

Peace and Justice Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
September 9, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Subject: Support for House Concurrent Resolution 111

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution directing the City Manager to send a letter to President George 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 death of Rachel Corrie, and urging the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 111, which expresses the same intent.

BACKGROUND

On March 25, 2003, Representative Brian Baird (WA-3) introduced House Concurrent Resolution 111 (*Attachment A*) expressing sympathy for the loss of Rachel Corrie in the Palestinian village of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on March 16, 2003. The concurrent 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 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.

The concurrent resolution has 42 cosponsors (*Attachment B*), and has been referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

At the regular meeting of July 7, 2003, the Peace and Justice Commission reviewed and discussed two separate motions:

M/S/C (*Lippman, Sherman*) to adopt the attached Resolution recommending that Council direct the City Manager to send a letter to President George 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 death of Rachel Corrie, and urging the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 111, which expresses the same intent. **Ayes:** Arasteh, Cachola,

Lavine, Lippman, Maran, McDonald, Sherman, Wagley, Yuen; *Noes*: Brody, Seaton; *Abstain*: Cohen, Sorgen; *Absent*: None.

MINORITY RECOMMENDATION

From: Commissioner Seaton

On July 7, 2003, the Peace & Justice Commission passed a resolution supporting House Concurrent Resolution 111, which calls for a fair investigation into the death of American Rachel Corrie. I proposed an **amendment** to that resolution which would call on Congress to conduct an investigation into the deaths of American killed by Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel. My proposed amendment received only 3 votes. I believe that the resolution passed by the Peace & Justice Commission appears to place Berkeley on one side of the conflict, focusing our support on an investigation into Israeli conduct. I note that among those Americans killed by suicide bombings was Marla Bennett, a former University of California-Berkeley student, an activist at Hillel, who dreamed of peace in Israel and Palestine. The language, which follows, is the verbatim amendment to the Corrie resolution, which I proposed at the July 7 meeting.

M/S/F (*Seaton, Brody*) to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Berkeley long have supported a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, peaceful resolution of the conflict will be furthered by fair, impartial analysis of allegedly improper and illegal acts committed by the Israeli government, by the Palestinian Authority; and Palestinian militant groups; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Rachel Corrie, 17 Americans have been killed since September 2000, including Americans dedicated to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. One of these victims was Marla Bennett, a former Berkeley student, active in Hillel, who was obtaining an advanced degree at Hebrew University when killed in the university cafeteria on July 31, 2002 by a Hamas suicide bomber who also killed 8 others innocent individuals. Another victim was Abigail Litle, a Christian eighth grader from New Hampshire who was participating in a special program "Children Teaching Children at a Jewish-Arab Center for Peace. The program teaches tolerance, pluralism and coexistence. A Hamas suicide bomber destroyed the bus on which she was riding; killing Abigail and 16 others; and

WHEREAS, in November 2002, Human Rights Watch prepared an extensive detailed report entitled "Erased in a Moment" in which it described suicide bombings of civilians as "war crimes: and "crimes against humanity."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council urge Barbara Lee and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to support a full, fair and expeditious inquiry into the deaths of all Americans killed in Israel and Palestine since September 2000 to determine the circumstances of those deaths and those responsible for those deaths and to urge that the United States and the Palestinian Authority take steps to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the

Support for House Concurrent Resolution 111

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future. **Ayes:** Brody, Cachola, Seaton; **Noes:** Arasteh, Lavine, Lippman, Maran, McDonald, Sherman, Sorgen, Wagley, Yuen; **Abstain:** Cohen; **Absent:** None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

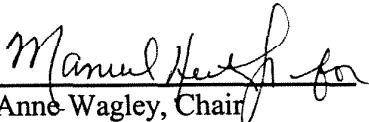
CONTACT PERSON

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Manuel Hector Jr., Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, (510) 981-5110

Approved by:



Manuel Hector Jr., Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SEND A LETTER TO PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, SENATORS BARBARA BOXER AND DIANE FEINSTEIN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA LEE CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A FULL, FAIR, AND EXPEDITIOUS INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF RACHEL CORRIE, AND URGING THE ADOPTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 111, WHICH EXPRESSES THE SAME INTENT

