

2 August 2023



Kia ora

Notice of Motion Regarding State of Palestine

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 29 June 2023. You requested the following information:

1. All emails between Councillor Nikau Wi Neera and other counsellors on the proposal to recognise Ramallah as a sister city/and documents pertaining to the decision for Wellington to recognise Ramallah as a sister city of Wellington;
2. Any internal advice received or generated by the Council on its ability to consider the motion to recognise Ramallah as a sister city of Wellington.
3. All emails and other correspondence, briefing and other documents on the lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre the colours of the Palestinian flag.
4. The policies and considerations the Council will follow to light the Michael Fowler Centre or other council buildings in the colours of flags of other regions or entities seeking independence (for example Ukraine, Western Sahara, Papua, the Lunda-Tchokwé people, the Bakongo people, the Dar El Kuti people, Tigray, the proposed Mombasa Republic, the Cyrenaica of Libya, the Tuareg of Mali, the Biafra of Nigeria, the Niger Delta Republic, Republic of Casamance, the Canary Islands), including the justifications on why Palestine should merit this honour, and what foreign policy grounds and competencies the Council has based their decision.

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information.

Question 1

Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the document. Please note, I have not included any emails sent from constituents to their local Councillor which were passed on to Councillor Wi Neera as an FYI, if you would like these, please let me know.

Item	Document name/description	Decision
Appendix 1	Email correspondence	Released. Redacted section 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act.

Appendix 2	Email correspondence. Includes a copy of the Notice of Motion	Released. Redacted Section 7(2)(a) of the Act.
Appendix 3	Email correspondence	Released
Appendix 4	Email correspondence	Released
Appendix 5	Email correspondence	Released
Appendix 6	Email correspondence	Released. Redacted section 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act.
Appendix 7	Email correspondence	Released. Redacted Section 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act.
Appendix 8	Email correspondence	Released. Redacted section 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act
Appendix 9	Email correspondence	Released. Redacted section 7(2)(a) of the Act

Please note, some information has been redacted under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 7(2)(a) of the Act, as it contains personal information about private individuals; and
- Section 7(2)(f)(i) of the Act, maintaining the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank expression of opinions.

Question 2

Please refer to appendices seven and nine for correspondence held in scope of the information requested. Outside of this correspondence held, Council Officers have confirmed any other advice given to Elected Members was provided through the [Notice of Motion](#) paper.

Question 3

As mentioned in my email to you on 10 July 2023, whilst the Council holds some information in scope of this request, information in scope is also held by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT). As such, we have formally transferred this part of your request to MFAT for response also.

Please refer to appendices seven and eight for information held in scope of your request. Further to this, the lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre is also mentioned within the [Notice of Motion](#) paper.

Question 4 - The policies and considerations the Council will follow to light the Michael Fowler Centre or other council buildings in the colours of flags of other regions or entities seeking independence, including the justifications on why Palestine should merit this honour, and what foreign policy grounds and competencies the Council has based their decision.

Page 13 of the [Notice of Motion](#) paper provides further detail regarding the lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre and confirms that currently there are no policies, guidelines or formal processes that support decision making on the lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre on these kinds of issues.

Council officers have recommended if the Council chooses to illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with the colours of the State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day), that the Council should develop a policy to ensure future decisions about lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre has clear guidelines and processes for decision-making.

We are therefore refusing your request under section 17(e) of the Act because the requested document does not exist. However, whilst no decision on this matter has been confirmed, if such a Policy were to be created in the future, we'd be able to revisit this part of your request.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant
Official Information

From: [Council or Ray Chung](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#)
Subject: Re: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Sunday 14 May 2023 7:09:29 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-88091616.png](#)

Thanks Nikau

[REDACTED] I m an absolute supporter of sister city relationships because they can do wonders for both parties as long as both parties can have something they can gain from the relationship.

[REDACTED] I can see that if both Israel and Palestine can agree on the same place, it could even be something to bridge their differences!

I think there are better ways of approaching this.

Cheers Ray

Ray Chung
Councillor Onslow-Western
Wellington City Council

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday May 14 2023 6 39 56 PM
To: Councillor Ray Chung <Ray.Chung@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re Notice of Motion Sister Cities

Kia ora Ray!

