

**PROPOSED**

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD  
2 COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO  
3 DEFEND ITSELF AND ITS CITIZENS AGAINST ATTACK; SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S  
4 RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY; SUPPORTING APPROPRIATE ISRAELI  
5 ACTION TO SECURE THE SAFE RETURN OF THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES; AND  
6 PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7 (Sponsored by Senator Steve Geller)

8  
9 WHEREAS, Hamas, which is designated a terrorist organization by the United  
10 States and other countries, exercises control over the Gaza Strip, an area of land Israel  
11 had captured in 1967 in a defensive war and from which Israel fully withdrew in 2005;

12 WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 7, 2023, when hundreds of thousands of Israelis  
13 were on their way to celebrate a major religious holiday, Hamas and aligned terrorists  
14 launched a coordinated, planned, massive, and unprovoked attack on Israel;

15 WHEREAS, Hamas sent hundreds of terrorists into Israel by land, sea, and air,  
16 while concurrently launching extensive and indiscriminate missile and rocket fire targeting  
17 Israeli civilians;

18 WHEREAS, this heinous assault took place just after the 50th anniversary of the  
19 start of the multi-front 1973 Yom Kippur War against Israel;

20 WHEREAS, as part of the attack, which is still ongoing, terrorists entered Israeli  
21 communities near the Gaza Strip, where they began a murder spree, killing innocent  
22 families, including women, children, and elderly individuals, in their own homes and taking

23 other innocent civilians back to Gaza to be held as hostages. These unspeakable  
24 atrocities were clearly designed to maximize both terror and harm to civilians;

25 WHEREAS, as of the time of the writing of this Resolution, Hamas has fired more  
26 than 3,500 rockets and missiles, more than 700 Israelis have been brutally murdered,  
27 and more than 2,600 Israelis have been wounded to varying degrees. It has also been  
28 reported that over 130 Israelis are classified as missing or have been kidnapped and  
29 taken hostage. Sadly, there is reason to believe these figures will continue to rise;

30 WHEREAS, as a result of these events, Israel has declared a state of war targeting  
31 the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza. The Israel Defense Forces will seek to  
32 safeguard the lives of Israeli citizens, while seeking to ensure that Hamas and all other  
33 involved terrorists pay a heavy price for their senseless massacre of innocent civilians  
34 and their invasion into and commission of terrorist acts on sovereign Israeli territory;

35 WHEREAS, if anyone had any remaining doubt about the true nature of Hamas  
36 and aligned terrorist groups, this attack once again reveals their true face. They are  
37 groups motivated by hatred and the desire to bring about the destruction of the State of  
38 Israel;

39 WHEREAS, Israel is prepared for a prolonged military response to remove the  
40 threat posed by Hamas, and Israel intends to take all appropriate action to hold them  
41 accountable for their cowardly actions;

42 WHEREAS, many countries have expressed their unequivocal support for the  
43 State of Israel; in many cities (including New York, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Brasilia, and  
44 Kyiv) buildings and important monuments were lit up in blue and white or with the Israeli  
45 flag;

46 WHEREAS, in contrast, the Iranian regime expressed its support for the terrorist  
47 activities of Hamas. Iran's President "congratulated the Palestinian people on the victories  
48 of the resistance and emphasized Iran's support for the people and the resistance," and  
49 in addition he conveyed his "appreciation for the actions of Hamas' fighters and all the  
50 fighters in the battlefields." According to media reports, an Iranian military commander  
51 visited Lebanon on Saturday, October 7—the very same day of the launch of Hamas'  
52 terror attack on Israel—and held meetings there with Hamas leaders;

53 WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 8, anti-tank missiles and mortar shells were fired  
54 from Lebanese territory, which is controlled by another Iranian proxy, Hezbollah, into  
55 Israeli territory. In response, the Israeli Defense Forces fired at the sources of the attack;

56 WHEREAS, compelling evidence indicates that Hamas would not have been able  
57 to carry out this murderous attack without the financing, logistical support, and weapons  
58 it received from Iran; as a result, Iran bears direct responsibility for Hamas' terrorist  
59 actions, and for the blood of innocent civilians within Gaza who are harmed as a result of  
60 Israel's legitimate and necessary response to the Hamas-led atrocities;

61 WHEREAS, Israeli security forces continue to operate to restore full control over  
62 sovereign Israel and its border with Gaza, and are preparing for the next steps;

63 WHEREAS, Israel will seek to free the hostages who were kidnapped and taken  
64 to the Gaza Strip, to destroy the terrorist infrastructure within Gaza, and to reach a  
65 situation in which no terrorist group in Gaza will again be able to harm Israeli citizens;

66 WHEREAS, the residents of the Gaza Strip are not Israel's enemies and there are  
67 reports of many such residents opposing Hamas' terrorist actions including because of  
68 fear of Israeli reprisal. Israeli leadership has indicated it is doing, and will continue to do,

69 everything possible in an effort to reduce harm to uninvolved civilians who may  
70 unfortunately once again be used by Hamas as human shields in an attempt to protect  
71 Hamas' weaponry and leadership located and imbedded in civilian structures such as  
72 schools, hospitals, and mosques;

73 WHEREAS, every sovereign nation, including Israel, has the right to defend its  
74 residents from attacks of the nature the world is currently witnessing, and no responsible  
75 nation would permit such attacks to occur without responding in a manner designed to  
76 promptly end such attacks and deter similar attacks in the future, NOW, THEREFORE,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
78 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

79 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") strongly supports:

80 (a) the right of the State of Israel, as a sovereign nation, to defend itself and its  
81 residents against the despicable acts of Hamas and aligned terrorist groups;

82 (b) the right of Israel, and its citizens, to live in peace and security; and

83 (c) Israeli action seeking the prompt and safe return of the hostages taken by  
84 Hamas and aligned terrorists.

85 Section 2. Severability.

86 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
87 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
88 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
89 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
90 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
91 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

