



## Standing with Jewish Long Beach and National NCJW

Our NCJW section is aligned with Jewish Long Beach (JLB) regarding the local Proclamation (passed by the LB City Council on December 19) that demanded a united response.

We are also aligned with National NCJW being supportive of the need to recognize that both Israelis and Palestinians have been traumatized. We've also seen up close that what happens in Israel affects all Jewish people everywhere.

## City of Long Beach Issues and Timeline on a Ceasefire Proclamation

The starting point of the local problem was the city's process. Our city actively fueled antisemitism. You will find the timeline below on the "[War on Israel](#)" page of [Jewish Long Beach's website](#) about the lead-up to the Proclamation, the City's Council meeting, and our organized outreach to Long Beach elected officials:

### "Long Beach City Council Timeline and Documents:

- **November 13:** [The Equity & Human Relations Commission \(EHRC\) published a recommendation](#) urging Mayor Richardson and the City

Council to adopt a proclamation in support of a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war

- **December 6:** In response, [Jewish Long Beach issued a letter to the Equity & Human Relations Commission](#) regarding our concerns with the recommendation, including their references to "Occupied Palestine," "Apartheid," and "Colonialism"
- **December 15:** Long Beach City Council drafted a proclamation in support of a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza,
- **December 19:** the Proclamation was adopted by City Council after a 5-2 vote. [CLICK HERE TO READ THE PROCLAMATION.](#) \*\*\*\*
- **December 26:** [Jewish Long Beach issued a letter to Mayor Richardson](#) in response to the City Council meeting
- **January 3:** The California Legislative Jewish Caucus, co-chaired by Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, [issued a letter to Members of the CA State Legislature](#) titled "Re: October 7 Attack, Rising Antisemitism, and the 2024 Legislative Year."

JLB and the coalition of Jewish organizations they organized could not accept the Proclamation for a Ceasefire because...

- it lacks direct condemnation of Hamas as a terrorist organization;
- it fails to acknowledge the ongoing crisis of rockets being fired at Israel;
- while it does include a request for releasing all hostages, it does not include a call for Hamas to lay down their weapons and does not take into consideration Hamas's central commitment to the death and destruction of Israel and ultimately the Jewish people; and
- it singles out this current crisis primarily because Israel is a Jewish state — yet tens of thousands of civilians who are killed in many conflicts around the world do not trigger protest movements.

During the EHRC meetings and the Dec 19th City Council meeting, pro-Israeli speakers and attendees were subject to boos, heckling, yelling of "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free," and constant chants about "Free Palestine" and "Palestinians are the indigenous people!" Many of us Jews present left feeling disheartened, scared, and shocked at the level of hatred felt from several hundred pro-Palestinian speakers and protestors.

For those who want to know more, be sure to read the links in blue above, especially December 26 and January 3. Here's one quote from the January 3rd California State Jewish Caucus:

"We write to ask for your support and solidarity at an unprecedented moment of pain and fear for our Jewish community. Recent events, including Hamas's horrific October 7 massacre, the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, the glorification of violence and sexual assault against Jews, calls for the annihilation of Israel, and the extreme escalation of antisemitism in the United States and around the world have left our community reeling. According to the Governor's Office

of Emergency Services (CalOES), since October 7 there have been more than 200 bomb threats against Jewish institutions in California.”

## JLB's Next Steps

On January 7, JLB reported to a group of supporters that they have met or communicated with Rep. Garcia, Sen. Gonzalez, Rep. Lowenthal, Mayor Richardson, and eight of the nine Council members. These leaders have thus heard and acknowledged that the Jewish community is angry and scared. JLB's continuing focus is on the EHRC's makeup and actions, and a toolkit to help leaders in organizations understand how their actions might contribute to the rise in antisemitism.

A recent survey by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs showed that 2/3 of all Americans believe that growing antisemitism represents a threat to both American freedom and democracy and that they have a responsibility to stand up to antisemitism.

## Coordinating an Antisemitism Conference for Local Leaders

As follow-up, your NCJW Advocacy Committee is working hard on our April 2, 2024, “**Long Beach Summit: Shining a Light on Antisemitism and Hate**,” which is supported by a Lentzner Grant we obtained and organized by NCJW, JLB, ADL, and CCEJ. The conference is geared to reaching organizational leaders and senior staff, city officials, and our Greater Long Beach school district and college system administrators and lead teachers. For further information and the registration link, [click here](#). If you wish to volunteer at the conference, email us at [advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org).

## Next Steps: Advocacy's New Fund for Addressing Antisemitism and Racism

We need both volunteers and donations to make this conference the success we envision! Volunteer by emailing us at [advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org](mailto:advocacy@ncjwlongbeach.org), but also please [donate](#) or [send a tribute](#) to a new fund we created, “**Addressing Antisemitism/Hate**.” This money will not only support the conference but also enable us to create outreach talks and discussion programs for synagogues, JLB, other nonprofits, and the schools to help us all deal with the antisemitism we are experiencing.

## Local Event Needing a Jewish Response [updated]

The Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families had scheduled a January 17th meeting including an agenda item to discuss “the impact of the Israel-Palestine War” (misnomer: should be “Israel-Hamas War”) on Long Beach’s community members — specifically, youth and families — and if necessary, submit a letter to the Mayor and City Council with a recommendation regarding the same.

The meeting was cancelled! But the Commission may still take up this issue.

## Another National Issue

Bernie Sanders introduced an Anti-Israel Resolution in the US Senate on January 16th about Israel committing gross violations of human rights. The Senate rejected that resolution: 72 senators voted against it, while 11 backed it, including our current Senator Laphonza Butler.

## Stay Updated

Please look for our advocacy eblasts every other Friday (if you’re not currently signed up, you can do so easily in the bottom right corner of our website at [ncjwlongbeach.org](https://ncjwlongbeach.org)). It will keep you updated on any further actions that NCJW is supporting.

Lastly, the City of Long Beach offers a [portal](#) for searching documents, agendas, and past meetings and for logging onto City Council and commission meetings; it also has a short, helpful training video to get you started. We recommend you start following City Commissions either archived or in real time; we would love to see more of our members serving on City Commissions.

Thank you,

**Lisa Raufman**

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