of poverty families utilizing data from the 1980 Census.

1. Four of the nine members of the commission appointed by the council shall be members or officials of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or major groups and interests in the community, as required by California Government Code Sections 12736(e), 12750(a)(2), and 12751, the language of which is incorporated herein by reference.
2. Representatives of private sector organizations shall be empowered to speak and act on behalf of the organizations he/she represents in connection with the board's business. (Ord. 6011-NS § 1, 1990)

3.78.020 Term of office.

The term of office of each elected member, other than specifically provided herein, shall be four years from the date of the elections; no person shall serve for more than two full elected terms, or eight years.

The term of office of each appointed member shall be as provided in B.M.C. 2.04.075. (Ord. 6225-NS § 1, 1993: Ord. 6011-NS § 2, 1990)

3.78.030 Vacancy and removal.

A. Vacancies on said commission shall be filled in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 3.78.010 herein. Vacancies on the board shall result when a member notifies the City Clerk of his/her resignation, or when an elected board member moves and establishes residence outside of his/her election district.

B. When the position of an appointed board member is vacant, the original appointing councilmember shall fill the vacancy, the new appointee serving to finish the unexpired term of the appointment. Vacancies in any elected commission position shall be filled by an appropriate elected alternate; when no alternate is available, the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining elected commission members, who shall recommend to the council the person to fill out the term of the appointment.

C. An elected member of the commission shall also be removed when he/she is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the commission. After a member has been absent from two consecutive regular meetings, the secretary advises the member that absence from three consecutive meetings of the commission will result in automatic termination. There is no provision for excused absences. Within one week of the third consecutive absence the commission secretary notifies the City Clerk of the three absences. The appointment expires on the date the fact of the third absence is reported to the City Clerk. Within one week the City Clerk notifies the commission member that his/her term has expired and the councilmember or council, as appropriate, that a vacancy exists on the board and that an appointment should be made to fill such vacancy. (Ord. 6011-NS § 3, 1990)

3.78.040 Temporary vacancies.
A member of the commission may take a temporary leave of absence of up to three months in duration, during which time a temporary vacancy shall exist. During the period of such temporary vacancy in an elected position, the elected alternate shall serve in the place of the regular representative. If there is no alternate for the commission member, a temporary appointment shall be made by the remaining representatives of the poor. During the period of such temporary vacancy in an appointed position, the appointing councilmember upon proper notice may make a temporary appointment leave of absence, the member shall automatically resume full membership on the board to the end of his/her term. (Ord. 6011-NS § 4, 1990)

3.78.050 Officers, meetings and procedures.

A. The commission shall elect one of its members chairperson and one of its members vice-chairperson, who shall hold office for one year or unless their terms as members of the commission shall expire sooner and until their successors are elected. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected during the first quarter of each calendar year. An alternate may not serve as an officer of the board.

B. The commission shall establish a regular place and time for meeting. All meetings shall be noticed as required by law and shall be scheduled in a way to allow for maximum input from the public. The frequency of meetings shall be as determined by City Council resolution. The scheduling of special meetings in addition to those established by City Council resolution, except special meetings that take the place of cancelled regular meetings, shall be subject to approval by the City Council. A request for a special meeting shall include the reason for the proposed meeting and should be expedited on the City Council’ s agenda, or in the alternative, placed before the Agenda Committee for approval.

C. A quorum shall be one member more than fifty percent of the non-vacant seats on the commission. The commission shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings and transactions and shall submit an annual report to the City Council, with a copy to the City Manager.

D. All committees and subcommittees of this commission shall fairly reflect the composition of the commission. (Ord. 6901-NS § 1, 2006: Ord. 6011-NS § 5, 1990)

3.78.060 Social welfare defined.

"Social Welfare" as used in this chapter, means that endeavor which is concerned with community-wide and group interests rather than with needs of individual citizens and embraces such areas, among others, as race relations, interfaith relations, special needs of the family, children, youth and the aged, and the way in which people live and work together. (Ord. 6011-NS § 6, 1990)
3.78.070 Functions of the commission.

The functions of the commission shall be as follows:

A. The commission shall function as the Board of the Community Action Agency as set forth in California Government Code Sections 12754 and 12756, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference;

B. Identify social welfare needs of the community and create a citizen awareness of these needs;

C. Encourage improved standards of social welfare services, both public and private, and in so doing, encourage coordination and provide advice and assistance to organizations in the field of social welfare in the City; cooperate with regional organizations; encourage the development of programs designed to improve the social welfare of the community; within staff limitations, collect, maintain and interpret social welfare information and statistics for the use of citizens and organizations in the City;

D. Identify social welfare standards made available by other social welfare agencies, provide public information with reference to such services, and within staff limitations, render a referral service;

E. Advise the City Council on all matters affecting the social welfare of the community and its citizens;

F. Render advice and assistance to other City boards and commissions, to City departments and to private agencies on matters of social welfare;

G. Identify and study existing and potential areas of interracial friction and tension which are detrimental to the general welfare of the community, and to recommend corrective measures; to encourage and offer conferences and conciliation among groups and elements of the community who are seeking to arrive at voluntary solutions to such problems;

H. Prepare such publications and results of study and research which will tend to promote good will and minimize or eliminate discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry. Such publications and results of study and research shall be issued and disseminated only after approval by the City Council;

I. Receive private donations and administer any trust declared or created for any charitable or social welfare purpose, and supervise and direct the disbursement of any public funds which may be set apart or acquired all in the manner provided by the City Council;
J. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the City Council or as may be directed by the City Council or prescribed or authorized by any ordinance of the City;

K. In prescribing the above duties and functions of the commission, it is not the intent of the council to duplicate or overlap the functions, duties or responsibilities heretofore or hereafter assigned to any other City board or commission or to a City board or commission or to a City department. As to such functions or responsibilities above set forth which are partially or wholly the responsibilities of another board or commission or of a department of the City, the commission will render assistance and advice to such board, commission or department as may be requested. (Ord. 6011-NS § 7, 1990)

3.78.080 Elections for representatives of the poor.

A. Elections for representatives of the poor shall be held biennially in the month of November in the even numbered years, commencing in November, 1988. Said election shall be in accordance with procedures as may be adopted by the City Council.

B. Elections for representatives of the poor shall not be held on the day of general elections.

C. If there are no qualified candidates in a district, the remaining representatives of the poor, acting alone, shall select a person to fill the vacancy until the next election, at which time the vacancy shall appear on the ballot to fill any existing and remaining unexpired term. The name of the selected representative shall be submitted to the City Council for confirmation. Qualification for candidacy for representatives of the poor shall be in accordance with federal and state guidelines, and include residency within the district from which the representative is elected or selected.

D. For the 1988 election only, in each of the districts the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve four years terms, and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will serve two year terms. The person receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes in each district will serve as two alternates, serving terms of four and two years, respectively.

E. For the 1990 election the seats of the representatives of the poor elected in 1988 for two year terms will be up for election, the representatives then elected to serve for four year terms; for the 1992 election the seats of the representatives of the poor elected in 1988 for four year terms will be up for election, the representatives then elected to serve for four year terms. In subsequent elections, this staggering of terms provides that the term of service shall be four years, that the election of the representatives shall be staggered, and that three of
the six total representatives (and one of each district's two representatives) will be elected at alternate elections every two years.

F. For all elections beginning with 1990, the persons receiving the highest number of votes in each district will serve as that district's representative, and the person receiving the second highest number of votes as that district's alternate, both serving in such respective capacities for four year terms. An alternate will serve only in the absence of the principal and shall have full voting rights when serving in such capacity. (Ord. 6011-NS § 8, 1990)


The commission shall prepare and maintain bylaws for the community action agency. These bylaws and amendments thereto shall be consistent with City, state and federal policies governing community action agencies. A copy of the commission's bylaws and all amendments thereto shall be distributed to the Berkeley City Clerk for public record purposes and shall be made available for public inspection. (Ord. 6011-NS § 9, 1990)
September 21, 2015

Berkeley City Attorney
Berkeley City Council
Human Welfare and Community Action Commission, City of Berkeley

Via email

Dear Berkeley City Attorney, Berkeley City Council and Human Welfare and Community Action Commission:

On September 16, 2015, the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (the “Commission”) of the Council of the City of Berkeley (the “City”) met to discuss, *inter alia*, a proposal 1 (the “Proposal”) to support and adopt the boycott and divestment policies of what is known as the “BDS Movement”.

I am writing to you to provide background on the BDS Movement that was not included in the Commission’s meeting materials and to advise you that support for the BDS Movement would not only violate the City’s longstanding commitment to justice, non-violence, equality and fairness but would also place the City (and its political representatives) in violation of a number of federal laws.

By way of background, I have been active in legal issues relating to civil liberties and individual rights and am the author of a legal study on the BDS Movement, “The BDS Movement: That Which We Call a Foreign Boycott, by Any Other Name, Is Still Illegal” (the “BDS Paper”).

The BDS Paper has been cited by numerous civil liberties organizations and legal authorities, including international courts dealing with the question of anti-boycott laws, and can be downloaded at no cost from the Social Science Research Network website at the following link: [http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2531130](http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2531130). The BDS Paper includes a detailed history of the BDS Movement and information on its affiliates and goals.

Policy Issues with BDS Movement Support

While the Proposal spoke in general terms about a movement to boycott and divest from Israeli concerns, it is clear that City is considering support for the BDS Movement. This is obvious not only from the language of the Proposal, which mimics language used by supporters of the BDS Movement and the BDS Movement’s organizational document, footnote xii of the Proposal’s Attachment C explicitly identifies the BDS Movement as the organization behind the boycott and divestment plan.

The City is known locally, nationally and internationally as a leader in the fight to protect LGBT, women’s and minority rights and a strong proponent of peace in, among other places, the Middle East. The BDS Movement is unlike legitimate peace and rights movements that the City has supported in the past and will continue to support in the future. The BDS Movement was formed by radical extremists who also are affiliated with groups that are designated terrorist organizations, such as Hamas.2

The leaders and supporters of the BDS Movement actively participate in violent and oppressive acts, including the persecution and slaughter of LGBT persons and religious minorities and they also engage in institutionalized misogyny.3 In contrast it should be noted that Israel, which would be harmed by the City’s support of the Proposal, has one of the strongest LGBT rights records in the world.4 It is hard to believe that the City is even considering support for an organization with goals anathema to the City’s principles.

Furthermore, the stated policy of the BDS Movement is to oppose the “two-state solution”, a process that will result in the creation of a Palestinian Arab state alongside the State of Israel, which has been supported as the preferred path to peace by the US and other governments. Instead, the BDS Movement advocates for the absolute destruction of the Jewish state of Israel.5

By supporting the BDS Movement, Berkeley would be expressly supporting a movement that is associated with some of the worst human rights abuses occurring today, including genocide, persecution of LGBT persons and the imposition of misogynistic regimes, and it

2 See the BDS Paper at 26–35.
3 See, e.g., Michael Kagan and Anat Ben-Dor, “Nowhere to Run: Gay Palestinian Asylum-Seekers in Israel”, available at http://www.law.tau.ac.il/heb/_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/NowhereToRun.pdf and Benjamin Weinthal, “Palestinian envoy to US wants Jew-free state”, Jerusalem Post (Sept. 14, 2011) (“In an April broadcast on Hamas’s Al-Aksa TV, which was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Syrian academic Muhammad Rateb al- Nabulusi said, ‘Homosexuality involves a filthy place, and does not generate offspring. Homosexuality leads to the destruction of the homosexual. That is why, brothers, homosexuality carries the death penalty.’”)
4 “The five most improved places for gay tolerance”, The Independent (Sept. 17, 2008), available at http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/taboo-tolerance/the-five-most-improved-places-for-gay-tolerance-932635.html (“Israel is the only Middle-Eastern country to support gay rights legislation, and the country attracts gay people from Palestine and Lebanon. Tel Aviv has a growing scene and is tolerant and gay-friendly for both men and women.”)
5 See the BDS Paper at 25-34.
would also be acting contrary to its longstanding position of support for a just and fair peace in the Middle East.

**Legal Issues with City Support of the BDS Movement.**

In addition to the policy issues with the City’s potential support for the BDS Movement, there are manifest legal issues with such support.

Support for the BDS Movement violates the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration act of 1979 and the regulations promulgated thereunder (the “EAA”).

The EAA was enacted to protect US individuals and businesses from being used as weapons of foreign policy against friendly nations. The EAA directly protects US commerce from foreign boycotts of Israel and prohibits any act that would either constitute participation in a boycott or support for such a boycott. The law is very broad and prohibits all forms of support for unsanctioned foreign boycotts. The Proposal very clearly indicates that is in furtherance of the BDS Movement and is intended to inflict commercial harm on Israel as punishment for alleged abuses, all of which violate the text and intent of the EAA.

If the City were to adopt the Proposal and enact policies to participate in the BDS Movement’s activities against Israel, there is no question that such support would negatively affect commerce with the friendly foreign nation of Israel. As a result, companies with business in or relating to Israel would suffer harm, giving them a right to assert claims for damages.

Furthermore, the EAA is an act of Congress, as supported by numerous Presidents after its enactment, and thus it speaks for the nation on the issue of foreign boycotts of Israel that affect US commerce. The City has no right to obstruct the national policy as expressed in the EAA and likely would be subject to prosecution by the Commerce Department, which administers the EAA.

With regard to the claim that support for the BDS Movement is a legitimate expression of opposition to apartheid, it should also be noted that claims that Israel is an apartheid state are ludicrous and contrary to demonstrated fact. Legal and political leaders have denounced such comparisons, with Richard Goldstone, a former justice of the South African Constitutional Court and the noted author of a United Nations report that was critical of Israel, demonstrably stating that “[i]n Israel, there is no apartheid.”

More to the point, South African apartheid was the subject of federal action imposing sanctions against the South African government. Berkeley’s past support for anti-apartheid movements were thus in compliance with US policy. The EAA and other federal laws, however, expressly state that boycotts and divestment relative to Israel are contrary to US policy and

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6 See the BDS Paper starting at page 46, “The BDS Movement under the EAA Anti-Boycott Law”.
violative of US law. Thus, there is no legal precedent for Berkeley to support the BDS Movement.

In addition to the EAA, if the City of Berkeley were to go forward with its boycott/divestment program, it would violate a number of federal laws, including anti-trust laws, the Hobbs Act and statutes prohibiting the provision of support to terrorism, the latter two of which would also expose Berkeley and its council to RICO claims. These federal laws include provisions for a private right of action by any party that has been harmed by the City’s actions, and in the case of RICO, the remedy includes treble damages as well as attorney’s fees.

On this last point, I encourage the City to review the cases of the Holy Land Foundation and Humanitarian Law Project, discussed in the BDS Paper starting at page 114. There is ample precedent for purportedly humanitarian gestures being found to be material support for terrorism, and because violation of the material support statutes are a predicate crime for purposes of RICO, the City Council could be found to be a RICO enterprise. The import of this is that the City could be exposed to liability not just under the federal anti-terrorism statute; it could also be the subject of private party RICO claims.  

**Conclusion**

The subjects of peace in the Middle East and relations between Israel and Palestinian Arabs are always contentious and subject to good faith differences of opinion. How Israel and the Palestinian Arabs should work towards the goal of peaceful coexistence and respect is something that is open for debate at many levels. However, the BDS Movement is not an organization that seeks a peaceful and respectful resolution of the underlying problems and it is, at its core, a movement that seeks to deny legitimacy to a host of underrepresented constituencies. If the City of Berkeley were to provide support for the work of the BDS Movement, it would be betraying the interests of its citizens, enabling violence and hate and, most assuredly, exposing itself to legal liability for violations of federal laws. Zachor Legal Institute will work to protect the legal rights of those who are harmed by the City’s violation of laws if the City were to move forward with the Proposal.

I urge the City to **not** move forward with the Proposal.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Greendorfer  
President, Zachor Legal Institute

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8 I direct you to *DeFalco v. Bernas*, 244 F.3d 286 (2d. Cir. 2001) and *United States v. Freeman*, 6 F.3d 586 (9th Cir. 1993) for precedent on the liability of governmental entities, like the City of Berkeley and its City Council, as RICO enterprises.
From: Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wyzong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Robert Collins [mailto:aphrontisterion@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 11:25 AM  
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Firing of Cheryl Davila

Have you no shame? This move, so obviously pandering to the Zionist lobby, is unjust and lacks merit in every way.

Darryl Moore should begin to learn about the criminal treatment meted out daily to Palestinians by a bellicose, bullying, arrogant, and peace-fearing Israel rather than cravenly toady ing to Israeli interests in such a knee-jerk manner.

Darryl Moore is on the wrong side of history, and in this, the information age, people around the world now know how little he values integrity and justice.

Robert Collins  
Brighton, Ontario  
Canada
From: Wong, Wingyin  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 10:40 AM  
To: Molina, Raquel P.  
Subject: FW: This is Democracy?

Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Lynn Faulkner [mailto:lynnfaulkner24@gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2015 3:04 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: This is Democracy?

It is one thing to disagree with someone's ideology. But to FIRE them for the crime of expressing themselves is a travesty and a threat to Democratic principles. I hope the "turmoil" you are so afraid of descends upon you in a massive cloud of dissent.

--
Lynn Faulkner, MSW  
"If they come for the innocent without stepping over your body, cursed be your religion and your life." - Phil Berrigan
Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer, former resident, and UC Berkeley graduate, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,

Roxana Dhada
Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers, and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,

Raquel Bernaldo

--
Raquel Bernaldo, MSW
(805) 765-5737
From: Alexandra Mogannam [mailto:dynamofitsf@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Divest from Israel

Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,
Alexandra Mogannam

Sent from my iPhone
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wYWong@cityofberkeley.info

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-----Original Message-----
From: Carol Denney [mailto:carol.denney@no-smoke.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 9:15 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHChwCAC@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: removal of commissioner- for the packet

Dear Human Welfare and Community Action Commissioners,

I am writing to object to the removal of Cheryl Davila from the commission by her appointer, Darryl Moore. This move certainly has the appearance of an effort to stop any discussion of an Israeli divestment proposal before it even reaches the agenda. This is a disturbing message to send to any commission.

Mr. Moore is free to disagree with any proposal and share his views. He is free to vote against the proposal if it comes before him at the city council level. But to remove a commissioner for refusing to withdraw the proposal is an effort to chill free discussion of an issue most community members think is important whether they support a divestment proposal or not. It also is an insult to the years of service Ms. Davila has given to our community on many varied commission issues, which most community members know can be a time-consuming and sometimes tedious effort.

Your commission has an opportunity to send a message to any city council representative wishing to shut down community discussion on potentially controversial issues by making sure Ms. Davila’s proposal gets a thorough hearing. I hope you will simply pick up where Ms. Davila left off and honor the discussion she was willing to bring forward so that our community has its best chance to have lively, informative commission meetings where we can elevate, rather than squelch, community discussion about matters of critical import. Mr. Moore has done us the favor of clarifying that this particular issue is one of them.
Sincerely,

Carol Denney
1970 San Pablo #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-548-1512
From: Wong, Wingyin  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:10 PM  
To: Molina, Raquel P.  
Subject: FW: Please support divestment from Israeli corporations in Berkeley!

Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: yas(min) ahmed [mailto:yastastic@gmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:09 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Please support divestment from Israeli corporations in Berkeley!

Dear Secretary Wong,

As an East Bay resident and community member, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Thank you! This is an important step in enacting policy that reflects Berkeley's values of inclusion and freedom.

Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation.

Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote next month honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,  
Yasmin Ahmed
Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers, and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Best,

Emily Baraan
Dear Secretary Wong,

As an East Bay resident and community member, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission’s recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Thank you! This is an important step in enacting policy that reflects Berkeley's values of inclusion and freedom.

Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation.

Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote next month honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,
Yasmin Ahmed
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Jonathan Reinis [mailto:jonathanreinis@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:11 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Tom Bates <tom-bates@comcast.net>; Tom Bates <loni.hancock@comcast.net>; George & Doris Krevsky <george@georgekrevskygallery.com>  
Subject: Boycott of Israel

While the extreme right wing of the Republican party wants to boycott Iran forever because of its stand on Israel and terrorism in general, so the extreme left wing wants to boycott Israel. Boycotts are instruments of diplomacy that are overwhelmingly ineffective and cruel to the many inhabitants of a country who may not even agree with the specific policy under question. Additionally, since Israel is one of the only Democracies in the Middle East, wouldn't it be more effective to attempt to influence the electoral process to effectuate the goals one wants to achieve? Of course, this would be impossible in Iran or most countries in the middle east because they are dictatorships. Wouldn't negotiation and dialogue be a better solution to solve the world's problems?

Finally, this is not an issue for the City of Berkeley as foreign policy is not a city matter. This is an issue for the citizens of Berkeley to consider in their electoral process to choose representatives to advocate for their values. We, fortunately, live in a Democracy where we don't have to go to war or boycott our neighbors every time we have a disagreement. Let's be respectful of the world community and try to have reasonable negotiations and treaties as our President is doing and has done.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Reinis  
860 Spruce Street  
Berkeley, CA 94707
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Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info  

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From: emgordon@comcast.net  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:17 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: resolution

Your plan to stir up hatred and hostility in the City of Berkeley, toward Israel is a wrong stand to take. Stirring up hatred toward anyone is wrong. Please re-consider bringing up your resolution on Oct.21, or any other time.  
Foreign policy is not your area of influence.  
We do not need more hatred on this planet.

Eve Gordon
Dear Mr. Flanders and members of the Berkeley HWCAC,

I am a longtime Berkeley resident and am writing to object to your upcoming vote on divestment from Israel.

Firstly, it is beyond the scope of the Commission and the City of Berkeley to be taking a stand on complex international affairs. Please deal with those matters that are within your mission. Why would the Commission expend time and energy taking a position on matters that will do nothing to improve the welfare of the citizens of Berkeley?

Secondly, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is complex and—even if it were appropriate for you to take a stand on foreign policy—I wonder if members of the Commission are prepared to form an educated
and unbiased opinion on this complicated question. For example, are you familiar with the history of
the region, the history of the Zionist movement, the history of the peace process, the funding streams
and goals of the BDS movement, the relationship between BDS and the rise of global anti-Semitism—
to name just a few aspects of this issue. Have you consulted with members of the mainstream Jewish
community so as to get a balanced view, or are you simply following views that are popular in this
area?

Thirdly, be aware that voting for divestment from Israel has implications you may not have
considered: It will fan the flames of anger and divisiveness which already surround this issue,
alienate many Berkeley residents, and contribute to the epidemic of anti-Semitism that violates the
human rights of Jewish students on the UC campus.

Please remove this item from your agenda.

Sincerely,

Malka Weitman

2534 Chilton Way

Berkeley, CA 94704
From: Pamela Hardyment [mailto:pjhardyment@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 4:13 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: shame on you

for bowing down to zionist pressure..we in our millions are all palestinians and we wil fight with every drop of our blood to see this new form of nazism erased from this planet..we are serious and cannot believe the power the zionist and jewish zionist and christian zionist lobby has on you Americans..your society is doomed if you continue to shack up with these evil people, there are only 6 million jews in israel..and yet they impose the worst kind of racist xenophobic apartheid system on our palestinian brothers and sisters and you in particular are supporting this? It has been going on for 67 years..we wil not giv eup ely trace of zionism and its fascist min dset is eradicated..I promise you..You in America give them million s of dollars daily to prop up this vile wicked murderous machine which calls itself the jewish state. Shame on all us jews who wil have nothin g to do with that state that kills babies, women and young men with impunity..you support that!!!!and we christians who interpret the bible in a rational and humane way and are real human beings..the most terrible shame on you til you mend your ways.

Disgusted..disgusted

P Hardy
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Jonathan Simon [mailto:info@simonabc.com] On Behalf Of Jonathan Simon
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 11:06 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: No to Divestment

Dear HWCAC Members,

Berkeley has long been a part of my family's and my lives. My grandfather, grandmother, and father all went to Cal. As a child, every time I visited my grandmother in Oakland, we would take a day trip into Berkeley to shop in used bookstores and, most importantly, get an apple fritter at Kingpin Donuts. I attended Berkeley in the mid '90s, studying philosophy and working for several years at MAC on Shattuck. I moved away for work but came back years later with my wife, moving into a tiny apartment near North Berkeley BART so we could save up for a house. Again, we moved away from Berkeley for work and to buy a house in Fremont, but we visited often for friends and food. Berkeley is a part of me and always will be.

Now I have learned that the HWCAC will be voting on a resolution to divest from Israel. I strongly urge you to vote no on this resolution. First, the resolution is outside HWCAC's mission to help the community. There is so much need in Berkeley, and to focus elsewhere is to ignore the problems at home. Second, a yes vote is poison for the community, turning off people who otherwise fully support HWCAC's mission, myself included. Third, this resolution is highly offensive. To so many of us, it feels like an anti-Semitic attack. It transforms Berkeley into an unsafe and unwelcoming community.

Please vote no on the divestment resolution.

Thank you,
Jon Simon
510-912-1212
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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-----Original Message-----
From: Susan David [mailto:sdavidtoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Divestment Resolution

This message is directed to Mr. Daniel McMullan, Commissioner for District 4

I urge you to vote no on the proposed resolution calling for the City of Berkeley to call for divestment from Israel. There are several reasons, but for me the primary one is that the resolution is one-sided. I do not feel that there is any place for something so biased to be part of this community. Of course, as as long time resident of Berkeley (over 50 years), I am used to the City Council becoming involved in matters of foreign policy and things that really shouldn’t be taking up the time of the Council. And once again this time I feel it is way beyond what I want my representatives to be thinking about and acting on.

Thank you,
Susan David
2024 Cedar Street
Berkeley
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Yaeir Heber [mailto:yaeirheber@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

Dear Mr. Praveen Sood,

I am writing as a concerned resident of your district regarding the currently considered resolution, "Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories," that recommends that the Berkeley City Council call for divestment from Israel.

It is certainly inappropriate for folks to sit aside idly while injustice occurs. I deeply understand and sympathize with those who desperately would like to do "their part" to act out and stop injustice, helping to give a voice to those suffering at it's hands.

The bottom line is that this divestment plan is not a good means to achieve that goal, and is more likely in fact deeply counterproductive--hurting those it intends to help. I do not want to be part of a city the follows a misdirected trend and ends up hurting those we want to help.

Unlike much of our national politics here in the USA--especially w/ regards to foreign policy as we've seen over the past decade--the Israeli occupation of The West Bank is not a financially motivated move. The occupation costs millions, if not billions of dollars a year, and is not clearly not profitable or convenient for anyone. Big Business is not at play in the settlements as we found it was (sickeningly so) in Iraq. For better or for worse, this does mean we need a different approach than what we would apply to our our politics, where money certainly seems to rule all.
Furthermore, this divestment would potentially affect Palestinian workers more negatively than place any significant pressure on Israeli politics. When a company takes a small financial hit, the first thing to go are low wage workers. We saw this exact same thing happen with the Israeli SodaStream company having to shut down it's West Bank factory due to divestment consequences. 500 Palestinians now go home jobless... is that what we want to achieve?

...the plant’s 500 Palestinian employees earned more money in better conditions at SodaStream than they could elsewhere in the West Bank, and that the integration of Palestinian and Israeli workers was like a pilot project for peace.

The company's CEO stated a few years back when faced with the possibility of closing the plant and moving it to Israel:

“I could leave there tomorrow, for me it would be easier, but what about the employees?” he asked in an interview then. “I feel like I have a responsibility there. Those who oppose the factory are using SodaStream and manipulating our Palestinian workers in order to demonize the state of Israel, and I won’t let them.” (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/31/world/middleeast/sodastream-to-close-factory-in-west-bank.html?r=0)

This divestment is taking a "shooting from the hip" approach and is sure to both miss it's primary target as well as injure those it is trying to help.

I would much more happily pay a one-cent sales tax, the proceeds of which could go to serious and targeted work being done by progressive organizations on the ground, than see a misdirected piece of legislation like this one put our city on the map as part of the problem, rather than part of the solution.

I urge you to consider the true likely affects, and ineffectiveness of this measure and help our city actually find and lead the way to productively make the impact we all wish to see.

Sincerely,
Yaeir Heber

2639 McGee Ave.
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 4:01 PM  
To: Molina, Raquel P.  
Subject: FW: call to action - city of berkeley voting on divesting from israeli $$

Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wyyong@cityofberkeley.info  

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From: Raquel Bernaldo [mailto:raquel.bernaldo@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 3:57 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Fwd: call to action - city of berkeley voting on divesting from israeli $$

Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers, and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,

Raquel Bernaldo

--
Raquel Bernaldo, MSW  
(805) 765-5737
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wYWong@cityofberkeley.info  

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From: Alexandra Mogannam [mailto:dynamofitsf@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 4:00 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Divest from Israel  

Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,
Alexandra Mogannam  

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Human Welfare and Community Action Commissioners,

I am writing to object to the removal of Cheryl Davila from the commission by her appointer, Darryl Moore. This move certainly has the appearance of an effort to stop any discussion of an Israeli divestment proposal before it even reaches the agenda. This is a disturbing message to send to any commission.

Mr. Moore is free to disagree with any proposal and share his views. He is free to vote against the proposal if it comes before him at the city council level. But to remove a commissioner for refusing to withdraw the proposal is an effort to chill free discussion of an issue most community members think is important whether they support a divestment proposal or not. It also is an insult to the years of service Ms. Davila has given to our community on many varied commission issues, which most community members know can be a time-consuming and sometimes tedious effort.

Your commission has an opportunity to send a message to any city council representative wishing to shut down community discussion on potentially controversial issues by making sure Ms. Davila’s proposal gets a thorough hearing. I hope you will simply pick up where Ms. Davila left off and honor the discussion she was willing to bring forward so that our community has its best chance to have lively, informative commission meetings where we can elevate, rather than squelch, community discussion about matters of critical import. Mr. Moore has done us the favor of clarifying that this particular issue is one of them.
Sincerely,

Carol Denney
1970 San Pablo #4
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-548-1512
Dear Secretary Wong,

As an East Bay resident and community member, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Thank you! This is an important step in enacting policy that reflects Berkeley's values of inclusion and freedom.

Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation.

Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote next month honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,

Yasmin Ahmed
Em Baraa
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: call to action - city of berkeley voting on divesting from israeli $$

Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a Berkeley consumer I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers, and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.

Best,

Emily Baraan
From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:10 PM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Please support divestment from Israeli corporations in Berkeley!

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: yas(min) ahmed [mailto:yastastic@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Please support divestment from Israeli corporations in Berkeley!

Dear Secretary Wong,

As an East Bay resident and community member, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Thank you! This is an important step in enacting policy that reflects Berkeley's values of inclusion and freedom.

Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation.

Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote next month honors that legacy.

Respectfully yours,
Yasmin Ahmed
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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Dear Mr. Wong,

I have heard that this Commission is considering a boycott of Israeli products. I am very concerned about this for many reasons, but especially the following reasons.

- The issue of Israel, and really any geopolitics, is very clearly outside the scope of the Commission’s mission to identify and address the social welfare needs of the local community.
- To delve into this complicated debate about Middle Eastern politics, and single out Israel in this way, will create a contentious and distracting dispute that can only detract from the Commission’s work improving services and assistance programs in Berkeley.
- Finally, this inaccurate, biased, one-sided resolution is deeply offensive and will be divisive in the Berkeley community where there is a wide range of perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I have lived in Berkeley since 1966, and am a graduate of UC Berkeley. My children all attended public schools here and we were very much a part of the movement that worked to integrate schools in the 60’s. I have always been very proud to live here, and therefore, I am hoping you will strongly discourage this boycott. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joan Sopher  
1529 Hearst Ave
Dear Commission Secretary Wing Wong

As a Berkeley resident of 37 years, I am dismayed to see the Human Welfare & Community Action Commission straying from its local role to getting embroiled in a complicated debate involving Middle East politics. There are many local Human Welfare issues that need to be addressed rather than straying from the scope of the Commission's mission of identifying and addressing the social welfare needs of the local community. This is the area the Commission should be addressing to improve the lives of Berkeley residents and visitors.

The Middle East disputes are complex and such one sided action by the Commission will not assist in resolving the disputes. It will only serve to create conflict amongst Berkeley residents.

Due to popular campaigns, agencies have been misused to attack Israel unjustifiably. Radical forces have used the UN Human Rights Commission to single out Israel while Iran and North Korea vote to criticize Israel. Surely, the HWCAC can recognize the absurdity of Iran or North Korea even sitting on the Commission much less casting aspersions on a country with many more human rights protections than either Iran or North Korea.

This issue has defied resolution for 60 years even though Nobel Peace prizes have been awarded to those attempting to settle the dispute. It would be irresponsible of the Commission to play into the hands of radical forces which use misrepresentations to sway public opinion. Any such action by the Commission would be highly offensive to many Berkeley residents.
Please refrain from being inappropriately pulled into complex international conflicts which has no good outcome for Berkeley.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cassidy
Hi, I am a Russian-Jewish emigrant who came to Berkeley when I was 10 years old. We came to United States and Berkeley in particular because my father is a scientist and was persecuted in the Soviet Union. We came here to have the freedom to be who we are. The recent antisemitic movements around the world are very bothersome and disturbing. To think that my own city where I attended Berkeley High School and UC Berkeley after that, is actively participating in this action is sickening. We, the liberal Berkeley, who has been the center for freedom are supporting this policy goes against everything this country stands for. You personally can not start this terrible trend, because today it's the Jews and tomorrow its the Chinese, Hispanics and the rest of the people of other ethnic groups. You morally can not do this. Please.

Thank you,
Yana Leventon

Yana Leventon
From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 7:59 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Israel Boycott Resolution

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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-----Original Message-----
From: kenbee13 [mailto:kenbee13@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 6:36 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Israel Boycott Resolution

Dear Commissioner Wong,

The City of Berkeley's Human Welfare & Community Action Commission (HWCAC) is considering a resolution, Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories, that recommends that the Berkeley City Council call for divestment from Israel.

The issue of Israel, and really any geopolitics, is very clearly outside the scope of the Commission's mission to identify and address the social welfare needs of the local community.

To delve into this complicated debate about Middle Eastern politics, and single out Israel in this way, will create a contentious and distracting dispute that can only detract from the Commission's work improving services and assistance programs in Berkeley.

