



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 29, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Submitted by: Steve Freedkin, Chairperson

Subject: Withdrawal of California National Guard Troops from Iraq

RECOMMENDATION

Call upon the Governor of California to demand that the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq now, and urge the California State Assembly and Senate to introduce legislation calling for the prompt return of the California National Guard from Iraq.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT

In the wake of the ongoing conflict in Iraq as well as recent fires in the State of California, it is more important than ever that California's National Guard troops are withdrawn from Iraq. There is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of National Guard troops has rendered the remaining National Guard forces less able to carry out its state activities effectively.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of November 5, 2007, the Peace and Justice Commission approved the following motion: **M/S/C** (*Bohn/Meola*) that the Council of the City of Berkeley approve the following recommendation:

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2005, the Berkeley City Council adopted Resolution No. 63,055-N.S. supporting the withdrawal of California National Guard troops from Iraq;
and

WHEREAS, the costs of the call-up of California National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as determined in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and

businesses, interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in many California communities; and

WHEREAS, these are costs which would be suffered willingly were there a threat to our nation, but which are not tolerable where there is none; and

WHEREAS, Californians have joined the Guard thinking that they would be serving their neighbors by helping with California-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to the United States requiring transfer to active duty; and

WHEREAS, stop-loss orders, which unilaterally extend the duration of duty, violate the mutual understanding between Californians in the Guard and the state and nation they agreed to serve; and

WHEREAS, severe lack of personnel and resources during the recent fires in Southern California further shows that the federalization and deployment of National Guard members has rendered the remaining Guard force less able to carry out its state activities effectively; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to "provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the laws of the Nation, to suppress insurrections and repel invasions," and the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the Governor of California to direct the training and arming of members of the California National Guard for defense of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Berkeley believes that the best way to support the women and men serving in the United States Armed Forces and California National Guard is by bringing them home.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley again calls upon the Governor of California to demand that the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq now, and urges the California State Assembly and Senate to introduce legislation calling for the prompt return of the California National Guard from Iraq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley directs the City Manager to send a copy of this Resolution to President Bush, Governor Schwarzenegger, President Pro Tempore of the California Senate, Speaker of the California State Assembly, each member of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, and Berkeley's State Legislators.

Ayes: Unanimous; **Absent:** Wagley.

Past Council Action

On September 13, 2005 by Resolution No. 63,055-N.S., the City Council asked the Governor of California to insure that the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard Troops from Iraq.

CITY MANAGER

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

CONTACT PERSON

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