Yes that's something I explored with the Palestinian community because you're absolutely right - they do consider Jerusalem to be their capital. However due to Jerusalem technically being located in the country of Israel and Ramallah being the de facto capital of Palestine it seems best to me to proceed with building a relationship with the latter.

Cheers

N

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#) | [Kāi Tahu](#) | [Ngāpuhi](#) | [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz |

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If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.



From: Councillor Ray Chung <Ray.Chung@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday May 13 2023 10 26 PM
To: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE Notice of Motion Sister Cities

Hi Nikau

Thanks for this. I thought we were going to discuss the possibility of Jerusalem further?

Cheers Ray

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday 13 May 2023 2 06 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Notice of Motion Sister Cities

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope you are all having a restful weekend enjoying these few pale rays of sunlight and if anybody is headed to the Hurricanes match this afternoon I hope to see you in the box! My apologies for intruding upon your inbox on a Saturday but I'd like to inform you about some mahi that is very dear to me which will come to a head this Monday.

Over the past couple of weeks I have undertaken incredibly exciting and fruitful discussions with the community about the long-desired establishment of a Sister Cities relationship between Wellington and the city of Ramallah Palestine. I have met with diplomats including the Ambassador of Palestine the Mayor of Ramallah and its City Director and at this stage I am most excited to inform you that our counterparts overseas are very eager to establish a formal partnership with our city.

My reason for progressing this kaupapa is to show international solidarity with the Palestinian people and to grow our international partnerships with cultural artistic and political hubs around the world which is strongly reflected in this Notice of Motion. Ramallah is a beautiful city of art music film and spirituality and has many regional parallels with Pōneke. I foresee exciting opportunities for our officers and citizens to learn more about this part of the world and one day travel to Ramallah to share in knowledge and culture with their people.

Therefore I have attached to this email a Notice of Motion addressed to the Chief Executive in accordance with Standing orders 23.1 and 23.2 which directs officers to begin this relationship and sends a strong signal from our Council in support of the people of Palestine in light of the many challenges they face. There is a space for each of your names and I would like to humbly ask for your signatures in support of this Motion. Should you wish to do so you may sign either digitally over the weekend (preferable) or in-person on Monday and I will present it to the CEO in the afternoon. The Notice is attached in both PDF and Word form for your convenience - you may need to save them to OneDrive before downloading them.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Councillor Paul who did an incredible amount of work towards this project last Triennium and who will be seconding this Motion.

Nā reira kia ora mai tātou katoa.

N

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#) | [Kāi Tahu](#) | [Ngāpuhi](#) | [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
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From: [Council or Rebecca Matheas](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#)
Subject: RE: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Sunday 14 May 2023 12:55:45 pm
Attachments: [Nikau Form.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Done! Thanks for all your work on this

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday 13 May 2023 2 06 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
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N

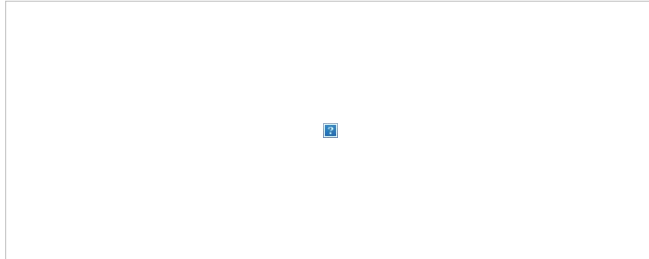
Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#) [Kāi Tahu](#) [Ngāpuhi](#) [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)

Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward

Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee

[E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz) | [W wellington.govt.nz](http://www.wellington.govt.nz) |

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15 May 2023

File ref: N/A

Ms. Barbara McKerrow CEO
Wellington City Council
113 The Terrace
Te Aro
Wellington 6011

In accordance with Standing Orders 23.1 and 23.2, it is proposed to move the following motion at the meeting of the Council on the 29th of June 2023:

NOTICE OF MOTION



Whereas we, the undersigned, being sensible of the continuing challenges facing the Palestinian people, wishing sincerely to show solidarity and grow greater relations between the cities of Pōneke | Wellington and رام الله | Ramallah, and carrying the endorsement of his Excellency Izzat Abdulhadi, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, and also the endorsement of his Worship Issa Kassis, Mayor of the City of Ramallah,

Do therefore present the following Notice of Motion:

That Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | The Wellington City Council:

- 1. Hereby recognise the State of Palestine.**
- 2. Direct officers to begin an accord between Pōneke | Wellington and رام الله | The City of Ramallah, with the ultimate goal of establishing a Sister Cities Partnership and/or a Memorandum of Understanding.**
- 3. Hereby request the illumination of the Michael Fowler Centre with the colours of the State of Palestine's Flag on the evening of 15 May 2024, from 18:00 until 22:00.**

Signed this 15th Day of May, 2023:

Her Worship Tory Whanau, Mayor		Ray Chung, Councillor	
Nikau Wi Neera, Councillor (Mover)		Sarah Free, Councillor	
Tamatha Paul, Councillor (Seconder)		Rebecca Matthews, Councillor	
Laurie Foon, Deputy Mayor		Ben McNulty, Councillor	
Nureddin Abdurahman, Councillor		Teri O'Neill, Councillor	
John Apanowicz, Councillor		Iona Pannett, Councillor	
Tim Brown, Councillor		Tony Randle, Councillor	
Diane Calvert, Councillor		Nicola Young, Councillor	
Holden Hohaia, Pouwi		Liz Kelly, Pouwi	

Yours sincerely,

Nikau Wi Neera
Councillor for Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Ph: [REDACTED]
Email: nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz

From: [Council or Nureddin Abdurahman](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#)
Subject: RE: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Monday, 15 May 2023 12:24:44 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi bro

Here are my suggestions

1. Support the recognition and right of Israel and Palestine to exist as two states within secure and recognised borders.
2. Recognise Palestine as a state.
3. Oppose the annexation of the West Bank by the Israeli Government. Annexation of any part of the West Bank will weaken the viability of any future Palestinian state and undermines the prospect of a two-state solution and violates international law.
4. Support the view that the future of Jerusalem needs to be decided by the parties to the Middle East conflict as part of a negotiated peace settlement.
5. Support the view that the resolution of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict will only come from open dialogue and discussion between the parties not from a policy of exclusion.

Thanks

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday 13 May 2023 2:06 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities

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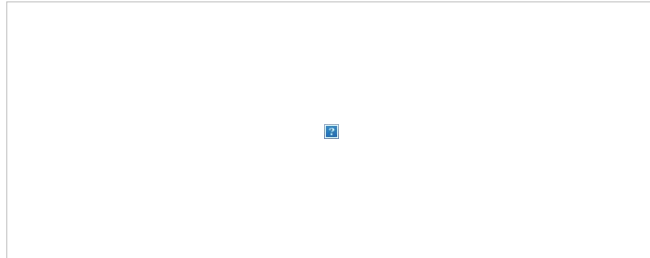
Finally I would like to acknowledge Councillor Paul who did an incredible amount of work towards this project last Triennium and who will be seconding this Motion.

Nā reira kia ora mai tātou katoa.

N

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From: [Tamatha Paul](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#)
Subject: Re: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Monday, 15 May 2023 2:36:12 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-unsupported1.png](#)
[Newspaper Form.pdf](#)

anci

Mauri ora
Tamatha

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:53:13 AM
To: tamatha-paul@hotmail.com <tamatha-paul@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fw: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
E: nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz | W: wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities

yo can you please sign this version? It's already got Rebecca's signature on it so that'd make it easy.

N

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
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From: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities

Done! Thanks for all your work on this

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 13 May 2023 2:06 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
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Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
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15 May 2023

File ref: N/A

Ms. Barbara McKerrow CEO
Wellington City Council
113 The Terrace
Te Aro
Wellington 6011

In accordance with Standing Orders 23.1 and 23.2, it is proposed to move the following motion at the meeting of the Council on the 29th of June 2023:

NOTICE OF MOTION


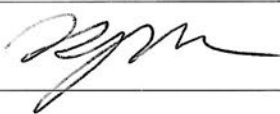
Whereas we, the undersigned, being sensible of the continuing challenges facing the Palestinian people, wishing sincerely to show solidarity and grow greater relations between the cities of Pōneke | Wellington and رام الله | Ramallah, and carrying the endorsement of his Excellency Izzat Abdulhadi, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, and also the endorsement of his Worship Issa Kassis, Mayor of the City of Ramallah,

Do therefore present the following Notice of Motion:

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- 1. Hereby recognise the State of Palestine.**
- 2. Direct officers to begin an accord between Pōneke | Wellington and رام الله | The City of Ramallah, with the ultimate goal of establishing a Sister Cities Partnership and/or a Memorandum of Understanding.**
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Nureddin Abdurahman, Councillor		Teri O'Neill, Councillor	
John Apanowicz, Councillor		Iona Pannett, Councillor	
Tim Brown, Councillor		Tony Randle, Councillor	
Diane Calvert, Councillor		Nicola Young, Councillor	
Holden Hohaia, Pouwi		Liz Kelly, Pouwi	

Yours sincerely,

Nikau Wi Neera
Councillor for Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Ph: (+64) 223867164
Email: nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz

From: [Council or Ben McNulty](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#)
Subject: Re: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Monday, 15 May 2023 3:14:42 pm
Attachments: [Outlook for iOS](#)

Hi Nikau

As discussed happy to support to get on table, will go by division on point 1 possibly subject to learning more.

Ngā mihi,

Ben

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 2:05:59 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities

Tēnā koutou katoa

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Over the past couple of weeks I have undertaken incredibly exciting and fruitful discussions with the community about the long-desired establishment of a Sister Cities relationship between Wellington and the city of Ramallah, Palestine. I have met with diplomats including the Ambassador of Palestine, the Mayor of Ramallah and its City Director and at this stage I am most excited to inform you that our counterparts overseas are very eager to establish a formal partnership with our city.

My reason for progressing this kaupapa is to show international solidarity with the Palestinian people and to grow our international partnerships with cultural, artistic and political hubs around the world which is strongly reflected in this Notice of Motion. Ramallah is a beautiful city of art, music, film and spirituality and has many regional parallels with Pōneke. I foresee exciting opportunities for our officers and citizens to learn more about this part of the world and one day travel to Ramallah to share in knowledge and culture with their people.

Therefore I have attached to this email a Notice of Motion addressed to the Chief Executive in accordance with Standing orders 23.1 and 23.2 which directs officers to begin this relationship and sends a strong signal from our Council in support of the people of Palestine in light of the many challenges they face. There is a space for each of your names and I would like to humbly ask for your signatures in support of this Motion. Should you wish to do so you may sign either digitally over the weekend (preferable) or in-person on Monday and I will present it to the CEO in the afternoon. The Notice is attached in both PDF and Word form for your convenience - you may need to save them to OneDrive before downloading them.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Councillor Paul who did an incredible amount of work towards this project last Triennium and who will be seconding this Motion.

Nā reira, kia ora mai tātou katoa.

N

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāi Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair, Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
E: nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz | W: wellington.govt.nz

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From: [Council or Diane Calvert](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#); [Mayor Tory Whanau](#); [DL: Councillors](#); [Holden Hohaia](#); [Liz Kelly](#)
Subject: Re: Notice of Motion: Sister Cities
Date: Saturday 13 May 2023 2:38:23 pm
Attachments: [Outlook-20230513.png](#)

Kia Ora

We have far more important issues to deal with not least our precarious financial state and being able to effectively listen to our own communities.

I suggest in the first instance is to ask officers for an overview on our international relations and the current framework for establishing friendship and sister city relationships before determining how you want to progress this.

Ngā mihi nui

Diane

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday May 13 2023 2 05 59 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohaia <Holden.Hohaia@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Notice of Motion Sister Cities

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope you are all having a restful weekend enjoying these few pale rays of sunlight and if anybody is headed to the Hurricanes match this afternoon I hope to see you in the box! My apologies for intruding upon your inbox on a Saturday but I'd like to inform you about some mahi that is very dear to me which will come to a head this Monday.

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My reason for progressing this kaupapa is to show international solidarity with the Palestinian people and to grow our international partnerships with cultural artistic and political hubs around the world which is strongly reflected in this Notice of Motion. Ramallah is a beautiful city of art music film and spirituality and has many regional parallels with Pōneke. I foresee exciting opportunities for our officers and citizens to learn more about this part of the world and one day travel to Ramallah to share in knowledge and culture with their people.