Finally, this inaccurate, biased, one-sided resolution is deeply offensive and will be divisive in the Berkeley community where there is a wide range of perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Ken Blady

1305 Evelyn Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wYWong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: D Dorenz [mailto:ddorenz@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 11:31 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; City Clerk <clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: re: BDS of Israel

Dear Human Welfare Commissioners:  

As a Berkeley resident who happens to be Jewish, I urge you to vote against a BDS resolution that you are being asked to consider.  

Why would the City of Berkeley chose to single out Israel as a human rights abuser when the Commission is not considering sanctions of the 20 countries who are listed as the most severe human rights abusers in the world? Of the 197 countries of the world, there are 20, including three territories, considered to be the most societally repressive.  

Therefore, if there is going to be a "Divestment Resolution,“ it must include Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, North Korea and Sudan that are at the top of the global list for countries that are among the worst abusers of human rights. Syria, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Libya, Iran and Saudi Arabia are more places where people suffer from some of the most severe, systematic abuses of human rights. Perhaps the Commission should also add sanctions for Iran who has hung 700 of its citizens in the first half of 2015. Israel is not on this list of worst abusers of human rights. And while you are at it, why not indict Hamas in Gaza for war crimes as they launched 3500 rockets into civilian territories in Israel in 2014 and continue to target civilian areas even after a cease fire has been declared.
As a Jewish Citizen of Berkeley, I strongly oppose any vote for a Boycott of Israel. The City of Berkeley has a lot more issues to deal with right here at home and do not need to meddle in international affairs. We have a federal government whose job it is to do that. If the City choses to do a BDS vote against Israel, there will be a lot of animosity toward the city on the part of Jewish residents.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dorothea Dorenz

Berkeley, Ca.

Cc: Mayor Tom Bates and the Berkeley City Council
Dear Commissioner Wong,

As a graduate student (and former undergraduate) of U.C. Berkeley, I am extremely encouraged by the Commission's recent and brave consideration to pass a policy divesting from Israeli corporations. Please join the global movement to stand in solidarity with values of liberation and self-determination by heeding the call to action issued a decade ago by Palestinian civil society boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and human rights.

Educators, activists, faith leaders, students, workers and institutions around the globe have seen fit to declare their commitment to working through cultural, economic, and political means to ensure Palestinian liberation. And last year, the graduate student union of the UC system voted in favor of divestment--a historic move that makes me a proud member of my local. Berkeley has a legacy of being on the right side of history, and I urge you to ensure the vote on October 21st honors that legacy.
Sincerely,
Kathleen Gutierrez
Doctoral Student
Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies
UC Berkeley

--

Keep your dissidence.
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wuong@cityofberkeley.info

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Francis  
Sunday, September 27, 2015 6:38 PM  
Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
HWCAC@cityofberkeley.info

I think considering this resolution is ridiculous, a few months ago the boycott of Soda Stream lead to the loss of job for over 1000 Palestinian in these territories, as a fact these resolutions end up hurting Palestinians more than Israel. Let’s also remember that international law says that these territories are disputed territories, not occupied, despite what many would like everyone to believe. Today’s Palestinians never had a country, they mostly originated from Arab countries like Saudis Arabia, Egypt, Syria and others. 85% of the so called Palestinians live in Jordan. In the 1920’s every encyclopedia in the world if you looked up the word “Palestinian”, would tell you that the Jews were the Palestinian population then, that since 1914 Jews were the majority population in Jerusalem...

I think it’s time for people to stop listening to the propaganda behind this conflict and start looking at historical facts. It’s a shame that a city with a university as prestigious as UC Berkeley, even stops for a second to think about this resolution; again let’s just look at the facts, Israel has been under attack consistently since its independence, with a direct threat to its survival as a State but also its population; their athletes have been murdered, their citizen bombed daily, they took a desert and turned it to a vibrant society with gardens. They have offered peace at least 3 times with close to 100% of what the Palestinian wanted, and every time, the Palestinian leadership walked out, today the Palestinians themselves don’t get along and kill each other between Hamas and Fatah, and people are still trying to say it’s Israel fault. Israel gave Gaza to the Palestinian and asked nothing in exchange, the Palestinian not only destroyed all the infrastructure that was left, not only did they elect Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization, but in the end, they fired thousands of missile to the Israeli population for months, before Israel decided to retaliate...

So please Israel has no incentive whatsoever to give more territories until the Palestinian accept Israel existence, stop teaching hatred to their children, and finally accept like any other country including Israel, to accept people of other religion and background, and yes including Jews and Christians.

Again this divestment won’t do much to hurt Israel, but I guaranty you it will hurt the Palestinians more, and Berkeley as a city,

Thank you for reading.
From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Does Berkeley want to be known at the "MOST HATEFUL CITY IN AMERICA? 100,000 bumper stickers are in the works!!!!

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Zimmerman [mailto:vinzim@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:43 PM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCSwac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: FW: Does Berkeley want to be known at the "MOST HATEFUL CITY IN AMERICA? 100,000 bumper stickers are in the works!!!!

Pennsylvania Senate Condemns Economic, Social, Cultural Boycotts of Israel as Anti-Semitic

NEW YORK, September 30, 2015: On Friday, September 18, 2015, the Pennsylvania Senate by vote of 49 to 0 passed Resolution No. 136 Session of 2015 Printer's No. 979. The Resolution condemned economic, social, cultural and other boycotts of Israel and growing incidents of anti-Semitism. The House previously passed a similar Resolution.
House Resolution 370 Session of 2015 Printer's No. 1697 was introduced by Matt Baker of Tioga County. The Senate Resolution was introduced by Senator Stew Greenleaf of Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

The Resolutions note the historical fact that the first attempt to boycott Jewish interests in Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Colony occurred in 1662 and were rejected when Sir Robert Carr, in 1664, assumed command of the Delaware in the name of the English Crown. Instructions to Carr were that "all people should enjoy the liberty of their conscience," and the proposed boycott of Jewish merchants ceased.

The Resolutions further recognize a strong connection that American Jewry had in supporting the American Revolution. A prime consideration of the Resolutions is The International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) which has been one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-semitism and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State. Activities promoting BDS against Israel have occurred in Pennsylvania, including on college campuses.

The BDS campaign has utilized animosity and intimidation against Jews, including Jewish students on campus. It was clearly recognized by the Resolutions in the House and the Senate that the purpose of the BDS is to eliminate Israel as home of the Jewish people.

Group boycotts have a long history of condemnation in the United States on both the federal and state level. The Pennsylvania legislature condemned the BDS movement and its agenda as "inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East."

The House and Senate reaffirmed its support for the State of Israel, recognizing that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel. Both chambers condemned all attacks on the people of Israel, supporting Israel's rights to engage in lawful acts of self-defense. They opposed all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state. The Senate Resolution urged the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth to explore whether the BDS movement in the Commonwealth violates any Commonwealth laws. Both Resolutions have been transmitted to the President of the United States and the members of Congress, the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Pennsylvania joins a small but growing chorus of states that have acted defiantly to take a stand against anti-semitism and economic boycotts intended to destroy the ability of the State of Israel to function effectively.
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 8:48 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: resolution before City Council/attention Ms. Jennifer Browne, district 5

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Bette Flushman [mailto:bettelib@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:03 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCshwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: resolution before City Council/attention Ms. Jennifer Browne, district 5

I would like to voice my opposition to the recommendation before the Berkeley City Council calling for divestment from Israel. I oppose this resolution.
Attention to Ms. Jennifer Browne, District 5.

Respectfully,
Bette Flushman
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Ory [mailto:osandel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 12:19 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHChwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Anderson, Maxwell <MAnderson@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Berkeley Mayor's Office <Mayor@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Divestment from Israel resolution

To the Human Welfare & Community Action Commission:

I am a 23-year Berkeley resident and taxpayer.

Never before have I had the displeasure of having to write to any of its Commissions to weigh in on any issue. But it has come to my attention that this Commission has seen proper, under its limited mandate, to consider a "divest from Israel" resolution (and to reconsider the same in a to-be-revised version at its upcoming October 21 meeting). I cannot remain silent.

The resolution -- in any form -- is well beyond the Commission's scope. Per the City of Berkeley website, the "mission" of this Commission is (1) to advise the City Council "concerning social welfare needs"; (2) to create "citizen awareness" and "encourage[] improved standards"; and (3) assist in the administration of the Community Action Program. That is it. In no way does the Commission have a mandate -- or even the prerogative -- to weigh in on foreign affairs.

Even so, there is zero reason for this (or any other) Commission to consider "divestment" from Israel. Indeed, there are at least several dozen countries more "deserving" of such consideration. How about Syria, which has murdered tens of thousands of its own citizens over the past four years? Or Iran, which imprisons and executes dissidents and uses imprisoned journalists to obtain advantage in prisoner swaps? Or perhaps our purported ally Saudi Arabia, which stones homosexuals and practices apartheid against non-Muslims? Or even Russia, which only last year invaded and occupied a neighboring sovereign state? Unfortunately, planet Earth lacks no contenders for awards for human rights abuses and suppression. But Israel is not even in
the top 100. Check out Freedom House's 2015 report for information -- you will see that Israel is the only country deemed "free" in the entire Middle East.

Please stop wasting your (and my) time and money. Either get back to the business of improving our city (within the scope of your mission) or disband the Commission.

Ory Sandel
2536 Grant Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Linda Cedarbaum [mailto:linda.m25@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:42 PM
To: Zimmerman <vinzim@comcast.net>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Re: FW: Does Berkeley want to be known at the "MOST HATEFUL CITY IN AMERICA? 100,000 bumper stickers are in the works!!!!

yes. it is

Linda Cedarbaum
Cell: 914-420-7997

On Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 10:43 PM, Zimmerman <vinzim@comcast.net> wrote:
NEW YORK, September 30, 2015:

On Friday, September 18, 2015, the Pennsylvania Senate by vote of 49 to 0 passed Resolution No. 136 Session of 2015 Printer's No. 979. The Resolution condemned economic, social, cultural and other boycotts of Israel and growing incidents of anti-Semitism. The House previously passed a similar Resolution.

House Resolution 370 Session of 2015 Printer's No. 1697 was introduced by Matt Baker of Tioga County. The Senate Resolution was introduced by Senator Stew Greenleaf of Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

The Resolutions note the historical fact that the first attempt to boycott Jewish interests in Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Colony occurred in 1662 and were rejected when Sir Robert Carr, in 1664, assumed command of the Delaware in the name of the English Crown. Instructions to Carr were that "all people should enjoy the liberty of their conscience," and the proposed boycott of Jewish merchants ceased.

The Resolutions further recognize a strong connection that American Jewry had in supporting the American Revolution. A prime consideration of the Resolutions is The International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement.
(BDS) which has been one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-semitism and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State. Activities promoting BDS against Israel have occurred in Pennsylvania, including on college campuses.

The BDS campaign has utilized animosity and intimidation against Jews, including Jewish students on campus. It was clearly recognized by the Resolutions in the House and the Senate that the purpose of the BDS is to eliminate Israel as home of the Jewish people.

Group boycotts have a long history of condemnation in the United States on both the federal and state level. **The Pennsylvania legislature condemned the BDS movement and its agenda as "inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East."**

The House and Senate reaffirmed its support for the State of Israel, recognizing that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel. Both chambers condemned all attacks on the people of Israel, supporting Israel's rights to engage in lawful acts of self-defense. They opposed all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state. The Senate Resolution urged the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth to explore whether the BDS movement in the Commonwealth violates any Commonwealth laws. Both Resolutions have been transmitted to the President of the United States and the members of Congress, the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Pennsylvania joins a small but growing chorus of states that have acted defiantly to take a stand against anti-semitism and economic boycotts intended to destroy the ability of the State of Israel to function effectively.
From: C.J. Kingsley [mailto:kingsleycj@comcast.net]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:59 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCSwac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: October 21, 2015 Consideration of a Resolution Pursuing Financial Boycotting of the State of Israel

TO: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission Secretary Wing Wong  
cc: the Commission's General E-mail

Dear Madam Secretary:

Since the HWCAC has decided to turn its attention to international matters, I am a writing as a Citizen of Planet Earth. (I am a member of Berkeley’s Congregation Netivot Shalom.)

Does the City of Berkeley’s Human Welfare and Community Action Commission stand with the people on Planet Earth who seek to wipe the State of Israel off Earth’s map – the goal of the BDS Movement?

In the news, we see millions of people fleeing human rights victimization from MANY countries (none of which is Israel). None of the countries from which millions are fleeing human rights violations is part of the BDS movement dialogue.

If the people behind the BDS Movement were sincerely against humans’ violating the rights of other humans, their proposed resolutions would be targeting the countries of Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, North Korea and Sudan which are at the top of the global list for countries that are among the worst abusers of human rights. And then there are: Syria, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Libya, Cuba and Saudi Arabia* (about to execute [a protestor] by crucifixion). How about most of the
countries of Central and South America that turn a blind eye to the concerted efforts of drug cartels and deforesters who are wiping out the innocent people in their paths? And why wouldn’t the U.S. of A. be on the list?

I ask you:
1. Who is asking the City government of Berkeley to single out the State of Israel?
2. What Is the Goal of the BDS movement?

You might take a look at this very brief youtube video wherein the founder of the BDS movement says: “A Jewish state in Palestine in any shape or form cannot but contravene the basic rights of the indigenous Palestinian population and perpetuate a system of racial discrimination that ought to be opposed categorically….Definitely, most definitely we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.”
-Omar Barghouti, founder of BDS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYvpsGd8K4Y

And, again, I ask: Does the City of Berkeley’s Human Welfare and Community Action Commission stand with the people on Planet Earth who seek to wipe the State of Israel off Earth’s map – the stated goal of the BDS Movement?

Respectfully submitted,
CJ Kingsley

*Of the 197 countries of the world, there are 20, including three territories, considered to be the most societally repressive. Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, North Korea and Sudan are at the top of the global list for countries that are among the worst abusers of human rights. To be deemed an abuser of human rights, civil liberties and political rights are the violations assessed, and these particular countries mentioned above have concurrently been on such lists in the previous years

** Syria, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Libya, Cuba and Saudi Arabia are more places where people suffer from some of the most severe, systematic abuses of human rights
http://borgenproject.org/human-rights-violations/
From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: This is a REAL CITY OF PEACE ..........not BERKELEY -the smiles tell it all

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Zimmerman [mailto:vinzim@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:39 AM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCS_hwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: This is a REAL CITY OF PEACE ..........not BERKELEY -the smiles tell it all

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Z7wwMhsNU
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:06 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Commission for Human Welfare and Community Action oversteps it's mandate

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: D Dorenz [mailto:ddorenz@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2015 4:43 PM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; City Clerk <clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Commission for Human Welfare and Community Action oversteps it's mandate

Dear Commissioners and the City Council:

The issue of Israel, and really any geopolitics, is very clearly outside the scope of the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission's mission to identify and address the social welfare needs of the local community.

- To delve into this complicated debate about Middle Eastern politics, and single out Israel in this way, will create a contentious and distracting dispute that can only detract from the Commission's work improving services and assistance programs in Berkeley.

- Finally, this inaccurate, biased, one-sided resolution is deeply offensive and will be divisive in the Berkeley community where there is a wide range of perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,

Dorothea Dorenz
1200 Neilson St.

Berkeley, Ca. 94706

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Dorothea
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Wong, Wingyin</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:47 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Molina, Raquel P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>FW: Anti-Jewish Activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Maris Schwartz [<a href="mailto:mperlow3@yahoo.com">mailto:mperlow3@yahoo.com</a>]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:27 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Wong, Wingyin <a href="mailto:wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us">wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cc:</td>
<td>Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <a href="mailto:HHCShwac@ci.berkeley.ca.us">HHCShwac@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Anti-Jewish Activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hello,
My name is Maris Schwartz, and I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the Berkeley community regarding an antisemitic divestment resolution making the rounds through the town's commission. It astounds me that anyone would consider such an ugly resolution based on outright lies and absolute hatred for the Jews. Please do not give this antisemitic group a free pass to say anything it wants. It needs to be called on its lies. This resolution is eerily reminiscent of the 1930's campaign against the Jews in Germany. Don't follow Hitler's footsteps. I am a former New Yorker and a lifelong Democrat. We moved to the Bay Area a few years ago, and I honestly can't believe that such a progressive community can be so hateful against a group of people. I have been to Israel many times, and I can assure you that, for the most part, Jews and Arabs get along! I know it sounds crazy, but it's true. Now, are there pockets of lunatics from both sides creating a violent mess? Yes, without a doubt. Is Israel perfect? No. But it's not the heinous country the BDS movement is painting it to be. Far from it, in fact. Israel is a world leader in virtually every technology -- from medicine to engineering and telecommunications. It also is the only democracy in the Middle East where so many nationalities co-exist. Please, don't believe the BDS lies. Please also discard this resolution. especially if you want the community to have a peaceful co-existence.
Sincerely,
Maris Schwartz
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 8:57 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Vote NO on Divestment

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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Lorelai Kude [mailto:lorelaikude@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 8:42 AM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCHwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Vote NO on Divestment

To: Berkeley Human Welfare Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am appalled to learn that Anti-Israel activists tried and failed to pass a divestment resolution through the Berkeley Human Welfare Commission during the Jewish High Holy Days. Thankfully, only 3 commissioners voted for the ugly, biased and one-sided resolution, and it was sent to a subcommittee to be re-worked. Many people in the Berkeley Jewish Community felt blind-sided and betrayed by the both the timing and the content of the resolution. Be assured that those of us who oppose this disgusting, disrespectful and purely anti-Semitic resolution will be robustly represented at the October 21st meeting. I strongly urge the commissioners to vote against divesting, and to stand up against the aggressive bullies in this community who would have you think that a vote to divest is a vote for peace and justice. Nothing could be further from the truth. Divestment has been proven to directly and immediately harm the Palestinian community, many of whom are now unemployed due to BDS’s efforts to destroy honest, diverse and just businesses which are providing jobs and economic security for thousands of Palestinian families. The goal of BDS is to create and exacerbate problems, not to solve them.

I moved to Berkeley from Jerusalem, Israel two years ago. I have first-hand knowledge of the deceit and destruction wrought by pro-BDS activists. I will be on hand to educate the commissioners and the community and to prove that those who have shown support for divestment are being cynically manipulated by professional operatives whose goal couldn’t be further away from peace and justice and “Human Welfare” if they tried.

Respectfully,
Lorelai Kude
From: barrygustin@mac.com [mailto:barrygustin@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 12:15 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Ian Zimmerman <vinzim@comcast.net>; Droste, Lori <ldroste@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Jews are victims too! even very tiny innocent jews: BDS Resolution

Yes folks (see below), and if Palestinians ever accepted their half of the land which was offered to them first by Britain, then the U.N. in 1947, and then Israel 8 times since then, and accepted Israel's rights to their land (as if after 75 years the sovereign nation of Israel even needs their blessing...they don't), there would be no need for Israel to defend themselves from these monsters who live in a culture that invented and glorifies suicide bombers, terrorists, and murderers, in the name of nothing other than Jew-killing.

From the Palestinian perspective, understand that this is not a mere conflict over land but a religious and ideological struggle that can only end when Israel has been completely wiped off the map. That is why the Palestinians have refused every single offer made to them for a two-state solution. They want all the land, and Abbas is on record as proudly stating that" not one Jew will live in the future state of Palestine". Boy, I wonder where, in his mind, 7 million Jews will go. Scary. And what about Hamas whose Charter actually calls for the death of every living Jew, not only Jews in Israel.

This is an issue of war; Islamists against Jewish infidels whose "filthy feet contaminate Jerusalem" (Abbas 9/21/15), not an issue of justice for Palestinians. Just ask the 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs currently living in Israel (20% of Israel's population). For 75 years they have enjoyed the liberties and justice provided in the democratic state of Israel. Accepting this resolution is tantamount to rejecting the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Is this what my city government is in the business of? And is this what I pay huge taxes for? So enough with the hypocrisy.
Throw out that ridiculous time-wasting BDS resolution, and while you are at it, throw out, or even better, prosecute those criminals in the Arab oil-financed BDS movement. They should have no place in our community because they are violent, they are Jew-hating anti-semics, and they fraudulently perpetrate lies, distortions, and false information to further the most heinous of agendas.

We, who have lived in Berkeley for decades and decades, if not all our lives, are sick to death of this bullshit. PLEASE STOP IT NOW.

Dr. Gustin
Berkeley

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zimmerman <vinzim@comcast.net>
Subject: Jews are victims too! even very tiny innocent jews
Date: October 7, 2015 6:43:23 PM PDT
To: wywong@CityofBerkeley.info

CITY OF BERKELEY

How dare you takes sides?
How dare you decide to further hurt this baby and his hard working family?
Are you going to pay for this baby's medical bills after your sanctions are
installed?
Are you a human being?
Do you want to throw rocks too?
What are you? What is Berkeley? A City of beasts?
My name is Na'ama
I am an Israeli baby
not a Palestinian one.
I was stoned by Palestinians.
This is why you haven't heard
about me
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Arty Cohn <artycohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:39 PM
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Do Not vote for Divestment from Israel
Hi Raquel:

Please share with the HWCAC. Gracias.

Peace,
Cheryl

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contacts: Maxine Fookson, 503-381-7465 mfookson@gmail.com

Peter Miller, 503-358-7475, peteskitoo@gmail.com

Portland Takes First Step Towards Becoming Occupation Free
Portland Human Rights Commission endorses placing companies on a “Do Not Buy” List for human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine

Portland, Oregon - October 12, 2015 – Occupation-Free Portland Coalition congratulates the Portland Human Rights Commission (HRC) for their unanimous endorsement of the coalition’s proposal to the City Of Portland Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) Committee to place four companies on the City’s “Do Not Buy List” due to their serious human rights violations in the ongoing illegal and brutal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The companies are Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, G4S, and Motorola Solutions.

The proposal was brought to the HRC by Occupation-Free Portland, a coalition of religious, social justice and human rights groups working for justice for Palestine. The coalition stated: “We applaud the Portland HRC for this action. This endorsement demonstrates that the HRC continues to be a “moral compass” for human rights in our community. They understand that diverse struggles for human rights and dignity are connected and deserve our local attention and commitment to change.”

Occupation-Free Portland is working to encourage city officials to align our municipal investments with values of human rights. Portland’s City Council recently adopted a Socially Responsible Investment policy that establishes “social and values principles” for consideration in the City's investments. One of the principles in the City’s SRI policy is “concerns about impacts on human rights”. If a company is determined to be committing serious human rights violations, citizens can propose that the city’s SRI Committee recommend to the City Council to move our investments out of that company. If no current investment exists, the City would then commit to not make a future investment in that company until they amend their ways. In doing this, the companies who are profiting from abusive practices will see that their practices are not acceptable to people of good conscience. Occupation-Free Portland’s focus on these four companies’ violations of Palestinian human rights is consistent with Portland’s SRI criteria.
Ned Rosch of Jewish Voice for Peace - Portland said "This is a moral first step towards ending the City of Portland's complicity with human rights violations and holding corporations accountable for supporting Israel's illegal occupation."

Occupation-Free Portland will continue to educate the public about the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and will take our proposal to the City of Portland SRI Committee to advocate for the City to take this moral stand.

Roles of each of these 4 companies in the Israeli occupation of Palestine:

**Caterpillar** sells specially manufactured bulldozers (D9 bulldozers) to the Israeli military. They are equipped with armor and weapons and are used to demolish Palestinian homes, entire villages and agricultural land. These bulldozers are weapons of warfare. Many of us who live in the Pacific Northwest remember that a Caterpillar bulldozer killed an Evergreen University student, Rachel Corrie, when she attempted to stop a home demolition in occupied Gaza.

**G4S** is a global private security firm. In Israel, they provide security services and equipment in prisons where Palestinians are jailed and often tortured. Palestinian prisoners are frequently held in “Administrative Detention” (meaning they have not been charged with a crime, have not had a trial, and are often denied legal representation). Since the year 2000, Defense of Children International reports that over 8000 Palestinian children have been held in Israeli jails. G4S is an integral part of that jail system.

**Hewlett-Packard**—provides identification systems that differentiate by religion and ethnicity between Palestinians and Jewish Israelis. Palestinians are restricted in their movement by their IDs and by H-P monitors at military checkpoints—often preventing them from working, going to school or seeing family members. Like the racist passbooks in Apartheid South Africa, these IDs have a harmful impact on Palestinian life and economic well-being.

**Motorola Solutions** is profiting from the occupation through providing communication systems to the Israeli military and electronic surveillance systems to the Israeli settlements that are illegally built on Palestinian land.

*Occupation-Free Portland is a coalition of groups working for justice for Palestine. Groups in the coalition include Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland Chapter; Friends of Sabeel-North America; Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land; the Wider Church Ministry of the Central Pacific Conference, United Church of Christ; Portland Fellowship of Reconciliation; Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights; Veterans for Peace, Chapter 72; Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights; and the International Socialist Organization.*

####
From: Marvin Lewis [mailto:marvinlewis62@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 9:30 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: 'Faith Meltzer' <meltzerfamily@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: No Boycott of Israel's products manufactured from West Bank

To the Berkeley Committee:

Question: Should the City of Berkeley boycott Israel’s goods?

A two state solution is suicide for Israel’s existence as long as the West Bank government will not accept Israel’s right to exist. Missiles flew from Gaza to Israel within days of Israel withdrawing the IDF from Gaza. If missiles rained in from the West Bank, it would nearly impossible to defend the Ben Gurion Airport which is only 19 miles from the border, even with the Iron Dome. Israel would not be able to easily exist unless it is allowed to keep its only large airport, safe. Israel should be allowed to exist without the threat of terrorist missiles raining death and destruction on its citizens.

The United States overthrew the Taliban government in Afghanistan for merely housing America’s enemies, Al Qaeda. Israel has the same rights as the United States to protect its homeland. Gaza continually attacks Israel with imported missiles from the terrorist country, Iran. A terrorist organization, Hamas, is behind Gaza’s deadly attacks on Israel. If the Berkeley Committee accepts Israel’s right to exist, then not allowing the Palestinians their state, unless they embrace Israel’s right to exist, is essential. If the Committee does not believe Israel has a right to exist, it should say that so the citizens of Berkeley can decide if such a position is consistent with the values of the citizens of Berkeley. The members of the Committee should ask themselves whether they would rather live in a democratic state like Israel or the usual despotic Islamist state which would most certainly replace it.

Whether Israel intentionally targeted schools in Gaza is highly debatable. For the Berkeley Committee to judge, without a trial, and without hearing testimony of the accused Israeli soldiers regarding their motives, to judge that Israel is guilty
of a war crime is an un-American value. Investigative generals from Britain and France came to the conclusion that Israel was innocent of any war crimes. At least it is highly debatable.

The United States accidentally bombed a hospital in Afghanistan. Did the Berkeley Committee discuss whether Berkeley should boycott American goods? Lieutenant Calley order the murder of Vietnam village members and no one demanded the boycott of America’s goods. Hundreds of missiles were flying from Gaza to Israel and tunnels were dug deep into Israel to kidnap women and children with threats of harm if Gaza’s will was not complied with. Who on the Committee even suggested that Gaza goods be boycotted? Gaza admitted they started the war and killed innocent Israelis during the missile attack. Where does that fit into the determination that Palestinians are the sole aggrieved party and Israel alone deserves the boycott of its goods?

Gaza has in its charter that the goal of the state is the destruction of Israel. If the committee goes along with this thinking, are they not complicit in furthering the goal of the Gaza government which is run by a terrorist organization?

Abbas recently refused to show any remorse for the murder of an innocent mother and father, whose four children had to witness, with horror, their parent’s death. Is this the hero that the Berkeley Committee wants to award with leadership of a new Palestinian state, bordering on Israel? When Abbas joined with Gaza as one state of Palestine, it made it impossible for Israel to grant the West Bank statehood.

Please do not be influenced by the obvious Islamist fundamentalist desire to destroy Israel so that a Jewish state does not reside in the Middle East.

Tareq Abbas who is the son of the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas no longer wants a two state solution. [http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.580761](http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.580761), He and most young people want to merely have civil rights in the occupied territory. This would mean that over a third of young Palestinians want businesses to come to the occupied territories in the West Bank!!

Most sociologists agree that the fastest way to a lasting peace between Palestinians and Israel is that if Israeli businesses jointly conducted by both people are profitable, a new wealth will come to the occupied territories. The country of Singapore has no natural resources and is situated on a small plot of land. On the Charlie Rose show, the late Lee Kuan Yew remarked that this poor third world economy grew into the most fastest growing economy on the planet by having diverse people living and working together. Today, the average income of the citizens of Singapore is higher than almost any other country on earth. [http://www.worldsalaries.org/singapore.html](http://www.worldsalaries.org/singapore.html) is a chart showing that the typical individual makes more money than Americans doing the same line of work.

The committee should be asking Israel to send more businesses to the occupied territories, and not boycott the goods manufactured there, if they desire world peace!!
From: Devin [mailto:devinbp@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2015 9:17 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Upcoming Resolution

Hello. I'd like to share my thoughts about the upcoming Israel-related resolution:

* The issue of Israel, and really any geopolitics, is very clearly outside the scope of the Commission's mission to identify and address the social welfare needs of the local community.

* To delve into this complicated debate about Middle Eastern politics, and single out Israel in this way, will create a contentious and distracting dispute that can only detract from the Commission's work improving services and assistance programs in Berkeley.

* Finally, this inaccurate, biased, one-sided resolution is deeply offensive and will be divisive in the Berkeley community where there is a wide range of perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I ask for your consideration.

Thank you.
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wYWong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Marvin Lewis [mailto:marvinlewis62@comcast.net]  
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:07 AM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; 'Barry Gustin' <b.gustin@mac.com>  
Subject: A more accurate version

To those at the Committee, I received an important correction to my earlier submission by those who sent Google Maps proving that I was wrong when I wrote that the Ben Gurion Airport is 19 miles from the West Bank border. In fact, it is only 5.9 miles! Israel averages only approximately 17 miles from the Mediterranean Sea to the West Bank boundary line.

Therefore my email should have read as follows:

To the Berkeley Committee:

Question: Should the City of Berkeley boycott Israel’s goods?

A two state solution is suicide for Israel’s existence as long as the West Bank government will not accept Israel’s right to exist. Missiles flew from Gaza to Israel within days of Israel withdrawing the IDF from Gaza. If missiles rained in from the West Bank, it would nearly impossible to defend the Ben Gurion Airport which is only 5.9 miles from the border, even with the Iron Dome. Israel would not be able to easily exist unless it is allowed to keep its only large airport, safe. Israel should be allowed to exist in peace without the threat of terrorist missiles raining death and destruction on its citizens.

The United States overthrew the Taliban government in Afghanistan for merely housing America’s enemies, Al Qaeda. Israel has the same rights as the United States to protect its homeland. Gaza continually attacks Israel with imported missiles from the terrorist country, Iran. A terrorist organization, Hamas, is behind Gaza’s deadly attacks on Israel. If the Berkeley Committee accepts Israel’s right to exist, then not allowing the Palestinians their state, unless they
embrace Israel’s right to exist, is essential. If the Committee does not believe Israel has a right to exist, it should say that so the citizens of Berkeley can decide if such a position is consistent with the values of the citizens of Berkeley. The members of the Committee should ask themselves whether they would rather live in a democratic state like Israel or the usual despotic Islamist state which would most certainly replace it.

Whether Israel intentionally targeted schools in Gaza is highly debatable. For the Berkeley Committee to judge, without a trial, and without hearing testimony of the accused Israeli soldiers regarding their motives, to judge that Israel is guilty of a war crime is an un-American value. Investigative generals from Britain and France came to the conclusion that Israel was innocent of any war crimes. At least it is highly debatable.

The United States accidentally bombed a hospital in Afghanistan. Did the Berkeley Committee discuss whether Berkeley should boycott American goods? Lieutenant Calley order the murder of Vietnam village members and no one demanded the boycott of America’s goods. Hundreds of missiles were flying from Gaza to Israel and tunnels were dug deep into Israel to kidnap women and children with threats of harm if Gaza’s will was not complied with. Who on the Committee even suggested that Gaza goods be boycotted? Gaza admitted they started the war and killed innocent Israelis during the missile attack. Where does that fit into the determination that Palestinians are the sole aggrieved party and Israel alone deserves the boycott of its goods?

Gaza has in its charter that the goal of the state is the destruction of Israel. If the committee goes along with this thinking, are they not complicit in furthering the goal of the Gaza government which is run by a terrorist organization?

Abbas recently refused to show any remorse for the murder of an innocent mother and father, whose four children had to witness, with horror, their parent’s death. Is this the hero that the Berkeley Committee wants to award with leadership of a new Palestinian state, bordering on Israel? When Abbas joined with Gaza as one state of Palestine, it made it impossible for Israel to grant the West Bank statehood.

Please do not be influenced by the obvious Islamist fundamentalist desire to destroy Israel so that a Jewish state does not reside in the Middle East.

Tareq Abbas who is the son of the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas no longer wants a two state solution. [http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.580761](http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.580761), He and most young people want to merely have civil rights in the occupied territory. This would mean that over a third of young Palestinians want businesses to come to the occupied territories in the West Bank!!

Most sociologists agree that the fastest way to a lasting peace between Palestinians and Israel is that if Israeli businesses jointly conducted by both people are profitable, a new wealth will come to the occupied territories. The country of Singapore has no natural resources and is situated on a small plot of land. On the Charlie Rose show, the late Lee Kuan Yew remarked that this poor third world economy grew into the most fastest growing economy on the planet by having diverse people living and working together. Today, the average income of the citizens of Singapore is higher than almost any other country on earth. [http://www.worldsalaries.org/singapore.html](http://www.worldsalaries.org/singapore.html) is a chart showing that the typical individual makes more money than Americans doing the same line of work.

The committee should be asking Israel to send more businesses to the occupied territories, and not boycott the goods manufactured there, if they desire world peace!!
From: Wong, Wingyin
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:20 AM
To: Molina, Raquel P.
Subject: FW: Communication to Ms. Remi Omodele regarding Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Linda Diamond [mailto:lindadiamond.core@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 8:05 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Cc: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Communication to Ms. Remi Omodele regarding Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

Dear Ms. Remi Omodele,
As a long time resident and member of Berkeley’s Jewish community and with a daughter living in Israel, I have seen firsthand the face of terror. I want Israeli Jews and Arabs to live in peace. This is the wish I know of many in Israel and many here in the United States. However, I urge you to reject the proposed Divestment from the Israel Occupation of Palestinian Territories because the groups that put forward BDS and say they want a two-state solution are not being honest. Attend any BDS meeting and you will hear them chant for the full elimination of Israel, not two states. Often their protests end up with direct anti-Semitic statements. Clearly there is blame on both sides. However, Israel does not overtly and premeditatedly target civilians, yet that is not the same for those in Gaza or even the West Bank. Israel is the only democracy in the middle east where the LBGT community can live freely, where Ethiopians are part of the very fabric of the country and where a diverse population flourishes. My daughter teaches exercise in many Israeli Arab communities. The women she encounters on a day to day basis are her friends and many Jews and Muslims co-exist peacefully within Israel.

However, the issue of Israel and really any geopolitics is clearly outside the scope of the Commission’s mission. Furthermore, singling out Israel this way will create a contentious and deeply divisive dispute that will detract from your good work of improving services in Berkeley for Berkeley citizens. This one-sided resolution is deeply offensive and will further divide the Berkeley community where there are many diverse perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Do not let the voices of those with a darker agenda than appears co-opt your good work for Berkeley’s citizens.

1
• Linda Diamond

lindadiamond.core@gmail.com
Cell: 510-685-2993
My name is David McCleary and I am a Jewish Ph.D. student in Molecular and Cell Biology at UC Berkeley and a proud Berkeley resident. I am also a Head Steward and Statewide Executive Board Trustee for UAW Local 2865, which represents 14,500 student workers in the University of California system. I write to you today about a resolution, authored by recently fired Human Welfare and Community Action Commissioner Cheryl Davila, that calls on the city of Berkeley to divest from international corporations complicit in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. I am strongly in favor of the resolution as originally written by Commissioner Davila, and I urge the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission to pass her resolution and send it to the City Council for consideration. The UAW Local 2865 Joint Council, the main governing body of my union, has also endorsed Cheryl’s resolution as written, in an email to the Commission. Please refer to that letter as well, which I’ve attached for your convenience.

Israel is engaged in a brutal, prolonged occupation and blockade of Palestinian territories that is as illegal as it is immoral. Israel has demolished over 27,000 Palestinian homes, each demolition considered a war crime by the United Nations, to make room for illegal Israeli settlements. These and other war crimes are carried out using my American tax dollars, in the form of three billion dollars a year in direct military aid. Municipal investments in companies like Caterpillar, which produces the armored bulldozers used to destroy Palestinian homes, make me even more complicit in these crimes. Perhaps worst of all, these crimes are committed in my name as a Jew, because of the false conflation of my Judaism with policies of the Israeli government. This conflation isn’t an accident, but instead is a deliberate strategy of far-right-wing Israelis and antisemites alike to tie my Jewish identity to Israeli policy for their own selfish political reasons.
I don’t oppose the Israeli occupation IN SPITE of my Judaism. Rather, like many Jews, I oppose the Israeli occupation BECAUSE of my Judaism. My relatives fled violence in Eastern Europe. I have a deep understanding of how intolerance and inequality leads to violence. The City of Berkeley needs to take a stand for human rights, as we have so many times in the past. The status quo of occupation and apartheid has serious, life-or-death implications for Palestinian residents of Berkeley and their families. We need to take action as a community to protect the human welfare of Palestinians in Berkeley and beyond, and passing this resolution out of the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission is an obvious place to start.

Sincerely,

David McCleary

Ph.D. Candidate
Molecular and Cell Biology
UC Berkeley

Head Steward
Executive Board Trustee
UAW Local 2865
To: Commissioners of the Berkeley Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
    Members of the Berkeley City Council
    Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates

UAW Local 2865, the union representing 14,500 student workers in the University of California system, including thousands of Berkeley residents, wishes to strongly condemn the unprecedented and undemocratic steps taken by Berkeley City Council-member Darryl Moore to kill debate on a recent resolution before the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission of the Berkeley City Council. In addition to calling on Council-member Moore and others to reverse course and allow Berkeley democracy to function as designed, the UAW Local 2865 Joint Council also calls on the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission to pass the resolution in question as written and send it to the Berkeley City Council for consideration and adoption.

On September 16th, the Human Welfare and Community Action (HWCA) Commission was set to vote on a resolution calling on the City of Berkeley to divest from international corporations complicit in the occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel1. The resolution was authored by Cheryl Davila, who had served as the HWCA Commissioner for Council District 2 since 2009. Despite the fact that the resolution had been up for consideration by the HWCA Commission since October of 2014, Council-member Moore contacted Commissioner Davila the day before the vote was scheduled, threatening her with removal from the Commission should she refuse to withdraw her proposal. This was apparently the first and last time Commissioner Davila would have contact with Council-member Moore. Commissioner Davila, compelled to action by the brutal destruction of Gaza she witnessed from afar during Israel’s 2014 military assault, refused to withdraw her proposal. When she arrived to the HWCA Commission meeting the next day to vote, she was informed by a city staffer that she had been removed from her position.

Council-member Moore chose to replace Commissioner Davila with former Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board-member Nicole Drake. True to form, Drake, whose repeated absences from Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board-meetings significantly impeded the ability of that Board to function2, was absent from the HWCA Commission meeting. In addition to this gross distortion of Berkeley’s Commission process, we have also heard that other Commissioners were contacted by their sponsoring Council-members and pressured to oppose the resolution. We also did not miss the fact that Mayor Tom Bates, whose seat on the HWCA Commission was previously empty, appointed his aide Gregory Magofna to the seat the day before the vote3, thereby increasing the threshold for passage of this resolution. Unsurprisingly, Gregory Magofna joined Nicole Drake in missing the meeting.

2 http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci_21273646/berkeley-rent-board-commissioners-absences-under-fire
3 https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_Commissions/External%20Roster.pdf (pg 20)
These combined actions resulted in the resolution failing to pass as written, despite community members present at the meeting speaking overwhelmingly in favor of the measure. We understand the resolution is now being rewritten by a group of Commissioners, seemingly to accommodate the selfish political aspirations of certain elected representatives of the City of Berkeley. We call on Council-member Moore to reinstate Cheryl Davila to her position on the HWCA Commission and we call on Mayor Tom Bates to appoint someone to the Commission who actually has an interest in serving the Berkeley community.

The UAW Local 2865 Joint Council stands in solidarity with Commissioner Cheryl Davila and Berkeley community-members whose democratic process was derailed by the very elected representatives charged with protecting that process. If City Council-members like Darryl Moore oppose this resolution, they are perfectly capable of voting against it when it reaches the City Council. City Commissions serve as an essential tool for Berkeley citizens to guide the work of the Council, and that process should be respected.

Issues of process aside, the UAW 2865 Joint Council strongly supports Commissioner Davila’s resolution as currently written. The language of this resolution closely mirrors that of a resolution passed by our Local in December of 2014. Our resolution calling for divestment from international corporations complicit in the Israeli occupation passed by a 65% majority of our statewide voting membership, with over 70% of members at UC Berkeley supporting\(^4\). Our union decided to hold a vote on this issue because of the real, life-or-death consequences the status quo has for the welfare of our Palestinian rank-and-file members and their families. It was also important that, as a union, we took action to end our complicity in internationally-recognized human rights abuses. A broad coalition of Berkeley community members, cutting across all demographics, is demanding action on divestment from the Israeli occupation, to end their own complicity. The City of Berkeley should respond to this community call to action and prioritize protecting the human welfare of their Palestinian citizens. With these important goals in mind, the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission should vote in favor of Commissioner Davila’s resolution as soon as possible and send it to the City Council for consideration and adoption.

Sincerely,

The UAW Local 2865 Joint Council

\(^4\) [http://www.uaw2865.org/2014-bds-vote/]
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info  

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-----Original Message-----
From: Eric Daniels [mailto:edmddm@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 6:16 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Vote no on divestment!, please!!

Eric P. Daniels, MD
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info  

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From: Philippe Assouline  
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 7:54 PM  
To: Wong, Wing Yin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCShwcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Vote no on divestment

BDS is a deceptive group exploiting human rights trigger words to demonize Israel and its people. It helps no one to demonize one side on the basis of lies.
From: Wingyin Wong
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Raquel P. Molina
Subject: FW: Palestine Resolution

Wingyin Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wYWong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Jerry BERKMAN [mailto:jerry@berkeley.edu]  
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 8:44 PM  
To: Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCSbcac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Cc: Droste, Lori <ldroste@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Palestine Resolution

Dear Commissioners,

I have heard that the HWCAC will be considering a resolution titled "Divestment from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories".

I oppose such a motion and also wonder why such a resolution would be raised at the HWCAC. It does not appear to fall within the mission of the HWCAC:

"Mission:  
Advise the Council concerning social welfare needs. Creates citizen awareness and encourages improved standards. Assists in the administration of the Community Action Program."

This is a very involved issue and has nothing to do with Berkeley's social welfare needs or the Community Action Program.

It is listed on the September 16 agenda as "Conflict in Israel's Impact on the City of Berkeley." I can see no impact from this Middle East conflict on the City of Berkeley.

I also fail to see why Israel is the only country we would worry about. While discussing homes being demolished by Israel, the resolution ignores the fact that Egypt has bulldozed all homes in Egypt within a mile of the Gaza
strip. The resolution mentions Israel's blockade of Gaza but fails to mention that this is only effective because Egypt is also blockading Gaza. Why is one objectionable and not the other?

I can't understand why Berkeley should worry about Israel and ignore the general mayhem in the rest of the Middle East, especially in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, etc.

The resolution is both one-sided and quite biased. It should be rejected out of hand.

- Jerry Berkman
  3136 Eton Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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-----Original Message-----
From: anne.gold@cox.net [mailto:anne.gold@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 8:49 PM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Vote no on divestment

Vote no on divestment!
--
Anne Gold
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: frederica barlaz [mailto:fxb613@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:58 PM
To: Wong, Wingin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Vote NO on divestment

Do what is right.
Dear Commissioners,

I am saddened that I have to write this email. I am an Israeli and resident of Berkeley. Like you, I want peace. More than you, I want peace. I have a two year old daughter who will probably fight in a conflict I do not want to participate in anymore. I have seen Palestinian suffering and the effects of the occupation at first hand. The only solution to this conflict is what President Obama and the international community have said; two states for two peoples, living side-by-side, in peace and security.

The resolution before you is not about peace or a hopeful future. It does not address the actual barriers to negotiations and root cause of the problems on the ground. It harms Palestinian workers and people of color. Did you know that the majority of the 6 million Jews living in Israel are people of color? The majority of whom had to seek safety in Israel from Africa and the Middle East countries because they were Jewish.

The motion before you is presented by groups who are a very loud minority in both Palestinian and Jewish communities. They do not represent the 70% of both Palestinians and Israelis who want peace and a two-state
solution to this conflict (Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research). The groups who you have heard from do not want two states for two people and do not stand for equality. They promote "resistance" at any price which means death and destruction.

Right now my Palestinian and Israeli friends are scared. The new wave of violence is scary. Let Berkeley be a place that stands for peace, equality and democracy for everyone! Don't let it become a place which puts neighbor against neighbor. If you pass this motion, you will send a clear message to the majority of Jewish and Israeli residents that we are not welcome here and you do not accept our beliefs, our religious and spiritual expression and our national identity.

Please do your research and look at what the groups who support this motion are really saying. They believe the Jewish people have no right to self-determination in their historic homeland. They will tell you Zionism is not central to Jewish religious practice and identity, which is has been for 2500 years. Don't give in to the hate. Palestinians and Israelis deserve better, they both deserve their own homelands.

