

## **A coalition of groups representing over 1000 Durham voters wants to meet with you!**

Tom Stern [tomstern@durhamlawoffice.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:36 AM

**To:** Reece, Charlie

**Cc:** Tom Stern [tomstern@durhamlawoffice.com]

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** Demilitarize FAQ City Coun~1.pdf (229 KB)

Greetings Charlie!

All the winners in the recent City Council election have signed a petition or otherwise gone on record opposing any further exchanges between the Durham police and Israeli policy/military. Reps of the 22+ groups supporting this issue would like to meet with you soon to discuss a resolution we will offer Council to prevent Durham from participating in these deadly exchanges.

Are you available to meet with us sometime on December 5-8 or December 11-15? If so, please send me a few dates and times and I will try to gather some people representing our Coalition to chat with you. If not, please suggest some alternative dates/times.

For your information – the email below and attachment (in one of its iterations) was shared with each City Council candidate.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Tom

**Thomas M. Stern**

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EMAIL SENT TO EACH CANDIDATE:

I am writing you as a Durham voter and member of the Demilitarize! From Durham2Palestine campaign. The Durham2Palestine campaign was formed by a coalition of 10 Durham-based community organizations, anchored by Jewish Voice for Peace - Triangle NC. We are very concerned about Durham's participation in a police exchange program with Israel which is described below. The member organizations of this local coalition are set out in the bottom of this email - collectively we have more than 1000 Durham voters as members.

In recent public forums, nearly all the candidates expressed opposition to abusive tactics that could result from police exchanges between Durham and Israel. In addition, virtually all candidates signed a petition calling for an immediate end to “any partnerships that the Durham Police Department has or might enter into with the Israeli Defense Forces and/or the Israeli Police.” Our coalition is interested in meeting with you, as one of the candidates in the Mayor and Council races, to discuss your position on police exchanges with Israel.

Our coalition is very interested in meeting with you as one of the candidates in the Durham Mayor and Council races to discuss this issue. Please respond to let us know when we can set up a meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Here’s some background information:

Our Police Chief, Cerelyn Davis, while Atlanta Police Division Commander, organized a program that sent her officers to Israel to train with the Israel Police, the Israel Defense Forces, and agents from Israel’s intelligence and security services. Former Durham Police Chief Jose Lopez also went on a similar trip in 2008. These trips facilitate the exchange of law enforcement worst practices, including increasing the use of military equipment and tactics in policing, framing protest movements as military threats, spying and surveillance, employing shoot to kill policies, and heightened racial profiling and targeting.

The programs grew out of a post-9/11 trend to bring counter-terrorism logics, technology and tactics into policing and immigration policy in the U.S. This can be seen in the [increasing criminalization](#) of everyday life in communities of color, [intrusive surveillance](#) particularly in Muslim communities, [violent repression](#) of Indigenous-led movements, the importation of military tactics, technologies and weapons from the [war on terror into domestic policing](#), and unprecedented deportations fueled by the [intertwining of immigration and counterterrorism](#) policies. Law enforcement exchange programs under the banner of Israeli counterterrorism expertise contribute to these deadly trends by encouraging even deeper application of counterterror and counter-insurgency models into domestic policing, immigration, and surveillance policies and practices.

We would be very concerned if Chief Davis were to propose bringing to Durham this type of 'Deadly Exchange' program with Israel. These are techniques that Israel has developed and targeted against Palestinians, immigrant communities, and Jews of color in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and other Israel-controlled land. Durham should never emulate these types of military occupation tactics and policies. These programs facilitate the exchange of worst practices, harming already vulnerable communities targeted by racist state violence. This dangerous two-way street means that US and Israeli officials are learning the worst possible lessons from one another.

I am attaching a brochure that we hope will provide you with some additional background and context on this important issue.

**Please respond to me at [tomstern@durhamlawoffice.com](mailto:tomstern@durhamlawoffice.com) to let the coalition know that you received this, your interest in meeting with us and if you have any questions.**

Thanks so much.

Tom Stern

Member, Demilitarize! From Durham2Palestine Campaign

Durham2Palestine Coalition:

AIME (Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East)

Black Youth Project 100 - Durham Chapter

Durham for All

Inside Outside Alliance

Jewish Voice for Peace - Triangle Chapter

Muslim American Public Affairs Council

Muslims for Social Justice

SpiritHouse

Students for Justice in Palestine - Duke

Students for Justice in Palestine - UNC-CH

In addition, the campaign has been endorsed by the following organizations:

Alerta Migratoria

Balance & Accuracy in Journalism

Black Workers for Justice

Coalition for Peace With Justice

Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI)

NC Piedmont Democratic Socialists of America

NC Stop Torture Now

Salaam Shalom group of Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill

Triangle Chapter Resource Generation

Triangle SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice)

Veterans for Peace