



Madison for a World Beyond War  
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/madison/>  
warabolition@gmail.com

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

A terrible contradiction is playing out in Madison.

In December of 2023, our City Council voted unanimously on a resolution calling for “an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and urgent political action to both de-escalate the crisis and to prioritize truth, reconciliation, restitution and the building of a future for the Palestinian and Israeli people.” Dane County followed suit, approving a similar resolution in February of 2024.

Likewise, the city has made a commitment to the living planet via your Climate Forward Madison plan which states, “Climate change threatens our health, our economy, our environment, and our quality of life. Simply put, it is one of the greatest threats of our time, and we all need to do our part to fix it. Madison is ready to do its part.” You have set ambitious emission reduction goals for the city.

And yet... the NSMMS National Space & Missile Materials Symposium (NSMMS) & the Commercial and Government Responsive Access( CRASTE) Joint Symposium are underway in our city this very week at the Monona Terrace Community and Conference Center, a property and civic center built with funds from the city and with city appointed trustees. This event which brings representatives from the world’s largest weapons manufacturers and military technical providers - including Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and others - was not advertised to the public and is indicated on the Convention Center website with the words “closed for a client event.”

Does this aura of clandestineness relate to a wish to hide our city’s complicity with the war machine? Is it not incongruous and unconscionable, in light of our laudable ceasefire resolutions and commitment to reducing fossil fuel emissions, for Madison to welcome representatives of the so-called Department of Defense and many of the chief weapons manufacturers in the world? This government agency and these industries are creating, producing and facilitating the selling of armaments now indiscriminately killing Palestinian citizens — among them 14,000 children to date. These are developers of military technology that sustain and deepen war and war mentality while perpetuating the globe’s greatest single source of fossil fuel emissions, the US military, along with the military establishment all over the world.

This symposium does not belong in Madison at all. Especially not in our city-supported civic center. We ask that a process be initiated immediately to assure such an event does not occur here again. By engaging in the process, you and we will contribute with integrity to creating space for reconciliation, restitution and the building of a future not only for the people affected today by war, but also for the planet as a whole. This is what Madisonians and life-respecting people stand for and want. There is no future in looking the other way.

Sincerely,

Susan Freiss, Stefania Sani & Janet Parker for  
[Madison for a World BEYOND War](#)