B'Shalom, Salaam,

Sincerely,

--

Jessica Kosmin
4153164705
Wing Wong
City of Berkeley
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Phone: (510) 981-5428
Fax: (510) 981-5450
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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Please vote no on divestment. Thank you very much. JGalper
Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Dave Evans [mailto:dave7819@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 10:25 AM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>; Community Action Commission (HWCAC) <HHCSwacac@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Retribution for excercising rights in the interests of US

To all involved in this travesty:

California city commissioner fired for proposing Israel divestment

California city commissioner fired for proposing Israel divestment  
Cheryl Davila had been warned her resolution would cause “turmoil” in famously liberal Berkeley.

It is because of continuing AIPAC-demanded support for Israel that the United States is getting attacked:

'God knows it did not cross our minds to attack the towers'
It is because of AIPAC-demanded US wars for the Oded Yinon Plan, and the US Zionist-neocon's complementary "A Clean Break" plan, that the US Congress has bankrupted the United States on multi-trillion-dollar never-ending wars for Israel.

"Greater Israel": The Zionist Plan for the Middle East

While the firing of Cheryl Davila is a seemingly small issue in the larger context of War and Peace, her firing is indicative of the core of the biggest problem the US faces: The extreme influence of Zionists within our government bodies from the grassroots level, all the way to our Executive:

Billionaires Adelson and Saban, at odds in campaigns, unite on Israel and hit Obama
Ms. Davila and supporters of her proposal to divest from Israel because of Israel's murderous and illegal behavior are correct. Perhaps you should all be schooled by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and other more enlightened and less fearful of Jewish lobby groups, and do what is right.

Illinois governor to sign anti-BDS bill

This kind of war crime, an act of collective punishment enacted on people trapped behind walls, can only lead to more retribution and isolation of America by an international community that is rapidly distancing itself for the crimes of Israel.

Gaza's dead children - Google Search

Sincerely,

David R. Evans
Former Sgt. USMC
Former Veterans For Peace member,
Palestine and Middle East Working Group
Molina, Raquel P.

From: Wong, Wingyin  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 9:49 AM  
To: Molina, Raquel P.  
Subject: FW: Separating Good From Evil

Wing Wong  
City of Berkeley  
Department of Health, Housing & Community Services  
Phone: (510) 981-5428  
Fax: (510) 981-5450  
wywong@cityofberkeley.info

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From: Andrew Upton [mailto:upton.a@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 5:00 PM  
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
Subject: Separating Good From Evil

Secretary Wong  
City of Berkeley

Dear Secretary Wong:

I am an Equal Employment Opportunity Human Resources Attorney who has spent most of my life marching, writing, speaking, protesting for the rights of minorities, women, homosexuals and the poor of our inner-cities. I was at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. I did three things within three weeks of witnessing that event up close: I learned how to use a handgun and a rifle (though I still do not own either one), I took a self-defense course, and I began, what is now a 14 year study of Islam, particularly Middle East Arab Islam and particularly Radical Islam.

I read voluminously about the issues with Israel and its Arab neighbors. I have made multiple trips to the Middle East.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah admonishes us: "woe to them that call evil, good and good, evil. Who present darkness as light and light as darkness. Who call bitter, sweet and sweet, bitter. We must turn back the evil. We must turn back the darkness. We must turn back the bitter."

Israel is a beacon of freedom, tolerance, multi-culturalism, diversity(21% of its citizens are Arab, mostly Muslim, with full rights and in roles as doctors, pharmacists, mayors, police officials, ambassadors, judges) and hope in a region dominated by the forces of evil, intolerance, darkness, incredible hatred and violence. It is not an easy picture to put into focus, primarily because of the overwhelming majority of our poorly informed mass media.
But Israel is not the only target of distorted truths and bitter hatreds, we too in America have been blinded to the political fascism that is masquerading behind a veil of "religion". This is a worldwide threat, impacting moderate Muslims (see Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan), Hindus and Sikhs in India, the Han in China, Nigerian, Somalian, Sudanese Christians and the Coptic Christians in Egypt- and so many more across the globe. Please stop the madness of once again scapegoating the Jews (this time by attacking democratic Israel). Please at least be humble enough to know that the issues are too nuanced for such significant boycott actions by the city of educational excellence known as Berkeley.

Respectfully,
Andrew Upton
917-902-6394
uptona@gmail.com
Dear Secretary Wong,

I am a business owner in Oakland who frequents many Berkeley establishments on a weekly basis and am very concerned about propose BDS measures in Berkeley. I urge you to inform your committee of how imbalanced and unproductive the BDS movement is in terms of approaching the difficult Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Although it may be seductive to believe certain reporting on this conflict without further investigation and to oversimplify a complex situation, the facts would indicate that there is another side to this situation. For starters, much of the land in the West Bank now "occupied" by Israel was actually designated as part of Israel upon it's founding in 1948 by the United Nations. What happened? When Israel was declared a state in 1948, she was immediately attacked (within days) by Syria, Egypt and Jordan who attempted to the destroy the state of Israel and it's people. Much of the land in the West Bank that was designated as part of Israel by the UN was illegally overtaken by Jordan in this war. Jordan gave this land to the Palestinian Authority in 1988 when it was tired of accomodating the Palestinians in their country with all the associated costs and drain on Jordan's economy. The Palestinians have become pawns in a larger chess game, which is unfortunate, but this has not been the fault of Israel for trying to exist in peace. The territory in question was never officially Palestinian and at the time of Israel;s creation had both Jews and Palestinians living in this area. The entire term "occupied" is a misnomer from the start and has been created by the media. As you can see, this situation is far from cut and dry.

Furthermore, a recent Pew Research Poll revealed that better than 90% of Palestinians polled wish physical harm to Israelis. Israel has the enduring fortune of being surrounded by 300,000,000 people who will not recognize it's existence and are committed to it's destruction. The West Bank Palestinians who wish this harm are as close to Israel geographically as Oakland is to Berkeley. Israel does what any country would do in a
similar situation to protect itself. Everything it does is done defensively, it NEVER starts a conflict. NEVER has. Everything it does to protect itself is done in response to hostilities.

I can go on but let's suffice it to say there's more to this issue than the well-intentioned Berkeley protesters understand or are aware of.

And let's not forget the gross double standard. Are these same protesters banning together to Boycott companies who buy products made in China because of China's behavior in Tibet? I didn't think so.

Mr. Wong, please urge your committee to withdraw the measures currently being proposed.
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From: barrygustin@mac.com [mailto:barrygustin@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:56 AM
To: Wong, Wingyin <wywong@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Israel Divestment Measure

Dear Secretary Wong:

I am a long-time Berkeley resident (30 plus years) and am American born. I am a physician, educator, and I'm very active in local organizations, volunteer and otherwise. I am Jewish, my wife isn't, and my three children were raised Jewish here in Berkeley. All three of them are adult now and are productive members of our community. All three of them have done Birthright, the program that sends young Jewish people to Israel. I have family in Jerusalem, Israel that on my mother's side goes back at least 8 generations according to my genealogy tree.

I have read in its entirety the Israel Divestment Resolution now being deliberated by the City Council. To say the least I am stunned, and I am profoundly saddened. Do I really have to relive the stories I grew up with in New York City told by Holocaust survivors many of whom were my own relatives? This morning I received an email from a friend of one of my colleagues at UC that reflects how I and so many other Berkeley residents feel about the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and the double standard that is being increasingly applied to the democratic multicultural (20% of Israelis are Palestinian Muslims and Christians) sovereign state of Israel, but which is not being applied to other nations where hundreds of thousands of innocents are being slaughtered.

Please pass this email on to your committee so that all of you can understand what is really happening in that part of the world. And please understand that the BDS movement simply has it wrong, egregiously wrong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Barry Gustin, MD, MPH
Berkeley, CA

From an esteemed non-Jewish professor at UC Berkeley:

"Knowing the obvious, that I am an Indian and not a chief, I would think that their are several main points the city council must consider in evaluating the BDS resolution currently before them. One is the closeness in values between
those of the State of Israel and the Berkeley City Council versus the opposite values proposed by those in BDS who would see Israel destroyed. BDS has as its major goal the wish to destroy Israel, a majority Jewish Democratic sovereign state since 1948, and replace it with a Muslim entity that accepts neither Jews nor Christians. A second important consideration is that no one has applied economic sanctions in similar situations to any other country, hence there is an unfair double standard. South Africa endured economic sanctions because they were practicing apartheid. Israel is a pluralistic democracy with equal rights for all with Muslims serving in their Parliament and on their Superior Court. Russia is enduring economic sanctions because it invaded another country that had not attacked it, first. Those that compare Israel with those two examples are simply trying to unfairly destroy Israel.

Settlements in the West Bank have been looked upon in the business community, inside and outside Israel, as a means of joining the Israeli population and the Palestinian population by creating new jobs in the occupied territories. Many Palestinians in the West Bank are employed by West Bank Israeli companies, and that has been the case for decades despite beliefs to the contrary. If the war is ever going to end, the focus must change by having the two populations continuing to work together in joint ventures. Abbas has strongly stated that no Jews will live in the future new state of Palestine. This is anathema to peace. Once the occupied territories have new industry based upon cooperation with Israel, the real prospects for peace can be greatly improved. The idea that a new state of Palestine would gain sovereignty absent Jewish businesses and the IDF is not realistic until the Palestinians have accepted Israel’s right to exist, which to date they have not.

A perpetual war as presently exists between Gaza and Israel is obviously not conducive to peace. Similarly, absent peace and Palestinian recognition of the state of Israel, it is highly likely that like Gaza, if Israel unilaterally ceased its security presence in the West Bank, missiles, as in Gaza, would again begin to fly. But this time, it would result in an outright war that would result in the death of tens or hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Why? Because Israel’s main population centers and its airport are just within a few miles of the border. This would be the war to end all wars, and the human toll would be unimaginable. BDS policies and activities foster this eventual outcome.

And remember that the Palestinian charter of both Fatah and Hamas call for the destruction of Israel. That is not a foundation for peace but a call for the genocidal murder of what amounts to be about 50% of world Jewry, about 7 million Jews. Those Gaza citizens that openly support peace with Israel are regarded as insurgents and are summarily executed without a fair trial. Would the Berkeley City Council really want a Gaza like state to replace that of Israel? This would be an unthinkable nightmare. What if such a state was placed in the center of the United States? Would any member of the Berkeley City Council look upon this as anything but a nightmare? Yet this is precisely the goals of those in BDS who would want the Berkeley City Council to pass this resolution.

Israel is merely attempting to survive in a hostile environment. It is surrounded by enemies that want to end the Jewish state so that only Muslim states exist in the Middle East. If civilization is going to flourish, we need more Israel’s and less states bent on the destruction of their neighbors. Every act that Israel does is for its own survival. If Israel’s neighbors accepted Israel’s right to exist and ended all hostilities, none of the acts complained of in this piece of suggested legislation would need to exist. This last point is the key to this entire discussion. Any people who are hell bent on destroying another group of people because they cannot tolerate the other’s religion or ethnicity will suffer reactions from the innocent country designed to ensure their safety and security. That is only natural. Unless the Berkeley Council joins the hostile neighbor’s desire for the destruction of Israel, then this proposed legislation should be defeated. If the Berkeley City Council believes that Israel does not have the right to exist and wants to turn Israel over to the repressive society that their neighbors desire, ask if the City Council would accept the People of Gaza along with their police state as a replacement for Berkeley City government? If not, then why would the Berkeley City Council subject the people of Berkeley to such a one-sided unfair resolution supporting the end of the only democratic free state in the Middle East, a state that against all odds has managed to survive until now despite the enmity and hostilities of the countries surrounding it. In effect, how could the Berkeley City Council accept the murder of all Israelis by agreeing with a resolution that has as its ultimate goal not just the end of the so-called "occupation" (which in itself is historically disputable), but the murder of Israelis and the destruction of a sovereign nation."

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