

FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

September 9, 2003

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Council member Betty Olds and Council member Miriam Hawley
RE: Support of Full, Fair and Expeditious Inquiry into Death of Americans in Middle East

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council direct the City Manager to send a letter to President Bush, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Representative Barbara Lee calling on the United States Government to undertake a full, fair and expeditious investigation into the deaths and/or injuries sustained by all Americans since September 28, 2000 in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to ongoing conflicts, and urge the adoption of an amendment to House Concurrent Resolution 111 that would expand the inquiry to involve an investigation into all such tragic incidents.

BACKGROUND:

Since September 28, 2000, over 17 Americans have fallen victim to senseless violence in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza resulting in death or serious injury to those unfortunate individuals. This number includes, among others, former UC Berkeley student Marla Bennett, 14 year old Abigail Litle, and Washington native, Rachel Corrie. Resolution 111 was introduced into the House by Representative Brian Baird (WA-3) expressing sympathy for the death of Rachel Corrie in the

Palestinian village of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on March 16, 2003. That resolution also calls on the United States Government to undertake a full, fair and expeditious investigation into the death of Rachel Corrie and encourages the governments of the United States and Israel to work together to determine all the circumstances that led to this incident and to ensure that a tragedy like this never occurs again. (see attached) Rather than single out one tragic loss of life, this item encourages Congress to broaden the resolution to express sympathy to the families of all Americans who have suffered injury or loss of life and to condemn all acts of violence against all Americans traveling, studying, and working in these areas and to undertake a full, fair and expeditious investigation into these actions that have resulted in serious injury and loss of life.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: none

CONTACT: Betty Olds 981-7160 / Miriam Hawley 981-7150

HCON 111 IH

108th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. CON. RES. 111

Expressing sympathy for the loss of Rachel Corrie in the
Palestinian village of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on March 16, 2003.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 25, 2003

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SMITH
of Washington, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr.
LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WU, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs.
CAPPS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing sympathy for the loss of Rachel Corrie in the
Palestinian village of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on March 16, 2003.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
concurring), That Congress--

(1) expresses its sympathy to Craig and Cynthia Corrie and to
their extended families, friends, and co-workers for the loss of
Rachel Corrie in the Palestinian village of Rafah in the Gaza Strip
on March 16, 2003;

(2) calls on the United States Government to undertake a full,
fair, and expeditious investigation into the death of Rachel
Corrie; and

(3) encourages the Government of the United States and the
Government of Israel to work together to determine all the
circumstances that led to this incident and to ensure that an
incident of this kind never occurs again.

END