

Letter to the Editor: Local Community Unites in Support of Israel Over 700 local residents gather to support Israel during crisis

By Hollie Cerame

Published October 11, 2023 at 3:58 PM

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-brunswick/sections/government/articles/letter-to-the-editor-local-community-unites-in-support-of-israel>

Dear East Brunswick Community,

On Monday night I attended a vigil for the State of Israel at the East Brunswick Jewish Center sponsored by the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. I think it is important to write to you and tell you about this event because it was sad, uplifting and most importantly informative.

About 650 people in person and over 100 on zoom attended, but this information needs to reach a larger audience. Luckily, a recording of the event will be available through EBTv shortly.

Not only was this well attended by a large audience but also by elected officials, clergy of various faiths, and other dignitaries. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Congressman Frank Pallone and State Senator Patrick Diegnan all spoke emphatically about the support America must give to Israel. Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin addressed those in attendance. Also present were Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry and Neal Shah, Republican candidate for State Senate.

East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen gave heartfelt thanks to those who initiated the event.

During each of their speeches, our elected representatives described how this week's attack on civilians in Israel by the terrorist group Hamas was different from prior incursions because of the innocent people killed and taken hostage. These were not soldiers fighting a war.

Then we heard from Dan Rozett, Director of Community Relations and Israel Engagement for the Jewish Federation, who updated us on the situation. He spoke about the invasion and the horrific number of deaths and what it seems Israel's options are now.

His presentation was followed by an appeal for money to help the victims. Israel will need our monetary support to help the victims and the soldiers.

Sadly, because of the ensuing war as a result of this attack many more innocent lives will be lost on both sides. Recognizing this, Rabbi Brandspiegel prayed for all of those innocent victims in Israel and Gaza.

This was followed by Rabbi Wolkoff, Rabbi Eisenkramer and Rabbi Bazeley praying for the IDF soldiers and the State of Israel.

It ended with the singing of The Star-Spangled Banner and Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem, led by two cantors. This was an uplifting moment and a great way to end with everyone coming together in support and shared emotion.

Should you wish to make donation to support Israel through the Jewish Federation, click [here](#).

With hope and kind regard,

Hollie Cerame

East Brunswick