



Berkeley City Council

ACTION CALENDAR
February 12, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Betty Olds
Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

SUBJECT: Reiteration of Berkeley's Opposition to the Iraq War and Clarification of the City's Support for the Men and Women who Voluntarily Serve this Country in the Military.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the City Council, through adoption of this item, publicly differentiate between the City's documented opposition to the unjust and illegal war in Iraq and our respect and support for those serving in the armed forces.
2. Rescind point 2 of Item 12, of the January 29, 2008 Berkeley City Council Agenda, "Marine Recruiting Office in Berkeley," regarding communications with the Marine Recruiting Station in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND:

A year ago, the U.S. Marines established a recruiting office within a few blocks of Berkeley's local high school, community college and university. Since then, community members who oppose the war in Iraq have been exercising their free speech in protesting the presence of the Marine recruiters. Pro-military protestors have also exercised their free speech rights.

The action taken by the Berkeley City Council on January 29, 2008 regarding the Marines Corps Recruiting Center at 64 Shattuck Avenue has drawn significant national attention. Unfortunately, the inflammatory language included in the January 29th item overshadowed both the City's heart felt opposition to the war, its support and appreciation to those who do serve in the military, and its commitment to free speech.

The intent of the action was not to impugn the men and women in the armed forces who choose to serve our country in time of need. Instead, the intent of this item was to reiterate the City's strong and repeated opposition to the unjust,, illegal and immoral war in Iraq and the foreign policy of the current administration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

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