

## **AFSCME DC 47 Says, Ceasefire Now!**

**Whereas**, the AFSCME International Constitution calls for AFSCME International “to work with our brothers and sisters in other lands towards the improvement of the conditions of life and work in all countries, towards the diminution of international tensions and a reduction in the use of armed force to resolve disputes, and towards genuine fraternity of all workers;” and

**Whereas**, we, members of AFSCME District Council 47, along with fellow members of the US Labor Movement, mourn the deaths of Palestinians and Israelis, and we declare our solidarity with all workers and our common desire for peace for Palestinians and Israelis along with fellow members of the US Labor Movement, and we condemn any and all hate crimes against Muslims, Jews, and people of any faith and backgrounds; and,

**Whereas**, to date, over 24,100 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with at least 60,800 injured; 1,139 Israelis have been killed, with another 8,700 injured; and the vast majority of Gaza’s 2.2 million people are displaced and facing starvation and disease, according to multiple human rights organizations; and

**Whereas**, international organizations like Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Rescue Committee, and many others have made a call for a ceasefire in order to prevent the further loss of life of civilians and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

**Whereas**, billions of tax dollars from the US working class fund the Israeli military, which should instead fund essential services in our communities, high quality education for all, and the expansion of access to health care, housing, and good paying jobs of historically low-paid Black and Brown workers;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we will

- Encourage member-led educational opportunities about Palestine and Israel,
- Defend all workers' rights to freedom of expression, including support for Palestinian liberation and opposition to anti-Semitism, and protect them from workplace discrimination and retaliation;
- Oppose unconditional military aid to Israel

**Be it further resolved** that we as unionists who fight for justice, freedom, and rights for all people; we hereby call on President Biden and the US Government to take the following actions:

- Call for an immediate ceasefire
- Demand a safe release of all Palestinian and Israeli hostages
- Call for an immediate restoration of food, water, electricity, internet to all of Gaza to save as many lives as possible
- Work diligently and aggressively for diplomatic and negotiated solutions for lasting justice, security and safety, and peace for Palestinians, Israelis, and all people in this region.

**Be it further resolved** that AFSCME District Council 47 joins with union siblings around the country and add our council as a signatory to the US Labor Movement Calls for a Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine petition and publicize this resolution on our website and through social media.