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission is required to advise the Berkeley City Council and Berkeley Unified School District on all matters related to the City's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to issues of ending the arms race, abolishing nuclear weapons, support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world, and the reallocation of our national resources so that money now spent on war is spent on fulfilling human needs and the promotion of peace (*Berkeley Municipal Code 3.68.070A*); and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission shall act as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government (*Berkeley Municipal Code 3.68.070H*); and

WHEREAS, in a two-month period, three volunteers working with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in the West Bank and Gaza have been killed or injured (*Rachel Corrie of Olympia, Washington, Brian Avery of New Mexico, and Tom Hurndall of Britain*); and

WHEREAS, these people were working non-violently to oppose destruction of homes, restriction of movement of the people of Palestine or protecting children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley supports peace and justice and opposes the senseless killing of innocent civilians including Palestinians, Israelis and others, and

WHEREAS, numerous residents of Berkeley have actively participated with the International Solidarity Movement, risking their safety and standing up for the principles of peace and justice, and have spoken before the Peace and Justice Commission; and

WHEREAS, United States House Concurrent Resolution 111 calls for a full and independent investigation into the death of Rachel Corrie.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley directs the City Manager to send a letter to President George 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 death of Rachel Corrie, and urging the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 111, which expresses the same intent.

ATTACHMENT A

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

ATTACHMENT B

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

Sponsor: Rep Baird, Brian [WA-3] (introduced 3/25/2003) **Cosponsors:** 42

Latest Major Action: 3/25/2003 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

COSPONSORS(42), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: by date)

Rep Abercrombie, Neil - 3/31/2003 [HI-1]	Rep Baldwin, Tammy - 5/15/2003 [WI-2]
Rep Blumenauer, Earl - 4/3/2003 [OR-3]	Rep Camp, Dave - 4/29/2003 [MI-4]
Rep Capps, Lois - 3/25/2003 [CA-23]	Rep Davis, Danny K. - 5/20/2003 [IL-7]
Rep DeFazio, Peter A. - 4/29/2003 [OR-4]	Rep Dicks, Norman D. - 3/25/2003 [WA-6]
Rep Dingell, John D. - 4/3/2003 [MI-15]	Rep Doggett, Lloyd - 5/21/2003 [TX-10]
Rep Dunn, Jennifer - 4/3/2003 [WA-8]	Rep Eshoo, Anna G. - 3/25/2003 [CA-14]
Rep Grijalva, Raul M. - 6/2/2003 [AZ-7]	Rep Honda, Michael M. - 3/25/2003 [CA-15]
Rep Inslee, Jay - 3/25/2003 [WA-1]	Rep Issa, Darrell E. - 6/26/2003 [CA-49]
Rep Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. - 5/5/2003 [IL-2]	Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice - 6/26/2003 [TX-30]
Rep Kennedy, Patrick J. - 4/8/2003 [RI-1]	Rep Kilpatrick, Carolyn C. - 6/2/2003 [MI-13]
Rep Kind, Ron - 5/13/2003 [WI-3]	Rep Kucinich, Dennis J. - 5/1/2003 [OH-10]
Rep Larsen, Rick - 3/25/2003 [WA-2]	Rep Lee, Barbara - 4/3/2003 [CA-9]
Rep Lewis, John - 3/25/2003 [GA-5]	Rep Lofgren, Zoe - 4/29/2003 [CA-16]
Rep McDermott, Jim - 3/25/2003 [WA-7]	Rep McGovern, James P. - 4/8/2003 [MA-3]
Rep Miller, George - 4/29/2003 [CA-7]	Rep Moran, James P. - 5/13/2003 [VA-8]
Rep Myrick, Sue - 4/29/2003 [NC-9]	Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes - 6/10/2003 [DC]
Rep Oberstar, James L. - 6/10/2003 [MN-8]	Rep Olver, John W. - 4/29/2003 [MA-1]
Rep Rahall, Nick J., II - 3/31/2003 [WV-3]	Rep Sabo, Martin Olav - 5/20/2003 [MN-5]
Rep Smith, Adam - 3/25/2003 [WA-9]	Rep Stark, Fortney Pete - 4/8/2003 [CA-13]
Rep Udall, Mark - 5/15/2003 [CO-2]	Rep Watt, Melvin L. - 4/29/2003 [NC-12]
Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. - 4/29/2003 [CA-6]	Rep Wu, David - 3/25/2003 [OR-1]