

## **Resolution in Support of Israel and Calling for the Unconditional Release of Hostages**

**Whereas**, the Jewish people are indigenous to the Land of Israel, trace their roots to their ancestral lands in Israel, and there has been a continuous presence of Jews in the land of Israel for over 4,000 years;

**Whereas**, Israel was re-established on May 14, 1948;

**Whereas**, Israel has demonstrated its desire in regional stability and has made peace with other nations in the region;

**Whereas**, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, even exhuming the dead from the Jewish cemetery and leaving extensive high-tech businesses, green houses, and the means for Gaza to become another economic powerhouse in the Middle East, to be governed and run exclusively by Gazans;

**Whereas**, the Gazans destroyed businesses left by the Israelis;

**Whereas**, a brutal civil war occurred in Gaza with the result that Hamas was the elected governing authority;

**Whereas**, since then, Hamas has stolen and misappropriated billions of dollars earmarked for humanitarian aid, using it for advancement of terrorist goals and have kept the people of Gaza terrorized and destitute;

**Whereas**, on October 7, 2023, the day after the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Hamas, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, initiated a large-scale, unprovoked brutal attack on Israel from multiple fronts, including air, sea, and ground assaults;

**Whereas**, this brutal attack led to the murder, torture, and abduction of over 1,200 Israeli citizens, soldiers and foreign residents of 25 other countries, spanning various age groups including babies, children, the elderly, and Holocaust survivors;

**Whereas**, the violence initiated by Hamas on October 7, 2023, has resulted in the death of over 1,200, including at least 23 Americans, inflicted injuries on thousands more, and over 240 Israelis and citizens of many other nations have been held hostage;

**Whereas**, although some of the hostages have been returned to Israel through negotiations, approximately 136 hostages, including American citizens, alive and dead, remain in Hamas captivity today;

**Whereas**, the offenses against human life on October 7, 2023 has exceeded the brutality of that of Nazi Germany;

**Whereas**, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict has confirmed "clear and convincing evidence" of the extent of the brutality;

**Whereas**, Israel has the right to defend itself and its people;

**Whereas**, Israel has demonstrated its respect for human life by taking care to announce military strikes in advance thus giving civilians time to evacuate targeted areas;

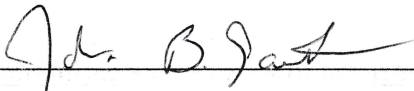
**Whereas**, the United States must do all they can to support Israel;

**Whereas**, the Biden Administration should not interfere with Israel's elected Government, and even more so in the midst of an existential war; therefore, be it


**RESOLVED**, that the Orange County Republican Party calls for the Biden Administration to provide Israel with all the needed military equipment, supplies and aid it has requested, and to underscore Israel's goals in this conflict; and

**RESOLVED**, that the Orange County Republican Party calls for the Biden Administration to be unwavering in its unconditional support of Israel and recognize Israel's right to defend itself against its enemies in the manner in which it sees fit with the leadership lawfully elected by the Israeli People.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, by the Orange County Republican Party.



John Gaither  
Chairman, Orange County Republican Party



Kathy Brodie  
Secretary, Orange County Republican Party