



City of Cambridge

O-6
FIRST IN COUNCIL
May 17, 2021

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: Cambridge has a history of terminating purchasing contracts with companies that facilitate discrimination and apartheid, including the boycott of Polaroid during South African Apartheid in the early 1990's; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge's policy on discrimination states: "Any practice that by design or effect discriminates against individuals, because of race, color, sex, age, religious creed, disability, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, family status, military status or source of income is of public concern, as such discrimination creates strife, hostility and unrest, threatens or impairs the rights and privileges of individuals and deprives individuals of the benefits of a free and open society;" and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has done business with Hewlett Packard (HP), the exclusive provider of computers to Israel that are used to biometrically track Palestinians, deny them access to water and healthcare in the Gaza strip, and imprison them without access to fair trial; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge cannot be silent as Palestinians are torn from their homes, tear gassed in their holy mosques during Ramadan, and killed by airstrikes at the hands of the Israeli government; and

WHEREAS: HP also provides the technology that runs databases for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), allowing them to streamline the tracking, surveillance, detention, and deportation of immigrants across the United States; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Purchasing Department to review Cambridge's corporate contracts and identify any companies that are in violation of Cambridge's policy on discrimination, including (but not limited to) Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Hewlett Packard Incorporated over their role in abetting apartheid in the Middle East, and to suggest alternatives for Cambridge to explore in order to ensure the city embody the values it put on paper; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Council on this matter as soon as possible.