

Dear Cincinnati City Council Members,

I am writing as someone who served as a rabbi in Cincinnati for 27 years.

Though I live in Rhode Island now, I was born and raised in Cincinnati and will always consider Cincinnati my home. Dear family members and respected colleagues are still leaders in the Cincinnati Jewish community and beyond.

Over the years Cincinnati's City Council has taken a number of principled and ethical positions on behalf of the citizens of our city. Such is the opportunity today to do the same- by endorsing a call for an immediate ceasefire in the horrific and life destroying tragedy presently going on in Gaza and the immediate release and return of all hostages.

I have heard many people say they support the return of all hostages, the end of the war, the end of injury and death to Palestinian civilians, including thousands of children. The same people have expressed a desire for a lasting peace. It is absolutely clear that *none* of these things are possible without an immediate ceasefire.

Since its creation, Israel has had many military victories over many years but there is no peace. There is no military solution to this cycle of violence. There can only be a diplomatic solution- for the good of *all* people living in that land.

That is why I strongly and unequivocally support Cincinnati's City Council calling for a ceasefire.

I do so as a human being. as a Jew and as a rabbi, in the spirit of thousands of years of Jewish teachings and values that command us to passionately, assertively, humanistically and bravely pursue peace- as difficult, challenging and complicated as this may be.

Our rabbis had many names for G-d but the most significant name was Shalom, Peace. I urge those in my Jewish community and those in Cincinnati at large to be brave and passionate in pursuing a true and just peace.

A ceasefire is the first step.

Thank you,

Rabbi Irvin M. Wise