

Robert A. Tonner
PO Box 3717
Kingston, NY 12402

Dear Members of Kingston Common Counsel;

I live in Kingston for 14 years as of this month. I work here, vote here every election, and have owned properties in the City.

I feel very strongly that our Common Counsel has a lot of responsibilities before it, per Kingston's By Laws. I do not believe it should address politics anywhere, other than in the City of Kingston. We may all have our personal feelings and beliefs about the horrific situation in Gaza. That's our basic freedom.

I regret that you had to clutter your agenda with what I consider out of order requests. This taxes already full schedules. I strongly encourage you not to take any public position as the Common Counsel on this unfortunate matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Tonner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert A. Tonner

Political position for Kingston Common Counsel

Harris Safier

PO Box 3717

Kingston, NY 12402

Dear Members of Kingston Common Counsel;

I live in Kingston for 14 years as of this month. I work here, vote here every election, and currently own 4 properties in the City.

I feel very strongly that our Common Counsel has a lot of responsibilities before it, per Kingston's By Laws. I do not believe it should address politics anywhere, other than in the City of Kingston. We may all have our personal feelings and beliefs about the horrific situation in Gaza. That's our basic freedom.

I regret that you had to clutter your agenda with what I consider out of order requests. This taxes already full schedules. I strongly encourage you not to take any public position as the Common Counsel on this unfortunate matter.

Sincerely,


Harris Safier

Tinti, Elisa

From: Scott Koerwer <scott.koerwer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Pasti, Sara; Tierney, Michael; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Edwards, Jeanne; Mickens, Teryl; Dennison, Bob; Andrews, Drew; Schabot, Steven; Hirsch, Michele
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Adopting Alders Hirsch & Tierney's Good Cause Bill to Protect More Tenants + Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Clerk, my name is Scott Koerwer and I am a resident of Kingston at 139 Prospect St.

I write to urge the Common Council to pass a strong Good Cause Eviction Law that protects the most tenants. I support the version of the law put forth by Aldermen Tierney and Hirsch that only exempts landlords with one unit. There is a housing crisis in Kingston and people are regularly evicted by landlords who want to raise the rent even though they have always paid their rent on time. Please support strong protections for tenants in Kingston.

I also strongly urge the council to adopt the ceasefire resolution for Gaza. The violence and destruction in Gaza, ongoing for months, have to stop now. The United States is providing weapons and funding for the violence, and it is imperative for Kingston to take a stand for a ceasefire. I've seen the community support for the resolution, and so have you.

Please listen to your constituents on both of these matters and support the strongest possible Good Cause Eviction policy and the Gaza Ceasefire Resolution.

Thank you
Scott Koerwer

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Starodaj, Bartek
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Andrews, Drew; Dennison, Bob; Edwards, Jeanne; Hirsch, Michele; Mickens, Teryl; Pasti, Sara; Schabot, Steven; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Shaut, Andrea; Tierney, Michael; Tinti, Elisa; Noble, Steve
Subject: 421-P Tax Exemption Program for New Housing

Dear Common Council,

Please see my thoughts on why the 421-P law for new housing should be passed as proposed:

- The law will help to induce new residential and mixed-used development in Kingston in support of the goal to approve 1,000 new housing units by 2029 and in support of the kind of development encouraged by our new form-based zoning code. 421-P will particularly encourage development on currently vacant, underutilized, and unsafe sites. These kinds of sites generally present the largest opportunities to add much-needed affordable & mixed-income housing.
- In recognition of the housing crisis, the Common Council passed the new zoning code to allow for housing development throughout the entire City. No single area or neighborhood should bear the responsibility of building new housing alone. Therefore, the benefit area for this legislation should be the entire City.
- This law will help us to grow our tax base over time. A property owner taking advantage of 421-P will have to continue to pay whatever taxes they were paying on the vacant/underutilized property prior to receiving the 421-P designation, and every year will have to pay 4% more until the exemption ends after 25 years. But even during this time, new residents will contribute to the tax base via their activity within the City via sales tax, etc.
- This framework was introduced in the new state budget because there is a recognition that given the costs associated with development, a tax program is needed to encourage the kind of housing types we need. While no other municipality has opted into this program yet, there are many other examples of tax programs introduced by the State that help municipalities create new housing. The most notable of these is 421a in New York City. I'm linking below to an analysis of this program by NYU's Furman Center, which shows that 421a helped create over 20,000 income restricted units in the City between 2010 and 2020.
 - *Five Principles for a New 421-a Property Tax Exemption. "A property tax exemption in New York City is necessary to make rental housing development financially feasible across the city's varied markets, according to a new policy brief by the NYU Furman Center. Without an exemption, the costs associated with development, which are further exacerbated by high property taxes, would significantly hinder new rental development, especially of mixed-income developments that can provide new housing options for lower-income families."*
- We have already established clear monitoring processes and procedures to ensure enforcement of affordability measures. I'm including the links to these materials below that will be adapted for this program. As a reminder, if a property owner is not following the affordability guidelines, their tax advantages under 421-p will be revoked.
 - Overall instructions for compliance with affordable housing standards
 - Tenant Income Certification (**Instructions are here**)
 - Owner's Certification of Continuing Compliance

We have made great progress in Kingston in laying the foundation for protecting tenants while also increasing our housing supply – a tax program like 421-P is one strategy for bringing to fruition the housing we need.

The Mayor and I would be happy to discuss this with any Council member and at any future Housing & Community Development Committee meeting.



421-P Basics.pdf

Thanks,
Bartek

Bartek Starodaj

Director of Housing Initiatives
City of Kingston
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

Office: 845-334-3928
Mobile: 860-670-8535
bstarodaj@kingston-ny.gov

kingston-ny.gov/housing

Tinti, Elisa

From: knotglass <knotglass@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 5:03 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Ceasefire resolution and Good Cause Eviction

“Dear Clerk,

my name is Dylan Karle at 131 Franklin St and I am a resident of Kingston. I write to urge the Common Council to pass a strong Good Cause Eviction Law that protects the most tenants. I support the version of the law put forth by Aldermen Tierney and Hirsch that only exempts landlords with one unit. There is a housing crisis in Kingston and people are regularly evicted by landlords who want to raise the rent even though they have always paid their rent on time. Please support strong protections for tenants in Kingston.

I also want to express my support for a permanent ceasefire resolution. You aren't accidentally killing that many children when you have AI targeting and it's an aberration compared to every other warzone. It has been classified as a genocide by the UN and now the ICJ. Additionally, this is not just a human rights violation, continuing to support the genocide against Palestinians also undermines the global image of the US, and makes America less safe at the end of the day. I urge you to pass a permanent ceasefire resolution. And explore any and all forms of divestment no matter how symbolic.

Thank you for your time,
Dylan

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS

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Tinti, Elisa

From: KAREN MILLER <kamiller49@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 5:29 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Edwards, Jeanne; Mickens, Teryl; Dennison, Bob; Andrews, Drew; Schabot, Steven; Hirsch, Michele
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Adopting Alders Hirsch & Tierney's Good Cause Bill to Protect More Tenants

Dear Clerk, my name is Karen Miller at 53 Crown Street, and I am a resident of Kingston. I write to urge the Common Council to pass a strong Good Cause Eviction Law that protects the most tenants. I support the version of the law put forth by Aldermen Tierney and Hirsch that only exempts landlords with one unit. There is a housing crisis in Kingston and people are regularly evicted by landlords who want to raise the rent even though they have always paid their rent on time. Please support strong protections for tenants in Kingston.

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Naomi Dann <naomi.dann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:18 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Pasti, Sara; Tierney, Michael; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Edwards, Jeanne; Mickens, Teryl; Dennison, Bob; Andrews, Drew; Schabot, Steven; Hirsch, Michele; Shaut, Andrea
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support tenants and peace

Dear city leaders,

My name is Naomi Dann and I am a resident of Kingston (147 O'Neil Street, Ward 2).

