



Office of the Mayor

Date: November 14, 2005
 To: Members of the City Council
 From: Mayor Tom Bates
 Subject: Amendment to Item #27 – Cities Against the Death Penalty

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Peace and Justice Commission recommendation along with the attached draft resolution.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution formalizes the Peace and Justice recommendation and makes the following clarifications:

1. City Hall will be illuminated the evenings of Nov. 28, 29, and 30, and an easel will be placed in the lobby indicating that this is done in support of Cities Against the Death Penalty and the declaration of Nov. 30 as a "Day Against the Death Penalty." If there are associated costs, the Mayor's Office will cover them.
2. Per the attached resolution, the City will declare Nov. 30th a "Day Against the Death Penalty" and Berkeley a "City Against the Death Penalty."
3. Appoint the Peace and Justice Commission as the reference for initiatives of the World Campaign, with any further recommendations to be referred to Council as is standard practice.

In addition, the following issues are noted:

1. The Mayor's office will provide a link on its Web pages to the Cities Against the Death Penalty page <<http://www.santegidio.org/en/pdm/index.htm>> and will include a mention that Berkeley is a "City Against the Death Penalty."

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2. The last three bullet points on attachment two may be subjects of future recommendations to Council from the Peace and Justice Commission.

RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER 30 AS A “DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY” AND THE CITY OF BERKELEY AS A CITY MEMBER OF “CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY”

WHEREAS, The death penalty is the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights; and since 1977, more than 900 people have been executed in the US with another 3500 on death row; and

WHEREAS, There has been an increasingly popular trend toward abolishing the death penalty in countries across the world over the last thirty years, including in Senegal recently, that has led to a significantly lower number of executions; and

WHEREAS, The abolition of capital punishment brings countries closer to the true definition and meaning of democracy; and

WHEREAS, The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty was formed in May 2002 in the Community of Sant’Egidio in Rome, where the First World Day of Cities Against the Death Penalty was launched on November 30th of that year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council does hereby declare November 30, 2005 as a “**Day Against the Death Penalty**” and the City of Berkeley as a City member of “**Cities Against the Death Penalty**”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Hall will be illuminated on the evenings of November 28, 29, and 30 with appropriate signage that indicates that this is done in recognition of the “Day Against the Death Penalty” and in support of “Cities Against the Death Penalty”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Peace and Justice Commission will henceforth be the reference for initiatives of the World Campaign Against the Death Penalty, with further action items to be referred to the City Council as is standard practice.