

From: [Stacey Gurian-Sherman](#)
To: [Chowdhury, Aurin](#); [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the Resolution accepting funding from the Jewish Democratic Council of America
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:13:15 PM
Attachments: [Stacey Gurian-Sherman Opposition to Accepting JDCA Fnding 5-19-2026.pdf](#)

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May 19, 2026

Dear Chair Chowdhury and members of the City Council,

I am providing the attached letter to voice my strong opposition to the City Council approving the resolution to accept funding from the Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA) for Mayor Jacob Frey to attend the Fourth Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., that was already held on May 13, 2026. This is on the agenda for today's Committee Of The Whole meeting. I oppose this both on procedural and substantive grounds. I do so as an Anti-Zionist Jew who finds deep meaning in the tenets of my faith, but will not condone in Israel what is condemned in every other country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stacey

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Stacey Gurian-Sherman (she, her)
Ward 9 and Corcoran resident

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Stacey Gurian-Sherman
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Minneapolis City Council Member Aurin Chowdhury
Chair, Committee Of The Whole
Members of the Minneapolis City Council
aurin.chowdhury@minneapolismn.gov
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Re: Opposition to the Resolution accepting funding from the Jewish Democratic Council for Mayor Jacob Frey to attend the Fourth Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., on May 13, 2026.

May 19, 2026

Dear Chair Chowdhury and members of the City Council,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the City Council approving the resolution to accept funding from the Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA) for Mayor Jacob Frey to attend the Fourth Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., that was already held on May 13, 2026. (*See attached.*) I oppose this both on procedural and substantive grounds. I do so as an Anti-Zionist Jew who finds deep meaning in the tenets of my faith, but will not condone in Israel what is condemned in every other country.

I understand it is pro forma to accept funding for elected and appointed officials and staff to attend conferences and make presentations. My understanding is that approval is supposed to come prior to these events. Here, the JDCA Summit was already held. I don't know if the submission by the Mayor was late, or there was another reason for this funding Resolution coming after the fact. This does not mean the City Council should provide carte blanche approval, which not only provides funding, but gives the imprimatur of support to JDCA, the remarks being conveyed by the Mayor in his official capacity, and I assume done on the City payroll.

I object to the funding primarily on substantive grounds. In January 2024, the City Council passed by a 9-3 vote Resolution 2024R-014, "*Supporting a permanent ceasefire and preventing loss of human life in the Middle East.*" (*See attached.*) Mayor Frey objected to it, stating in his [Veto Letter](#) rising "antisemitic incidents" and implicitly linking support to the Resolution to Anti-Semitism. Nothing could be further from the truth, and I remain deeply grateful for your support and those of other Council Members who passed Resolution 2024R-014. Every thoughtful and carefully word and sentiment speaks for me. This includes the irrefutable facts about the genocide being prosecuted against Palestinians in Gaza. History bears out that that the creation of Israel was only made possible by the violent displacement of over 700,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948, and the ongoing apartheid they and their descendants have been subject to. Resolution 2024R-014 rightly called for: "*Support an end to U.S. military funding to the State of Israel, and an end to U.S. tax dollars contributing to humanitarian catastrophe and loss of life.*"

It is profoundly disturbing that the [JDCA](#) has not condemned Israeli genocide or apartheid, but instead officially rejects these accusations, explicitly condemning them as unfounded. JDCA also staunchly opposes the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, and other international efforts to hold Israel accountable for its crimes against humanity by claiming it is all “anti-Israel bias.”

These views of the JDCA are directly in opposition to the facts and stand the City of Minneapolis has taken in Resolution 2024R-014. This would be enough to oppose accepting their funding, and giving the impression JDCA positions are supported.

However, matters were made much worse by Mayor Jacob Frey’s remarks at the Summit. The Mayor to no one’s surprise did not stand with Resolution 2024R-014. Worse, he specifically equated Anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism. He is perpetuating a terribly dangerous myth that under the current president leaves people vulnerable to government persecution, and the violence of criminals who are buoyed by this toxic rhetoric.

The Times of Israel published an article (*see attached*) that stated “[Minneapolis mayor says anti-Zionism can blur into antisemitism](#).” The article reports that Mayor Frey stated: “People are tying Zionism to Judaism. You can’t have it both ways at the same time,” and “Democrats should do more to constrain fringe sentiments within the party.”

I can most certainly have it both ways at the same time: being against the country of Israel that is viciously hateful and genocidal against Palestinians while maintaining my faith and grounding in my Jewish religion .

Conflating Anti-Zionist with Anti-Semitism is trying to constrain those like me who believe Israel has forfeited its right to self-determination as a state given 78 continuous years of attacking Palestinians through apartheid, violence, false imprisonment, dislocation, and now undeniable genocide in Gaza, and continues there, the West Bank, and in settler communities.

Mayor Frey has every right to voice his opinion, even if I and others find it disingenuous and lacking principle. He does not have the right to do so when that opinion goes against City policy, is meant to ingratiate himself, and put people with a different viewpoint in harm’s way.

I implore you and your colleagues on the City Council to take a serious look at the Resolution accepting funding from the JDCA. Instead, let this organization give the money to Mayor Frey personally, have him declare it on his income taxes, and have him submit a vacation slip, so it is clear that he speaks for himself, and not as a representative of the City of Minneapolis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stacey Gurian-Sherman

Stacey Gurian-Sherman

RESOLUTION
By Chowdhury

Accepting donation from Jewish Democratic Council of America for Mayor Jacob Frey to attend the Fourth Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. on May 13, 2026.

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 et seq. for the benefit of its citizens and is specifically authorized to accept gifts; and

Whereas, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the gifts set forth below to the city:

Name of Donor – Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA).

Gift – Airfare and hotel accommodations for Mayor Jacob Frey.

Whereas, no goods or services were provided in exchange for said donation; and

Whereas, all such donations have been contributed to assist the city in sending Mayor Frey to the conference to address attendees on such issues as defending democracy and freedoms, combating antisemitism and extremism, foreign policy and national security issues including support of Israel, healthcare and affordability, and the 2026 midterm elections; and

Whereas, the City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donation offered;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the donations described above are hereby accepted and shall be used for airfare and hotel accommodations for Mayor Jacob Frey.



Resolution No. 2024R-014

City of Minneapolis

File No. 2024-00011

Author: Chughtai

Committee: COW

Public Hearing: None

Passage: Jan 25, 2024

Publication: FEB 02 2024

Supporting a permanent ceasefire and preventing loss of human life in the Middle East.

Whereas, we the Minneapolis City Council work to ensure the safety, health, dignity, and freedom of people everyday. We follow the lead of 60 other localities in calling for a ceasefire because what happens internationally impacts our constituents locally. We believe in the shared humanity of all people and affirm it as a common value held by Minneapolis residents and leaders; and

Whereas, the ongoing bombardment in the Gaza Strip comes in the context of the 75-year displacement of Palestinians and in 2016 the United Nations Security Council found the settlements in the occupied West Bank, which have gone on for 56 years, unlawful, and the 17-year blockade of Gaza; and

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, unacceptable attacks on Israel by Hamas and other armed groups resulted in more than 250 hostages being taken captive, and the deaths of more than 1,200 Israelis, including approximately 800 civilians; and

Whereas, we recognize the right to self-determination and peaceful, safe futures for both Palestinian and Israeli people; and

Whereas, the Palestinian people are now facing a humanitarian crisis, and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have reported that the government of the State of Israel has been engaging in collective punishment; and

Whereas, according to a November 2023 United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner press release, UN experts stated, "Many of us already raised the alarm about the risk of genocide in Gaza." "We are deeply disturbed by the failure of governments to heed our call and to achieve an immediate cease fire. We are also profoundly concerned about the support of certain governments for Israel's strategy of warfare against the besieged population of Gaza, and the failure of the international system to mobilize to prevent genocide."; and Whereas, Palestinians living in Gaza are being killed at an unprecedented rate. Over 25,000 Gazans – including at least 10,000 children- have been killed in 110 days, meaning 1 child in Gaza is killed every 10 minutes. Over 300 medical workers and over 100 journalists have been killed.

Proportional to population, the death toll in Gaza is the equivalent of about 3.1 million American deaths. In addition, over 50,000 Gazans are wounded, and over 7,000 are missing under the rubble; and

Whereas, the Government of The State of Israel has bombed civilian entities indiscriminately, destroying or damaging: at least two-thirds of all homes in northern Gaza; 23 hospitals and 141 medical facilities; 70% of schools; over 100 places of worship; bakeries; refugee camps; roads; and other essential infrastructure. This has destroyed access to food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, and sanitation essential to human life and caused mass displacement of as many as 90% of Gazans; and

Whereas, we unequivocally condemn the targeting and killing of Palestinian and Israeli civilians, which would constitute a violation of international law; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization, United Nations, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, His Holiness Pope Francis, more than 120 countries, and countless other organizations in Minnesota and around the world have called for a ceasefire to end the violence and suffering in the Gaza Strip. Doctors Without Borders has advocated for, "a total ceasefire and the unconditional supply of humanitarian aid, including access to food, fuel, and water. The survival of people in Gaza depends on this"; and

Whereas, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, and Friday, January 12, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague held public hearings in the case brought forward by South Africa against Israel for alleged violations of the Genocide Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide during its operations in Gaza. South Africa's application alleges that "acts and omissions by Israel...are genocidal in character, as they are committed with the requisite specific intent...to destroy Palestinians in Gaza as a part of the broader Palestinian national, racial and ethnical group." South Africa's actions to receive provisional protections of the people of Gaza are supported by several countries and over 1,000 organizations worldwide; and

Whereas, we as local leaders are using our voice to stand firmly against the rise of and all acts of racially motivated violence and hate crimes perpetrated against our Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab constituents here in Minneapolis and around the United States; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has a longstanding history of sharing statements on issues happening throughout the world that impact our constituents here at home and in this moment, we are advocating to our State and Federal leaders to use their power to call for peace; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:
That the City Council of the City of Minneapolis supports our State and Federal delegations and the Biden Administration using their authority to:

1. Advance a full, immediate, and permanent ceasefire, along with urgently needed humanitarian aid as a necessary step towards lasting peace.
2. Support an end to U.S. military funding to the State of Israel, and an end to U.S. tax dollars contributing to humanitarian catastrophe and loss of life.
3. Ensure the release of all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas.
4. Ensure the release of thousands of Palestinians held indefinitely without cause and trial in Israeli military prisons.

