



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 18, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Submitted by: Steve Freedkin, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission

Subject: Concert for Peace

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution endorsing the Concert for Peace to celebrate the United Nations 60th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Dag Hammarskjold's birth to be held on October 23, 2005 at the Paramount Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND

In celebration of the United Nations 60th anniversary, the United Nations Department of Public Information organized a commemoration of the signing of the United Nations Charter, which took place in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.

Forty-five nations, including the four sponsors, were originally invited to the San Francisco Conference: nations that had declared war on Germany and Japan and had subscribed to the United Nations Declaration. One of these, Poland, did not attend because the composition of her new government was not announced until too late for the conference. Therefore, a space was left for the signature of Poland, one of the original signatories of the United Nations Declaration. At the time of the conference there was no generally recognized Polish Government, but on June 28, such a government was announced and on October 15, 1945 Poland signed the Charter, thus becoming one of the original Members.

France suggested that Syria and Lebanon be invited and these two states were asked to attend. The conference itself invited four other states — the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, newly-liberated Denmark, and Argentina.

Thus delegates of fifty nations in all, gathered at the City of the Golden Gate, representatives of over eighty per cent of the world's population, people of every race, religion and continent; all determined to set up an organization which would preserve peace and help build a better world. They had before them the Dumbarton Oaks proposals as the agenda for the conference and, working on this basis, they had to produce a Charter acceptable to all the countries.

There were 850 delegates, and their advisers and staff together with the conference secretariat brought the total to 3,500. In addition, there were more than 2,500 press, radio and newsreel representatives and observers from many societies and organizations. In all, the San Francisco Conference was not only one of the most important in history but, perhaps, the largest international gathering ever to take place.

The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24, 1945 when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24th each year.

Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjold was Secretary-General of the United Nations from April 10, 1953 until September 18, 1961 when he met his death in a plane accident while on a peace mission in the Congo. He was born on July 29, 1905 in Jonkoping in south-central Sweden.

Mr. Hammarskjold was unanimously appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly on April 7, 1953 on the recommendation of the Security Council. He was reelected unanimously for another five years in September 1957. During his terms as Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold carried out many responsibilities for the United Nations in the course of its efforts to prevent war and serve the other aims of the Charter.

At the regular meeting on September 12, 2005, the Peace and Justice Commission discussed an endorsement request for the Concert for Peace. After discussion of the request, the Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (*Sherman, sorgen*) to adopt a Resolution recommending that the City Council endorse the Concert for Peace to celebrate the United Nations 60th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Dag Hammarskjold's birth to be held on October 23, 2005 in the Paramount Theatre at 7:00 p.m.
Ayes: Unanimous; **Noes:** None; **Abstain:** None; **Absent:** None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Manuel Hector, Commission Secretary, 981-5110

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

ENDORISING THE CONCERT FOR PEACE

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code Section 3.68070, which established the Peace and Justice Commission, states that the Commission shall "(A) Advise the Berkeley City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world;...[and] (C) Help develop proposals for the City Council in furtherance of the goals of peace and justice..." and

WHEREAS, the community of St. Joseph the Worker Church performed a Concert for Peace on September 12, 2004 in memory of Father William O'Donnell, in coordination with the church's 125th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the cultural impact of last year's Concert for Peace furthered the interest of the City of Berkeley in promoting peace and justice, by means of a program reflective of free expression and other forms of human rights presented through musical excellence; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has designated September 21st, annually, as the International Day of Peace; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has a long-standing tradition of endorsing and supporting cultural activities that promote the causes of peace, human rights, and social justice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the Concert for Peace to celebrate the United Nations' 60th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Dag Hammarskjold's birth to be held on October 23, 2005 in the Paramount Theatre at 7:00 p.m.