

CONSENT CALENDAR

10-14-03

Date:

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dona Spring

Subject: **PROCLAMATION HONORING OUR JAPANESE
VISITORS WORKING ON BEHALF OF PEACE**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council pass the attached proclamation to be presented to the Japanese peace delegation at the October 21st Council meeting.

BACKGROUND: The Japanese peace delegation will be visiting Berkeley and collaborating with the Berkeley peace movement from October 21st to October 26. Please see the attached resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981-7140

**PROCLAMATION HONORING OUR JAPANESE VISITORS
WORKING ON BEHALF OF PEACE**

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has long-standing friendly relations with the people and communities of Japan, including a very active Sister City relationship with the City of Sakai; and

WHEREAS, since late 2001, several delegations of peace-loving Japanese citizens have visited Berkeley to express their appreciation for our community's stance favoring peace and to learn about our community; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's history of citizen and community activism, as exemplified by its commission system and sister cities program has been a model for other countries; and

WHEREAS, several representatives of Berkeley have been invited to Japan to meet with peace and justice activists and elected officials there; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of this citizen-to-citizen diplomacy have included foreign educational and cultural exchange; the production of a Japanese documentary about Berkeley; and the establishment here in Berkeley of an annual Japanese-style Peace Lantern Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20 activists from the ZENKO National Assembly for Peace and Democracy are currently visiting Berkeley from Japan to study our community, meet with peace and justice organizations in the area; and to solidify the solidarity and friendship between Japanese activists and Berkeley; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Berkeley, that our City warmly welcomes this delegation to Berkeley from the ZENKO National Assembly for Peace and Democracy of Japan, and

says "domo arigato gozaimasu" ("thank you very much") for visiting our city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council expresses, on behalf of the people of Berkeley, our support and appreciation for the efforts of activists in Japan to build a world free of war and full of justice, and our desire to continue working with our international friends toward the goals of heiwa to seigi (peace and justice);;and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley declares the period of the ZENKO delegation's current visit, October 21-26, 2003, as Berkeley-Nihon Heiwa Torikaeru Jidai (Berkeley-Japan Peace Exchange Days) in the City of Berkeley.