

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7
(AS ADOPTED)**

**A RESOLUTION
OF THE VILLAGE OF ORANGE, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, URGING
THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL NOT TO PASS A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY TREASURER TO
DIVEST FROM ISRAEL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Development Corporation for Israel, which issues securities that are commonly known as “Israel Bonds”, has played a role in Israel’s high tech, cleantech, and biotech development; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Cuyahoga County first established a \$5 million investment in Israel Bonds; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, Cuyahoga County has invested a total of \$16 million in Israel Bonds; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County is among several Ohio counties, who along with the Treasurer of State, have invested in Israel Bonds; and

WHEREAS, Israel Bonds have, and continue to be, a strong investment for Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio, providing strength and balance to investment portfolios; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds that calling for the boycott and divestment of Israel is a form of anti-Semitism in that the Israel Bonds are a solid investment; and

WHEREAS, this Council further finds that divesting from Israel effectively rejects or ignores the Jewish people’s right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, divesting from Israel on a large scale could contribute to the eradication of the world’s only Jewish state, which was founded as a country that is safe for Jewish people to inhabit without the fear of government attempting to kill them for merely being of Jewish descent; and

WHEREAS, calls to divest from Israel began in the year 2000, at the start of the second Palestinian Intifada, and Israel’s opponents have analogized and continue to analogize Israel’s self-defense to apartheid South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the analogy fails on many levels, not least of which is that Israel protects the rights of individuals of any faith, and no faith - while Hamas’ militant actors of Gaza took more than 230 hostages and tortured, raped and killed more than 1,200 people indiscriminately on October 7, 2023, and took these heinous acts irrespective of the identity of the victims, merely because the victims were located in Israel; and

WHEREAS, Israel stands at the center of the Middle East as a bastion of a rights-respecting country worthy of the support of the American government and private individuals; and

WHEREAS, divestment from Israel is not moral in that it would be perceived as condemning the only democratic rights-respecting country in the Middle East, in support of others who do not respect the rights of individuals to pursue life, liberty and happiness; and

WHEREAS, it is in the long-term rational interest for the United States, including its residents and Orange Village, to support Israel in its self-defense against our common enemies whose stated intention is the destruction of Israel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF ORANGE VILLAGE, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Chris Ronayne and Michael W. Chambers, as the County Executive and the County Fiscal Officer, respectively, are urged to reject any pressure to divest the funds of Cuyahoga County from Israel Bonds which are both good economic investments and moral.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council shall forthwith forward copies of this resolution to Chris Ronayne and Michael W. Chambers, and each member of the County Council of Cuyahoga County.

SECTION 3. That the imminence of this decision by Cuyahoga County on the question of divestment from Israel Bonds necessitates this Resolution being immediately effective so that the responsible decision makers understand the moral importance of continuing to invest in Israel Bonds; wherefore, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

PASSED: JUNE 12, 2024



Council President

Submitted to the Mayor for approval on this 12th day of JUNE, 2024

Approved by the Mayor

ATTEST:

JUNE 12, 2024



Clerk of Council



Mayor