Be It Further Resolved that the Office of the City Clerk is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to Minneapolis's elected representatives to the Minnesota State Legislature, and Minnesota's elected representatives to the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, Governor Walz, and the Office of President Biden.

At Jewish Dems event, Minneapolis mayor says anti-Zionism can blur into antisemitism

Asked about rising anti-Israel sentiment in his party, Jacob Frey says his ‘deep concern right now is that people don’t have the guts to tell their own side what they don’t want to hear’

May 14, 2026

Times of Israel, By Joseph Strauss

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-jewish-dems-event-minneapolis-mayor-says-anti-zionism-can-blur-into-antisemitism/>

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jacob Frey, the Jewish mayor of Minneapolis, decried some criticism of Israel during a Jewish Democratic event on Wednesday.

Speaking at the national conference of the Jewish Democratic Council of America in Washington, DC, Frey recounted visiting a local grocery store shortly after Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

“The tiny little Jewish section, which had hummus and maybe one other product, was tagged with, ‘Why do you support genocide?’” he said. “And this was just the Jewish section, it wasn’t even the Israeli section.”

Frey continued, “So as much as people say, and have often said, ‘No, we’re talking about Zionists, not Jews’ — well, many of those same people are tying Zionism to Judaism. You can’t have it both ways at the same time.”

He concluded that “you can both believe in a State of Israel and support it, and simultaneously be opposed to some of the horrific acts that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu has conducted.”

Frey’s comments, which came in response to a question from the audience, were some of his most extensive on Israel and his first on the topic since he took the national spotlight earlier this year for his defiant stance against the Trump administration’s aggressive immigration enforcement in his city.

The fact that Frey, 44, decided to appear at JDCA’s national leadership summit itself was notable because he is a relatively young rising star in a Democratic Party where the ascendant sentiments, especially among the progressive wing and among younger voters, are critical of Israel. The JDCA promotes a strong US-Israel relationship and a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Responding to a question about anti-Israel sentiment in his party, Frey said he thought Democrats should do more to constrain fringe sentiments within the party.

“It’s easy for me, and it’s very easy for Democrats, to critique the right,” he said. “I’ve got a whole team supporting me when I said get the F out of Minneapolis. That was not a hard thing

to do, that's just what I felt. What's harder to do is to tell your own side, sometimes your own friends that, you know what, you've gone too far."

He added, "My deep concern right now is that people don't have the guts to tell their own side what they don't want to hear."

Asked in an interview following the session about whether Democrats should be campaigning alongside figures like the progressive streamer Hasan Piker, who is a staunch Israel critic and has drawn accusations of antisemitism, Frey told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was not familiar with the debate around Piker nor his positions.

But Frey said he takes issue with litmus tests and opposes the villainization that comes from people on both ends of the political spectrum.

"I am uncomfortable with, 'Get on board, say the word, say the phrase or we're going to tar and feather you — put out this post or say on the stage this exact term, or else we're going to consider you to be a villain,'" he said.

While Frey has drawn support from progressives over his showdown with ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency that staged weeks of raids in Minneapolis earlier this year, he has clashed with that wing before on Israel. In 2024, Frey blocked his city council's resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, calling it "a one-sided resolution that adds more division to an already fraught situation."

On Wednesday, the primary discussion between Frey and JDCA's treasurer Beth Kieffer Leonard focused on the ICE presence in Minneapolis and Frey's response.

He also offered a Jewish reason for his determination to stop ICE "dead in their tracks" so that other cities aren't similarly targeted, citing the value of repairing the world.

"As Jews, we have an obligation through tikkun olam to stand up for it, to make the world a better place, to heal people and to recognize that when they come for one of us, that they come for all of us," he said.

When asked about Israel and anti-Zionism during the Q&A session, Frey expanded on his belief in the State of Israel as well as his criticisms of its government.

"You can recognize the importance of a place for peace and refuge, a place where refugees by the hundreds of thousands and millions have immigrated to Israel — from both Ashkenazi countries and also Iraq, Iran and Yemen — a very mixed ethnically and culturally place," Frey said. "You can recognize that the history is complex. That there are areas where we collectively as Jews can improve. Where policies can be improved."

Frey continued that he is an adamant opponent of Trump but believes in America and said the same should be possible with Netanyahu and Israel.