



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 29, 2025

The Honorable Jane Hughson
Mayor of the City of San Marcos
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear Mayor Hughson:

I am aware that on April 15, 2025, the San Marcos City Council considered a Resolution calling for a transfer of "permanent sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories" and an "Embargo on the State of Israel." The Resolution claims to be rooted in the principle that "all people are entitled to live life in safety and free from violence" and states that it "unequivocally condemn[s] targeting civilians." But I have not found any past resolution that "unequivocally condemn[s] targeting civilians" by Hamas or affirms that the Jews murdered on October 7th were "entitled to live life in safety and free from violence." City Council members voted to bring this pro-Hamas Resolution to a formal vote at their next meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Israel is a stalwart ally of the United States and a friend to Texas. I have repeatedly made clear that Texas will not tolerate antisemitism. Anti-Israel policies are anti-Texas policies. Over a year ago, following Hamas's cowardly attack and campus disruptions openly celebrating terrorism, I issued an executive order addressing antisemitism in higher education. I have proudly signed legislation prohibiting government entities from supporting efforts to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel. That remains the law here.

In Texas, no governmental entity may enter into a contract worth \$100,000 or more unless it includes a "written verification" that the contracting entity "does not boycott Israel" and "will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract." TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2271.002. A "governmental entity" includes a political subdivision, like the City of San Marcos. *Id.* §§ 2251.001(3), 2271.001(3). And to "boycott Israel" means "refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel ..." *Id.* §§ 808.001(1), 2271.001(1).

The proposed Resolution seems calculated to violate this law by calling for San Marcos to limit its commercial relations with Israel. Specifically, the Resolution identifies "\$4,434,675 [that] came from San Marcos residents' taxes" that was sent to Israel. It then calls for the "reallocation of [such] local funds" away from "Israel's military" and "towards essential domestic priorities." It is difficult to believe that a city so carefully accounting for every dollar flowing to Israel and determined to "reallocate" those funds in a self-described "Embargo" on our ally is, at the same time, requiring written verification from its contracting partners that they will not boycott Israel. This public expression of a desire to do what state law prohibits is unacceptable.

Whenever San Marcos enters into grant agreements with my office, it is required to certify that it will comply with *all* state laws, including laws prohibiting government support for boycotts of Israel. My office is already reviewing active grants with San Marcos to determine whether the City has breached terms by falsely certifying compliance with Texas law. If the City Council adopts this Resolution, the Office of the Governor will not enter into any future grant agreements with the City and will act swiftly to terminate active grants for non-compliance. I will further direct all other state agencies to review agreements with the City for possible breach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor