



City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, September 18, 2025

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilors Jeremy Dubs, Rachel Maiore and Stanley W. Moulton III

R-25.314 A Resolution Calling For The City Of Northampton To Divest From Entities Complicit In Human Rights Violations In Israel And Palestine

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of peace and justice for all communities and nations around the world regardless of national, ethnic or religious affiliations, and advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that all human life is precious; and recognizes the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the West Bank in particular, and seeks to avoid economically supporting such crises through the City's financial investments; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2022, Amnesty International concluded that Israel has imposed a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians wherever it exercises control over their rights, across Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and that it enforces segregation in a systematic and highly institutionalized manner through laws, policies, and practices, which amounts to the international wrong of apartheid, as a violation of human rights and international law;¹ and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel's occupation of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem is illegal and must end immediately; that Israel must halt all settlement construction, evacuate settlers, pay reparations to Palestinians, and allow them the right of return; that Israel is committing

¹ Amnesty International, Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity (Feb. 1, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/>

racial segregation and discrimination; and that all states and international organizations have a legal obligation not to recognize or assist the occupation;² and

WHEREAS, as of Jan.3, 2025, Northampton had an estimated \$71,010 invested in companies identified by the American Friends Service Committee as complicit in substantial, ongoing and intentional violations of international law and human rights in Israel and Palestine, based on information provided by the City Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2024 the City Council passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the City Council expressed its support for the proposed Congressional Joint Resolutions of Disapproval to block the sale of more than \$20 billion of offensive U.S. weapons to Israel, and called for the introduction of legislation to impose an embargo on unrestricted sales and shipment of U.S. weapons to Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the City's finances should align with our values; and

WHEREAS Northampton has a precedent for divesting from entities that do not align with our city's values. For example, on September 26, 2018, the mayor issued an Executive Policy Order enacting a policy that the City shall not contract with companies that are directly involved in the manufacture or maintenance of nuclear weapons, and shall work to eliminate and avoid any investments in companies involved in the manufacture or maintenance of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS another example occurred on July 22, 2013, when the City Council passed a resolution urging the City to divest from fossil fuel companies, and adopt policies precluding new investments in fossil fuel companies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council urges the City Treasurer and the City Retirement Board to divest from, and refrain from future investments in, companies with a substantial, ongoing, and intentional complicity in violations of international law and human rights in Israel and Palestine, including through their involvement in:

² *Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*, No. 186, International Court of Justice (ICJ), 19 July 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/186>

- [The Settlement Industry](#);
- [Exploitation of Natural Resources](#);
- [Walls and Checkpoints](#);
- [Weapons and Military Equipment](#); and
- [Discrimination](#)

consistent with the American Friends Service Committee's investigative human rights rating system;³ and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the City Treasurer and the City Retirement Board to refrain from making investments in the Israeli military in the form of Israel Bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the City Treasurer and the Retirement Board to divest from any assets included in the above clauses within two years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges that the City Treasurer and the Retirement Board contact their respective investment advisors to request that they notify fund managers of the City's desire to remove companies with a substantial, ongoing, and intentional complicity in violations of international law and human rights in Israel and Palestine as set out above, from all investment products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the City Council will send this resolution to Northampton Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Northampton City Treasurer Kristine Bissell, Northampton Retirement Board Chair Charlene Nardi, State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, State Senator Jo Comerford, Congressman Jim McGovern, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Governor Maura Healey, and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg of the Commonwealth.

³ American Friends Service Committee, Investigate: Occupations, <https://investigate.afsc.org/occupations>