

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall
on Monday, 22nd December, 2025 at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Kelly (Chairperson); The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Doherty; Aldermen Lawlor, McCoubrey and McCullough; and Councillors Anglin, Beattie, Black, Brennan, R. Brooks, Bunting, Carson, Collins, de Faoite, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, R.M. Donnelly, Doran, D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Duffy, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Lyons, Magee, McCallin, McCann, McCormick, McKay, McKeown, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin, Meenehan, Murphy, Ó Néill, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Deputy Chief Executive read the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of The High Sheriff (Councillor McAteer); Aldermen Copeland and Rodgers; and Councillors Abernethy, Bell, Bower, T. Brooks, Cobain, Hanvey, Long, Maghie, McDonough-Brown, Murray and Nelson.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Motion

Motion in Support of Pro-Palestine Hunger Strikers

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, Councillor Collins proposed:

“This Council notes with deep concern the ongoing hunger strike of 6 Palestine solidarity activists in Britain. Two of these activists, Qesser Zuhrah and Amu Gib, are on their 51st day of hunger strike and are consequently in critical condition.

This Council calls on the British government to immediately allow medical access to all of the activists, to end the censorship of their communication from inside prison and, to enter negotiations in earnest to ensure the hunger strike can come to an end before lives are lost.

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This Council further calls on the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to intervene in their official capacity to relay these demands to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Council, and the sizeable Palestinian community for whom Belfast is home.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin.

On a recorded vote, twenty-eight Members voted for the proposal and thirteen against and it was declared carried.

For (28)	Against (13)
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Doherty); and Councillors Anglin, Beattie, Black, Brennan, Carson, Collins, de Faoite, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, R.M. Donnelly, Duffy, Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Lyons, Magee, McCallin, McCann, McKay, McKeown, R. McLaughlin, Meenehan, Murphy, Ó Néill, Smyth, Walsh and Whyte.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelly); Aldermen Lawlor, McCoubrey and McCullough; and Councillors R. Brooks, Bunting, Doran, D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Ferguson, McCormick, I. McLaughlin and Verner.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson