



DC is far from Israel and Gaza, but what is happening there hits very close to home for so many in our community. We mourn for the hundreds of lives lost in the bloodshed and the millions of innocent people facing unspeakable suffering in the region. I condemn the terrorism of Hamas and the senseless atrocities committed against the people of Israel. These horrific attacks do nothing to solve the decades-long conflict or advance Palestinians' right to self-determination. And the devastating humanitarian toll of the ensuing violence and blockade on the Palestinian people cannot be ignored. This is a time for us to recognize our shared humanity and lift up voices of restraint and peace. Here in Ward 4, we stand in solidarity with our neighbors, schools, synagogues, and broader Jewish and Muslim communities facing threats or fearing for their loved ones as this terrifying violence unfolds. **In the face of escalating hostility, our community is united against every form of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hatred.** I join the urgent calls for an immediate end to the violence, and I pray for a lasting peace that safeguards human life. All Israelis and Palestinians – and most of all, Israeli and Palestinian children – have an inalienable right to safety, dignity, peace, and freedom.