



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 9, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Submitted by: Kriss Worthington, Councilmember, District 7 on behalf of Manuel Hector Jr., Commission Secretary

Subject: Iraq Moratorium

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution endorsing the Iraq Moratorium on October 19, November 16, and December 21, 2007 and every subsequent third Friday of every month until there is an end to the United States war in Iraq, and urging all of the citizens of the City of Berkeley to take the Iraq Moratorium pledge and participate in some way in the Iraq Moratorium campaign until the United States war in Iraq is ended.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT

The slow-motion train wreck that is the occupation of Iraq grows daily more of a nightmare. In 2006, America voted to bring it to an end. However, our politicians have failed to grasp the strain on our military and the depth to which America's influence in the world has fallen. We must force them and our media to recognize just how angry America is, and how massive the anti-war sentiment in this country has become.

The Iraq Moratorium will be an escalating monthly series of actions demanding an end to the war. Starting on Friday, September 21 and on the third Friday of every month thereafter, we will take the time to show our President and Congress that our troops must be brought home, now!

BACKGROUND

A grass roots local and national movement called IRAQ MORATORIUM is demanding that the United States (U.S.) end U.S. military involvement in Iraq and bring our troops home now. Iraq Moratorium asks American citizens to take the pledge, "On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month, I will break my daily routine and take some action, by myself or with others, to end the war in Iraq."

A "moratorium" means a time out. It was dreamed up in 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War by people who had tried and failed with Eugene McCarthy's peace candidacy the year before. The original Vietnam Moratorium, October 15, 1969, was a decentralized anti-war demonstration in which millions showed their opposition to the war around the world in a vast variety of ways. There were many school walkouts and closures; local demonstrations involving thousands around the country (a quarter of a million in D.C.; 100,000 in Boston); workplace sickouts; vigils, sit-ins at draft boards and induction centers.

At the meeting of September 10, 2007, the Peace and Justice Commission approved the following motion:

**M/S/C** (*Meola/Sherman*) that Council adopt a Resolution (*Attachment 1*) endorsing the Iraq Moratorium. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Cohen, Freedkin, Litman, Seaton, Wagley; Wornick.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the recommendations of the Commission.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachment

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.       –N.S.

ENDORISING THE IRAQ MORATORIUM

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 369.070); and

WHEREAS, the United States launched an illegal and immoral war of aggression on the people and territory of Iraq on March 19, 2003 and the Bush Administration sold that war to Congress and the American people based on lies and has pursued it ever since on more lies; and

WHEREAS, recent estimates put the number of Iraqis killed in this war at approximately one million and this war has caused the destruction of Iraqi society and Iraqi infrastructure, and has produced catastrophic loss of human life, both civilian and military, both Iraqi and United States, as well as physically maiming and deforming and psychologically destroying countless numbers of civilians and military personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Iraqi people are continuing to suffer and die from hunger, thirst, and disease as well as from weapons due to the infliction of this war upon them by the Bush Administration; and

WHEREAS, national polls have shown that for more than two years, approximately 70% of the American people have declared their desire to end this war, nearly 4,000 American troops have died in this war and a military victory is neither desirable nor possible in this war; and

WHEREAS, by all accounts, the 2006 election was a referendum on brining the troops home and ending the occupation of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Moratorium days in 1969 had a positive effect on helping to bring an end to the war in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, a grass roots local and national movement called IRAQ MORATORIUM is demanding that the United States end United States military involvement in Iraq and bring our troops home now and Iraq Moratorium asks American citizens to take the pledge, "On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month, I will break my daily routine and take some action, by myself or with others, to end the war in Iraq." and the first Iraq Moratorium Day was Friday, September 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, people will participate in Iraq Moratorium in a variety of ways, including, wearing black ribbons, black arm bands, black clothing to symbolize mourning, vigils, marches, speak-outs, teach-ins, leafleting, bannering, demonstrations, music, poetry, performance art, talking to their friends, families, neighbors and co-workers, and more until there is an end to United States participation in the war in Iraq.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the Iraq Moratorium on October 19, November 16, and December 21, 2007 and every subsequent third Friday of every month until there is an end to the United States war in Iraq, and urges all of the citizens of the City of Berkeley to take the Iraq Moratorium pledge and participate in some way in the Iraq Moratorium campaign until the United States war in Iraq is ended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the regional anti-war mobilization marches in ten United States cities including San Francisco, to take place on October 27, 2007, sponsored by the October 27<sup>th</sup> Coalition, which is aimed at ending the military invasion and occupation of Iraq and preventing a war with Iran.