

Subject: No Tax Dollars to Companies that Profit from Apartheid

City Clerk Joel Hondorp,

I am writing you today to ask that you adopt the resolution of cessation of business dealing with companies that directly support the war against Palestine. This resolution has been proposed by the Community Relations Commission and is included below. If Grand Rapids claims to be a city that respects and practices equity and justice, then it will adopt this resolution that will end contracts with companies who are profiting from the Israeli genocide and Israel's apartheid system.

Resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids, through its City Commission, has unequivocally established its stance against racism, discrimination, and inhumane treatment;

WHEREAS the residents of the City of Grand Rapids uphold values of equality and justice, vehemently opposing any form of racism, discrimination, and inhumane treatment, and advocating for their eradication wherever they occur;

WHEREAS the policies and practices of the Israeli government, particularly its legally sanctioned form of racism and apartheid in the occupation of Palestine and treatment of Palestinians, have been deemed illegal on an international scale;

WHEREAS the recent escalation of conflict in Gaza, resulting in the tragic loss of over 30,000 Palestinian lives, including 14,350 children, represents a reprehensible violation of human rights and the principles of warfare;

WHEREAS the profound suffering inflicted upon Palestinians, including the loss of loved ones and homes, directly impacts many members of the Palestinian community in Grand Rapids;

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon the global community to exert pressure on the Israeli government to cease hostilities in Gaza and pursue a just and lasting resolution that respects the rights and dignity of Palestinians, while safeguarding Israel's security interests;

WHEREAS Granicus, a partner with Amazon, provides technological support utilized by the Israeli military in targeting Palestinians, and is also utilized by the Grand Rapids City Government;

WHEREAS the allocation of city funds to businesses supporting the Israeli government, or its affiliates, could be interpreted as endorsing the Israeli government's policies and actions towards Palestinians;

WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids acknowledges that the use of public funds should prioritize the welfare and interests of its citizens;

WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids supports Jewish people, abhors antisemitism, and recognizes that Israel has the right to exist as a sovereign nation; therefore, we do not support

or condone, and will not aid or abet, the Israeli government's policy toward Palestine and the war on Gaza.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids:

1. Terminates its current contract with Granicus by January 1, 2025;
2. Ceases funding to Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. if it continues to utilize AmazonAW3 technology for its committees (Amazon's services include cloud and AI support for the Israeli military targeting Palestinians) by January 1, 2025;
3. Commits to refraining from entering into financial contracts with Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard, and G4S Corporation, until the Israeli government's policies and treatment of Palestinians have been reformed and dismantled.