Therefore I have attached to this email a Notice of Motion addressed to the Chief Executive in accordance with Standing orders 23.1 and 23.2 which directs officers to begin this relationship and sends a strong signal from our Council in support of the people of Palestine in light of the many challenges they face. There is a space for each of your names and I would like to humbly ask for your signatures in support of this Motion. Should you wish to do so you may sign either digitally over the weekend (preferable) or in-person on Monday and I will present it to the CEO in the afternoon. The Notice is attached in both PDF and Word form for your convenience - you may need to save them to OneDrive before downloading them.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Councillor Paul who did an incredible amount of work towards this project last Triennium and who will be seconding this Motion.

Nā reira kia ora māi tātou katoa.

N

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāi Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
[E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Enikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz) | [W wellington.govt.nz](http://w.wellington.govt.nz) |

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From: Mayor Tory Whanau
To: Michael Naylor
Subject: RE: Draft Palestine NoM word ng
Date: Thursday 22 June 2023 3:29:56 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Ok cool

[Tory Whanau](#)
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava a [REDACTED]

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From: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday 22 June 2023 3 29 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft Palestine NoM wording

Baz's view is that Ramallah is the best city to do it with. His preference is that we name it rather than leave it open.

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday June 22 2023 3 27 PM
To: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft Palestine NoM wording

Can we say 'a Palestinian city' instead of Ramallah? I want to be able to scope other places.

[Tory Whanau](#)
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava a [REDACTED]

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From: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday 22 June 2023 3 25 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Draft Palestine NoM wording

Hi Tory

Some updated NoM wording for you to consider. Nikau will drop points 1. (recognition) and 3. (lighting up MFC) of his NoM. His real focus is on getting something concrete regarding city-to-city relationship and he is ok with this draft wording below.

1. Direct officers to be initiate a friendly city relationship with Ramallah with the longer term intent of building a sister city relationship in line with criteria set by the International Relations Policy once it has been updated in 2024.

As I see it going straight to a full sister city relationship isn't justified under the current IR policy nor would it be proper process. But starting with friendly city status is arguably justified under the current IR policy as it doesn't require proving the same high level of economic benefit etc. to Wgtn. It also doesn't necessarily add extra costs on the Council right now. Starting as a friendly city and building up overtime to sister city is the appropriate process. Notably that is how Oxford City in UK did their relationship with Ramallah.

[REDACTED]

Officers would still prefer for us to set the new IR policy first but in their view this NoM wording that completely removes recognition of Palestine and lighting up MFC is an improvement.

Are you ok to proceed with this wording?

Mike

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday June 22 2023 10 36 AM
To: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Looks good can you please discuss with Nikau.

[Tory Whanau](#)
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava a [REDACTED]

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From: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday 22 June 2023 10 35 am
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Hi Tory

I've talked to Baz. This is an alternative NoM that you could do:

1. Advocate to central government to continue to work with the UN to progress a two-state solution. (or simply withdraw the point on recognition of Palestine altogether and he and other Councilors, including you, personally advocate to Minister of Foreign Affairs, but not WCC as an institution.)
2. That a city-to-city relationship be explored with Ramallah once the new International Relations Policy has been drafted in 2024.

[REDACTED]

If you've got time it would be great to have a quick chat to explain the rationale behind each point that can be made to Nikau. I'm happy to talk to him this morning given you are tied up with the board meeting.

Mike

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday June 22 2023 9 02 AM
To: Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW Updated Palestine NoM wording

Can you please check with Baz that there s no room for movement.

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiimalu Sialava a [REDACTED]

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From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday 22 June 2023 9 00 am
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Tēnā koe e Tory

[REDACTED]

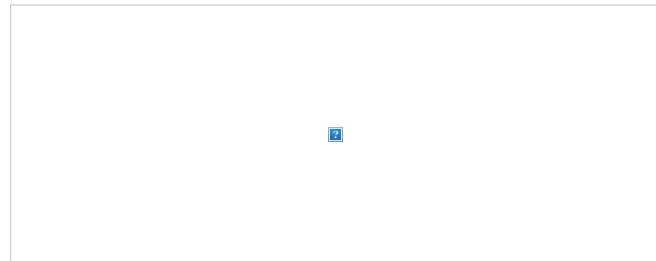
[REDACTED]

If there is compromise to be found I will endeavour to present an officer-supported solution to your office by week's end. Failing that the motion will be presented as originally written.

Nāku iti noa nā
Nikau

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#) | [Kāi Tahu](#) | [Ngāpuhi](#) | [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
[E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz) | W.wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday June 21 2023 2 50 PM
To: Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Kia ora Nikau

After talking yourself Baz and others I would recommend below. This is also based on the paper from Baz which I hadn t reviewed before our meeting.

Option One

Proceed with your Notice of Motion without my support

Option Two

Update the NoM to the wording below noting I m likely to vote against number 3

1. Advocate to central government to continue to work with the UN to progress a two-state solution
2. Consider a relationship with a Palestinian city once a new International Relations Policy has been developed.
3. Agree to light up MFC in Palestinian colours in 29th November for international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and request WellingtonNZ develop a policy on lighting up our venues.

[REDACTED]

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiimalu Sialava a [REDACTED]

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From: Mayor Tory Whanau
Sent: Wednesday 21 June 2023 10 16 am
To: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Thanks Baz

@ Nikau – sorry I hadn't seen these recommendations before we developed the wording below. Can you please review these and look at amending what we came up with. It would be my preference to align with officed advice as much as possible.

Thanks

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava'a [REDACTED]

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From: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 June 2023 4:17 pm
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Thanks Tory

The amended motion outlined below is *not* supported by officers as they are written at the moment.

I have attached the draft paper and included below the options from that paper that officers do support

Happy to chat through any proposed amended substantive with Wi Neera and others as required

Regards

Baz

Recognise the State of Palestine

- There are three options in relation to the notice of motion to recognise the state of Palestine:
 - Option 1: Recognise the State of Palestine
 - Option 2: Take no position as it is not Council's role to recognise states / governments
 - Option 3: Take no position as it is not Council's role to recognise states / governments, but advocate to central government to continue to work with the UN to progress a two-state solution.

Officer recommendation

- Given that Council's jurisdiction and role in international relations is focused on city-to-city relationships, and not international diplomacy, officers recommend either Option 3 – that the Council take no position on recognising the State of Palestine as it is not Council's role to recognise new states and / or governments, but advocate to central government to continue to work with the UN to progress a two-state solution.**

Establishing a Sister Cities Partnership and/or a Memorandum of Understanding with the city of Ramallah

- There are three main options in relation to the notice of motion to establish a Sister Cities Partnership and/or a Memorandum of Understanding with the city of Ramallah:
 - Option 1: Establish a city-to-city relationship with Ramallah
 - Option 2: Do *not* establish a city-to-city relationship with Ramallah
 - Option 3: Consider / assess a city-to-city relationship with Ramallah once a new International Relations Policy has been developed.

Officer recommendation

- The proposal to enter into a formal city-to-city relationship does not align strongly with the existing International Relations Policy, and consequently officers recommend Option 3 - that new city-to-city relationships (apart from those already underway) are only considered once a new International Relations Policy has been completed.**

Illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of the State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day)

- There are three main options in relation to the notice of motion to illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day).
 - Option 1: Illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day)
 - Option 2: Do *not* illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day)
 - Option 3: Do *not* illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day) and engage the Palestinian community about alternative ways in which to appropriately recognise Nakba Day.

Officer recommendation

- Officers support council venues being home to important discussions, but do not believe it is appropriate for these venues to be used to take a position on key divisive issues – particularly when community views are not known. Officers recommend option 3 – do not illuminate the Michael Fowler Centre with colours of the State of Palestine flag on 15 May 2024 (Nakba Day), but support working with the local Palestinian community on alternative ways in which to appropriately recognise Nakba Day.**

Baz Kaufman
Manager Strategy Policy and Research
Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED]

Location:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday
Office	Office	Office	Office	Office

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 20 June 2023 11:51
To: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Updated Palestine NoM wording

Kia ora Baz

Can you please review the wording below of the update NoM and provide your advice

- Advocate for recognition of Palestine as part of a two state solution
- Agree to initiate a sister city relationship with Palestine in time for the 2024 LTP
- Agree to light up MFC in Palestinian colours in 29th November for international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and request WellingtonNZ develop a policy on lighting up our venues.

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava'a [REDACTED]

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From: [Mayor Tony Whanau](#)
To: [Council or Nikau Wi Neera](#); [Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon](#); [Councillor Tamatha Paul](#); [Council or Rebecca Matthews](#); [Council or Teri O'Neill](#); [Council or Ben McNulty](#); [Council or Nureddin Abdurahman](#); [Councillor Iona Pannett](#); [Holden Hohala](#)
Subject: RE: Palestine Notice of Motion Update
Date: Friday, 23 June 2023 3:09:39 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora koutou

And just to be clear I will be voting **for** the updated Notice of Motion.

