



## **VILLAGE OF LOMBARD STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ONGOING CONFLICT AND THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA**

The Village of Lombard, along with many of its residents, is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in the region and the humanitarian crisis it has precipitated, resulting in profound suffering, loss of life, and displacement of civilians. The continuation of violence not only perpetuates suffering but also poses a threat to stability and peace within the region.

We recognize the immense suffering experienced by both Israelis and Palestinians as a result of this conflict, and we stand with all those affected. The escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, characterized by widespread suffering, loss of life, and destruction of vital infrastructure, demands urgent attention to alleviate the dire living conditions of the civilian population.

This conflict affects people of all faiths and backgrounds in our local community. It has profound and multi-faceted effects on mental health, resulting in emotional distress and anxiety, including feelings of helplessness and isolation.

We condemn all acts of violence committed against innocent civilians, and stand resolute against all forms of racist, anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic rhetoric and hatred. The Village is committed to promoting peace, stability, and harmony within our community and recognizes the importance of promoting dialogue, respectful discourse, and understanding.

Members of our community have approached the Village to relay their concerns regarding the ongoing conflict and to share the impact it is having on them and other individuals within our community. The Village Board of Trustees has attended small group meetings with concerned residents, received more than one hundred emails on the subject, and taken multiple hours of public comment on the matter.

Although municipalities have no direct influence upon American foreign policy, nor any authority to direct actions of the Federal government, we have heard the concerns of our community members and taken steps to amplify these concerns to the appropriate authorities and representatives at the Federal level and will continue to do so.

While we acknowledge our limited authority over matters of national and international affairs, we are committed to supporting our residents during this time of conflict by promoting open dialogue, offering resources to address trauma and stress, and communicating to all that anti-Islamic and anti-Semitic acts of hate within our Village will not be tolerated.

We reaffirm our commitment to justice, equality, and respect for human rights for all peoples, regardless of nationality or religion. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the conflict and we urge all parties involved to work towards a peaceful resolution, including release of all hostages, for the sake of all those impacted by this crisis in Gaza, the surrounding region, and in Lombard.