I write to urge the Common Council to pass a strong Good Cause Eviction Law that protects the most tenants in Kingston. 60% of Kingston tenants live in small buildings with 1-4 units -- buildings that are not eligible for rent stabilization. These are the tenants that Good Cause is designed to protect. Unfortunately, our state leaders put many exemptions into the law that limit the bills reach. The city of Kingston must do it's best to make sure this law can have the intended impact of preventing displacement and keeping our community whole.

I support the version of the law put forth by Aldermen Tierney and Hirsch that exempts only small landlords who live in their buildings or own just one rental. All tenants deserve protections against unjust eviction and unfair rent hikes, no matter who their landlord is or how many buildings they own.

Finally, I urge you to listen to your conscience, not fear, and support this resolution calling for an end to the horrific war on Gaza. I'm Jewish, and have long been heartbroken by the way that my community has turned its own pain and persecution into appalling violence against Palestinians. What is happening right now is absolutely unconscionable. The only way to end this - to stop the bombing, bring the hostages home, and secure a lasting peace where everyone in the region can live in safety and with dignity -- is for the United States to use its leverage as the largest political and financial backer of Israel to demand a ceasefire, stop sending bombs, and negotiate an end to the occupation.

We cannot stand by while children continue to be buried under the rubble made by bombs our tax dollars paid for.

Please do the right thing. Thank you.

Naomi Dann
147 O'Neil Street

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Common Council
Members of the Kingston Community

I am the Rabbi of Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley
I hold dual citizenship- Israeli and American
I am profoundly concerned with this Council's consideration of adopting the Ceasefire Resolution as I believe that this goes beyond the scope of the critical work that this council needs to be engaged with on behalf of the Kingston Community

I personally believe that there absolutely needs to be a Ceasefire in Gaza. I am heartbroken and sickened by the devastation of a community and loss of Palestinian life. I believe that there absolutely needs to be a two-state solution, dignity, safety, self-determination, and a future for two indigenous peoples, Israeli and Palestinian.

I am offended and stupefied that the common council would not include a condemnation of the Horrors of the Terrorist Organization Hamas that invaded a sovereign democratic country; raped, slaughtered, and abducted women, children and civilians in their homes. By singling out one atrocity- without recognizing the profound atrocity perpetrated on the other side shows a callous and problematic position playing into the hands of growing anti-Semitism in this country and around the globe and further alienates me, members of my community and jeopardizes our safety in this community.

I would expect that you denounce the Horrors of October 7th, the fate of the Israeli, American and other nationals who were abducted and are still being held captive in horrific conditions, and I would expect that if this Council Intends to create Resolutions about world atrocities, that you create resolutions concerning the Murderous Warfare in Ukraine, the horrific human rights atrocities being leveled against LGBTQ+ people in Uganda, the Ethnic Conflict in Manipur, India, the concentration camps for Uyghurs in China, mass executions by an unrestrained Theocracy in Iran that foments terrorism throughout the world as the beginning of a list of resolutions. If the Council believes its responsibility is to weigh in on wars and atrocities throughout the world, please do so for each of the atrocities being perpetrated against a people. Singling out this conflict alone, is Anti-Semitic on its face.

This resolution is a one sided and will not bring forward a day where two peoples in the middle east can live in two states with dignity and self-determination. This Resolution does nothing to change the horrible reality in the middle east but it runs the risk of alienating the Jewish Community and worse, runs the risk of endangering the Jewish Community here in Kingston by adding fuel to the

already growing divisiveness and anti-Semitism. By doing this you are not serving the Kingston Community you are further dividing the Kingston Community.

Your act, no matter how noble the attempt, *perhaps* it MAY have an affect nationally or internationally, but as written, it most definitely divides this community and makes life less safe for Jews and many others in this community. Your first and most important responsibility is for the people who live, work and pray in Kingston.