Nga mihi

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council
EA: Tiumalu Sialava'a [REDACTED]

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From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera <Nikau.WiNeera@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 2:52 pm

To: Mayor Tony Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Tamatha Paul <Tamatha.Paul@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Teri O'Neill <Teri.ONeill@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Ben McNulty <Ben.McNulty@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Iona Pannett <Iona.Pannett@wcc.govt.nz>; Holden Hohala <Holden.Hohala@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Palestine Notice of Motion Update

Kia ora melons & melon-adjacent comrades

First of all thank you for your continued support and interest in the ongoing conversations around ways we can show solidarity to the Palestinian people from here in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. I recognise that you have each probably received far more correspondence from the public than you would like on this topic and I appreciate your grace in dealing with the feelings this issue brings up for many.

After robust and productive discussions with each of you our officers and the Mayor's office I am writing to inform you of a change to my original Notice of Motion.

The complete new wording is as follows:

1. *Direct officers to initiate a Friendly City relationship with Ramallah with the longer-term intent of building a Sister City relationship in line with criteria set by the International Relations Policy once it has been updated in 2024.*

###

It would be callous of me to dismiss the genuine good-faith concerns of some within the community about the implications of our capital city recognising the statehood of Palestine. Although it is something which I believe would be a powerful and becoming show of municipal leadership I recognise this is not necessarily a view which is shared by all and has alone caused more controversy than any other factor. Furthermore the lighting of the Michael Fowler Centre represents a needlessly inflammatory and ultimately symbolic issue [REDACTED]. Hence you will observe that both of these clauses have been removed.

The *sine qua non* of this Notice has always been the establishment of the Sister City relationship and I am pleased to have reached this compromise and fulfilled the hopes of our Palestinian community within Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

In terms of process we will need to agree **as a majority** at the meeting on the 29th to alter the wording of the Motion in accordance with Standing Order 23.5 - noting that no amendments to the Motion can be made.

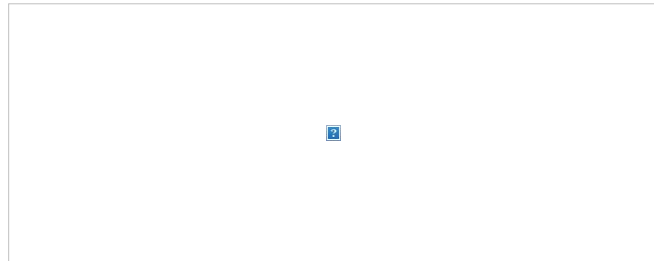
Mā ēnei kupu ka tukua e tātou te tautoko aroha ki Ngāti Parihitini e whawhai ake ake ake i ō rātou whenua taketake.

Let's go hard on Thursday stay tight and fulfil that election promise! Nā reira tēnā tātou katoa.

Nāku noa nā
Nikau

Nikau Wi Neera
[Ngāti Toa](#); [Kāi Tahu](#); [Ngāpuhi](#); [Ngāti Pihauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Deputy Chair Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee
[E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz) | W.wellington.govt.nz

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From: [Baz Kaufman](#)
To: [Baz Kaufman](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal to recognise Palestine
Date: Friday, 30 June 2023 11:52:39 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Hi Tim, yes, no problem

The committee paper will be out in the next couple of days and will cover off some of those matters in more detail

Regards

Baz

Baz Kaufman
Manager Strategy Policy and Research
Wellington City Council
M: [REDACTED]

Location:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday
Office	Office	Office	Office	Office

From: Councillor Tim Brown <Tim.Brown@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 20 June 2023 16:36
To: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Tom Yuan <Tom.Yuan@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Melanie Crawford <Melanie.Crawford@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Proposal to recognise Palestine

Baz
That is extremely helpful. Many thanks
Are you OK with my sharing your note?
Tim

From: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Councillor Tim Brown <Tim.Brown@wcc.govt.nz>; Tom Yuan <Tom.Yuan@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Melanie Crawford <Melanie.Crawford@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Proposal to recognise Palestine

Hi Tim, thanks for the questions

I have provided some answers to your questions below (in red). I can do more in-depth answers, but that will take a few more days. Perhaps start with what is below, and if you have any follow up questions regarding detail just sing out

