

RESOLUTION NO. 62,178-N.S.

ENDORISING THE PEACE LANTERN CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE IN  
BERKELEY ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation of the Peace and Justice Commission, Section 3.68 of the Berkeley Municipal Code, finding that the current threat of nuclear holocaust is a condition of war against humanity, requires the Commission to advise the City Council on the City's role in issues of peace and social justice, including the issue of the abolishing of nuclear weapons, and to help create citizen awareness around issues of social justice and develop educational programs for implementation by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, August 6-9, 2003 is the fifty-eighth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; and

WHEREAS, the beautiful, moving Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony is held annually to commemorate the date and express the wishes of the community for a peaceful future; and

WHEREAS, the Ceremony was begun after the end of World War II by the people of Hiroshima, who wanted to remember what had happened and those who died, and wrote their thoughts and prayers for peace on paper lanterns and floated them on the river down to the sea; and

WHEREAS, this tradition has spread from the cities of Japan to several locations in the United States including Berkeley, Oakland, Arcata, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on Friday evening, August 9, 2002, Berkeley residents held a successful Peace Lantern Ceremony at Aquatic Park in Berkeley with more than 100 participants, and speakers and performers including two Berkeley City Council members, a Hibakusha -- atomic bombing survivor -- from Hiroshima, and Japanese, American folk, and Native American singers and musicians; and

WHEREAS, this event involves children in making lantern shades and floating their candle-lit lanterns on the water, projecting a message of healing and peace; and

WHEREAS, numerous community members have volunteered to create a Peace Lantern Ceremony again this year, and the activity will require no City of Berkeley funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley hereby endorses the Peace Lantern Ceremony to take place in Berkeley on or about August 9, 2003.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on July 15, 2003 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Breland, Hawley, Maio, Olds, Shirek, Spring, Worthington, Wozniak and Mayor Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Attest:   
Sherry M. Kelly, City Clerk

  
Tom Bates, Mayor