Tinti, Elisa

From: Jasmin Attalla <jasminattalla@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Schabot, Steven; Shaut, Andrea; Pasti, Sara; Tierney, Michael; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Edwards, Jeanne; Mickens, Teryl; Dennison, Bob; Andrews, Drew; Hirsch, Michele; Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Missed opportunity for public comment 6/4

Hello,

I was at the Townhall meeting last night, where I unfortunately did not get to speak. I got to the meeting late and the decision was made to stop public comment after the racist trolls on zoom infiltrated the meeting- I have to say, while I understand that everyone was uncomfortable and that tensions were high, I felt it was unfair to not allow the people in the room, who were obviously not racist online trolls, to have their 3 minutes. Not only was it unfair, that decision was more than likely exactly what those trolls were hoping for. By allowing them to rattle you all so much, you fed right into their objective of creating a chaotic and uncomfortable atmosphere. Choosing to close the zoom portion, but continue public comment would have been a more dignified response, one that showed those racist trolls that they did not, in fact, have any control over your meeting.

How can I be sure that all of you actually even read this email? At least during public comment, you all would have to be looking vaguely in my direction and at least pretend to be listening to me.

Since I have no other option, I have copied and pasted what I had written to say last night.

I would very much appreciate some kind of acknowledgment from you all that this was actually read.

Jasmin Attalla. Ward 8- ponckhockie. Arab American. Local business owner(Headspace Salon, Saugerties). Kingston taxpayer.

I am here asking, as I have been for 6 months, for you all to pass a permanent ceasefire resolution

I didn't have time to prepare an articulate statement like I have in the past, filled with statistics and history lessons, debunking the propaganda I heard spewed here tonight. I didn't have time because I had the luxury taking my five-year-old son to soccer practice, cooking him dinner, and putting him to bed. He ate warm food, he felt safe next to me. He laid in a bed. The bed was inside a house that was intact. These are all luxuries that tens of thousands of mothers in Gaza did not have as my tax dollars funded the destruction of their homes, the blockade of food from their land, and the murder of their children.

Here's two statistics I was able to pull quickly, though, from the Jerusalem center for public affairs-

- 1- the majority of U.S. Jews (52%) want the United States to withhold arms from Israel.
- 2- Nearly 40% of American Jews under the age of 44 believe israel is committing genocide.

It's important to note that this is not some pro Palestinian TikTok account rather, it's a research center linked to Benjamin Netanyahu. And they *still* published these results.

If criticizing Israel is antisemitic I wonder, does that make everyone against a ceasefire Islamophobic? Shall I assume that everyone who came out tonight to vocally support the continued starvation and indiscriminate bombing of palestinians

an Arab hater? Shall I assume you all don't see me, an Arab, as a human being? You and I know that is a reach, as is the absolutely insane notion that criticism of a foreign state is antisemitic.

I also wonder how many of these people who spoke tonight are even Kingston residents. I remind you that your duty is to represent your constituents not people from all over ulster county gathered in anger from a Facebook post.

Many of these speakers have asked tonight why we are not asking you to speak about the human rights atrocities in Congo, Sudan, Haiti, and other countries - first, this is a classic dismissive tactic called whataboutism. It's akin to people saying "all lives matter". It's defensive, out of touch, and quite frankly cringey. Second, we are speaking specifically about Israel and their human rights violations because TENS OF BILLIONS OF OUR TAX DOLLARS are being sent there to slaughter civilians instead of being used here at home in the US on healthcare or housing for our own citizens. Were we able to keep the tens of billions of dollars we send overseas in our local communities, I wonder how that would affect our local and national housing crisis - I'll take this opportunity to Segway into my next ask which is that you pass the good cause eviction bill that protects the largest number of tenants.

Housing should be a human right. Unfortunately, it is not but you all can make a difference for locals at risk of losing their housing by passing a strong bill, like the one sponsored by 2 council members which only exempts "small landlords" owning less than 2 properties. It seems there are loopholes that would benefit large scale landlords over tenants. There are people in this very room that are at risk of losing their housing, should a weaker version of the bill pass.

Thank you for your time

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