Cheers

Baz

1. What is the NZ Government position on Palestine and does it matter if WCC contradicts the Government position?
 - New Zealand has not officially recognised Palestine as a sovereign state. New Zealand is formally committed to a UN-backed two-state solution.
 - We have sought Ministry of Foreign Affairs advice on the notice of motion to recognise the state of Palestine, and they have said that the recognition of states and governments is *not* the role of local government
 - Does it matter? If Council were to recognise the state of Palestine, the decision would have no legal status. The risk is mostly reputational, and there is also some potential risk that Council could lose influence in relationships with stakeholders, including central government, community leaders and key partners.
2. Has Council received submissions from bodies with a credible case for representing any of the following: local Jewish community, the local Palestinian community, Israeli government, Palestinian Authority?
 - The only person that has been in contact with the team regarding the notice of Motion is David Zwartz. He is a former councillor, was President of the New Zealand Jewish Council and is Chair of the Wellington Jewish Council (need to check whether he still has this role).
 - David wanted to share some information with me, but I asked instead that he reach out to Democracy Services to do public participation and share any information directly with councillors. He is preparing something now for councillors.
 - In terms of public participation, Democracy services has confirmed that there is a long list of people and groups wanting to speak to the Notice of Motion.
3. Could you provide me with information on the position of the Palestinian Authority towards gay rights, woman's rights, and democracy.
 - This is a highly complex area, and not one where I can claim to be an expert. There are resources available online that speak to human rights and democracy in Palestine. I've added a few below for your reading but we haven't done any in-depth research ourselves at this point in time.
 - It is worth noting that our International Relations Policy does not require us to only hold city-to-city relationships with cities that operate in a democracy and share all our values / customs / views. Part of the point in having international relationships is to share ideas, learn from each other and build better understanding between people across the world through economic, social and cultural exchanges. For example, we have city-to-city relationships with a number of cities in China which is a single party state.

[LGBT rights in the State of Palestine - Wikipedia](#)
[Human rights in Palestine \(State of\) Amnesty International](#)
[Palestine.Country.Assessment.Eng_.pdf \(unfpa.org\)](#)
4. What is the position of the Palestinian Authority towards the State of Israel?
 - Following the Oslo I Accord in 1993, the Palestinian Authority and Israel conditionally recognized each other's right to govern specific areas of the

country. The 'conditions' relate to where to draw the borders (which are not agreed). Hamas in contrast, which plays a bigger role in the Gaza Strip (not the West Bank) does not recognize Israel as a legitimate government. Hamas also denies the legitimacy of the Oslo I Accord (above).

There is more reading available here [International recognition of Israel - Wikipedia](#)

Baz Kaufman
Manager Strategy Policy and Research
Wellington City Council
M: [REDACTED]

Location:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday
Office	Office	Office	Office	Office

From: Councillor Tim Brown <Tim.Brown@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 20 June 2023 09:57
To: Tom Yuan <Tom.Yuan@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Melanie Crawford <Melanie.Crawford@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Proposal to recognise Palestine

Thanks Team

From: Tom Yuan <Tom.Yuan@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Councillor Tim Brown <Tim.Brown@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Melanie Crawford <Melanie.Crawford@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Proposal to recognise Palestine

Dear Tim,

Thanks for your email.

My colleague Melanie, Senior International Relations Advisor, is working on a Council paper on Palestine with Baz's support. I have passed your email to her but she is unwell at home today. We will try to get back to you with our information tomorrow.

Best regards,

Tom Yuan

International Relations Manager | Strategy, Policy & Research | Wellington City Council

P [REDACTED] | M [REDACTED]

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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From: Councillor Tim Brown <Tim.Brown@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 5:18 pm

To: Tom Yuan <Tom.Yuan@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: Proposal to recognise Palestine

Tom

I have a number of questions I'd appreciate a response on

1. What is the NZ Government position on Palestine and does it matter if WCC contradicts the Government position?
2. Has Council received submissions from bodies with a credible case for representing any of the following: local Jewish community, the local Palestinian community, Israeli government, Palestinian Authority?
3. Could you provide me with information on the position of the Palestinian Authority towards gay rights, woman's rights, and democracy
4. What is the position of the Palestinian Authority towards the State of Israel?

Thanks

Tim
