

From: [City Council](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:43:00 AM

Thank you for reaching out to the City of Sebastopol and providing your input and comments on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Sebastopol. This will confirm receipt of your email, and that it will be forwarded to the City Council and appropriate City Staff and posted to the city web site.

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From: Barbara Skikos Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 1:14 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject:

Dear Councilmembers,

My family has had strong roots in Sebastopol, since 1964 when my brother opened Andy's Produce. In the past 60 years, some parts of Sebastopol have changed a lot, while others still connect us to a simpler time.

Unfortunately, to anyone with a conscience, it doesn't feel like we have been living in simpler times these past 6 months. We have been bearing witness to a massive genocide with the daily death rate in Gaza higher than any other conflict in the 21st century.

According to the World Health Organization, about **300 people have been killed each day of this annihilation (this number includes the people still trapped under the rubble and those that are missing and presumed dead)**. The number of average deaths per day for Gaza is higher than any recent major armed conflict including Syria (96.5 deaths per day), Sudan (51.6), Iraq (50.8), Ukraine (43.9) Afghanistan (23.8) and Yemen (15.8).

If anyone was wondering why this is a local issue that needs to be addressed at the city council level, it's because Sebastopol could benefit if our tax dollars went back into our local communities, instead of being sent to Israel to commit a genocide. Every year \$117,884 in Sebastopol taxpayer money goes to Israel. In the past 6 months, that amount has increased to over \$770,000. This money could have funded **81 new households in Sebastopol with free public housing** for a year, **238 children in Sebastopol with free healthcare**, just like Israeli

citizens get, or **10 new public school teachers**.

This is an international matter, with local implications, and we need strong local leaders to speak up and pass a ceasefire resolution.

Thank you,

Barbara Skikos

