

Timeline for Demilitarize! Durham2Palestine Resolution

Gabriel [gabriel.baldasare@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 3:15 PM

To: Council Members

Date: April 3, 2018

Dear Durham City Council and Mayor Schewel,

We, the undersigned, write to express our sense of urgency that Durham take a moral stand against militarization and violence. We are horrified by Israel's deadly response to peaceful mass protests in Gaza last Friday, including the deployment of 100 snipers and drones dropping tear gas canisters as well as the firing of rubber-coated steel bullets and live ammunition into crowds of Palestinian civilians, killing 18 and wounding more than 700. Our coalition and the many community members who support our effort feel it is critical for Durham to approve our resolution prohibiting Durham police from participating in training exchanges with Israel.

We are also well aware of the continued effects of the militarization of police departments on Black and Brown communities, as evidenced by the March 18, 2018 shooting of Stephon Clark in his grandmother's backyard by police officers in Sacramento.

This is why many people have planned to take time out of their day to show up to the afternoon council work session [this Thursday, April 5, 2018](#) to tell you why we feel so strongly that this resolution be passed as soon as possible. Our communications with Mayor Schewel had led us to believe that the resolution would be on this Thursday's agenda and likely voted on at the [Monday night](#) meeting 10 days later. Yet we have discovered that the resolution is not on the agenda. If it is not introduced until the next council work session, it would not be voted on [until May 7th](#) at the earliest.

Students from three universities are key participants in this effort and will be leaving campus in early May. We know and appreciate the fact that all council members have signed our petition or otherwise gone on record opposing these exchanges and there does not appear to be disagreement among the council members on this issue. In addition, given recent events in Gaza, we believe it is crucial that this resolution be introduced this month. To delay would be a disservice to the people of Durham.

As a result, we ask that the resolution be put on the [April 5th](#) work session agenda.

Signed,

Gabriel Baldasare

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Demilitarize! Durham2Palestine coalition members

