



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
October 24, 2023**

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution of the City Commission supporting Israel and condemning the unprovoked and unjustified war launched by Hamas terrorists against Israel.

BRIEF HISTORY:

Early Saturday morning, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the terrorist organization that controls Gaza, launched an unprovoked and unjustified war on Israel by air, land, and sea, including launching thousands of missiles into Israel. The United States Department of State and European Union have designated Hamas a terrorist organization because of its armed attacks against Israel, including suicide bombings and rocket attacks. The Hamas terrorist organization sent terrorists through the security barrier into southern Israel, slaughtering innocent civilians and abducting hundreds of them as hostages, including women, children, babies, and the elderly. Approximately 203 people are currently being held hostage.

The large-scale surprise attack and the atrocities and war crimes committed by these terrorists represents the most dangerous escalation of violence in decades and comes almost exactly 50 years after the Yom Kippur War against Israel in 1973. So far more than 1,400 people have been killed and over 4,500 injured in Israel from Hamas' massive surprise assault, including innocent women, children, babies, and the elderly, with more casualties being discovered daily. According to the U.S. State Department and the National Security Council, at least 32 American citizens in Israel are among those killed by Hamas terrorists; and there are still a number of unaccounted-for Americans that the State Department is working with its Israeli partners to locate.

Israel formally declared war on Hamas on October 8, 2023, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has predicted a "long and difficult war". The City Commission finds that the acts of terrorism committed by Hamas against Israel threaten global peace and security. The City Commission supports Israel and its right to protect its citizens from the heinous crimes committed by Hamas terrorists, and further recognizes the unique and special relationship and deep connection that the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County and the City of Coral Gables have with the State of Israel.

This resolution condemns Hamas and affirms the City Commission's support of Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and calls on the world to do the same.

