



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 25, 2024

Contact:

Leighton Jones

Communications Coordinator

leighton@ourcityactionbuffalo.com

701-789-9545

***Our City Action Buffalo Joins Call for Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza,
Endorses Local Campaigns & Actions to Make it a Reality***

Buffalo, NY - OCAB unequivocally condemns the mass killings of Palestinians in Gaza. We join the international, national, and local leaders at the front of the permanent ceasefire movements and protests in an attempt to bring about an end to the mass atrocities there even as we work for fairness, equity, and justice in our own city.

In addition to our work on issue-based campaigns throughout Buffalo, it is OCAB's mission to endorse candidates and policies that represent the values of our city's residents, and to hold leadership accountable when they fail to represent our interests.

"The Board of Directors of Our City Action Buffalo have decided to endorse the statewide campaign to vote blank in the presidential primary on Tuesday, April 2nd and the local effort to pass a strong resolution through the Buffalo Common Council,"

said OCAB Board Member Jillian Nowak, Esq. “These actions cannot be overstated. Alas, it has been the sustained pressure from movement leaders and activists in Buffalo and beyond that have without question changed the Biden-Harris administration’s rhetoric and policies since October 7, 2023. That momentum must continue in order to save lives in Gaza now, and in the future, in Israel as well.”

We value human life and dignity and the right to safety, housing, education, food, shelter, and water. In Buffalo, we fight to uproot child hunger and poverty rates, lead poisoning, and the lack of access to safe and affordable housing, **said OCAB Board Member Amber Powers.** “In Gaza, where 13,340 children have been killed, we join the fight to protect human life.”

Over 60% of likely voters in the upcoming election—including the majority of Democrats (76%) and Independents (57%) and a plurality of Republicans (49%)—support the US call for a permanent ceasefire and the immediate de-escalation of violence in Gaza.

“The majority of voters and a supermajority of Democrats in the US support the call for a permanent ceasefire. In a Democratically controlled city, like Buffalo, these actions are meaningful actions and also the floor not the ceiling. We call on our local elected leaders to follow the will of the people who voted them into office,” **said OCAB’s Executive Director Harper Bishop.** “In a time when over 13,000 children have been killed and more bloodshed is imminent, there’s no time to pass the buck or say that it’s someone else’s responsibility, it’s everyone’s responsibility to stop a genocide.”

New York residents are invited to take the pledge to commit to voting blank in the presidential primary on Tuesday, April 2nd at the following link:

<http://leaveitblankny.com/>.

Buffalo residents are also encouraged to sign the petition to demand the Buffalo Common Council pass a strong resolution for a permanent ceasefire here:

<https://www.change.org/p/call-on-buffalo-common-council-to-pass-a-ceasefire-resolution>.

Operating at the intersection of community organizing and electoral politics, OCAB is compelled to act now. Our city has an opportunity to join the nationwide call for the Biden administration to implement an immediate, permanent ceasefire through our vote in the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, April 2nd and by demanding that the Buffalo Common Council pass its own ceasefire resolution as expeditiously as possible.

###

Our City Action Buffalo (OCAB) is an organization of Buffalo residents from every corner of the city who have come together to disrupt the political status quo in our city through people-centered policies and co-governance structures. We envision a Buffalo for the many, not just the few.