

Peace and Justice Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR  
December 9, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Subject: Human Rights Abuses in Cuba  
CF# 023-03

STATUS

This report is in response to City Council's request for additional research and a report back on human rights in Cuba. At the meeting of June 10, 2003, Council adopted Resolution No. 62,088-N.S. directing a letter to President George Bush, the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, the Attorney General, the Congressional Working Group on Cuba, and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals calling for 1) a new and fair trial in a neutral venue outside of Miami-Dade County; and 2) the same family visitation rights, humanitarian concerns, and equal treatment under the law for the Cuban Five as any other prisoner in the United States. In addition, Council referred a revised resolution on the matter of the Minority Recommendation to the Peace and Justice Commission for their additional research and a report back to Council and directed the City Clerk not to transmit the adopted Resolution or any communications on the Minority Recommendation until the Council takes up the matter of the Minority Recommendation.

At our regular meeting on November 3, 2003, the Peace and Justice Commission discussed the issue of human rights in Cuba and approved the following motion:

**M/S/C** (*Freedkin, Sherman*) That the Peace and Justice Commission, in lieu of offering a recommendation on the proposed resolution regarding human rights in Cuba at this time, resolves to host a community forum at which the diversity of views regarding this issue in our community can be discussed, the facts and context of this issue can be explored, and an attempt to discover areas of agreement can be made. After the forum has taken place, the Commission will report back to the City Council and may offer recommendations at that time. **Ayes:** *Cachola, Cohen, Freedkin, Marun, Sherman, sorgen, Wagley, Wright*; **Noes:** *Brody, Seaton*; **Abstain:** *None*; **Absent:** *Arasteh, Lavine, McDonald*.

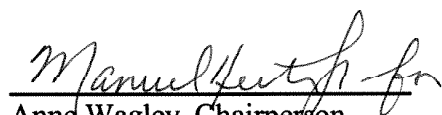
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Approved by:



Anne Wagley, Chairperson  
Peace and Justice Commission