

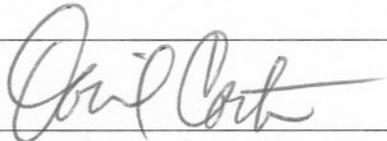
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San Jose City Clerk



MEMORANDUM OCT 28 P 4: 55

TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council FROM: Councilmember Dave Cortese

SUBJECT: Support for U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence DATE: October 28, 2005

APPROVED:  DATE: 10/28/05

SUBJECT:

Resolution in Support of a U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the San José City Council adopt a resolution supporting the establishment of a federal, cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence congruent with H.R. 3760 in the House of Representatives, and S. 1756 in the Senate, of the 109th Congress of the United States.

BACKGROUND:

With the overall goal of making peace an organizing principle of rational, civilized behavior, the primary function of a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will be to research, articulate, and facilitate dissemination and adoption of nonviolent alternatives and solutions to domestic and international conflict. As a member of the President's cabinet, the Secretary of Peace will provide the President, the State Department, and the military with more encompassing problem-solving options.

School violence, teen suicide, gang violence, domestic violence, hate crimes, and other forms of conflict have become prevalent and acceptable forms of expression in today's society. Throughout the U.S. and the City of San José, police, financial, and human resources are seriously burdened and threatened by adult and youth violence. For example, it is estimated that:

- There are on the order of one million to three million incidents of domestic violence across the U.S. each year.
- In some large cities, 80 percent of all police call runs are for domestic violence.
- There are over 600,000 gang members in U.S. cities.
- Gang activity is reported in over 70 percent of large U.S. cities.
- Nearly 7,500 incidents of hate crime were reported in the U.S. in 2003.

- Responding to family quarrel calls accounted for nearly 10 percent of law enforcement officers killed on duty from 1994-2003, and disturbance calls (family quarrels, bar fights, and such) accounted for 31 percent of assaults on officers during that period.

The Department of Peace will provide financial, best-practices information-sharing, and community-building assistance to the city to address problems of violence in its communities. Examples include assistance in the design, dissemination, establishment, and funding of community-based violence prevention programs, including prevention counseling and peer mediation in schools for victims and perpetrators of violent acts.

In addition to its domestic responsibilities, the Department of Peace will have similar responsibilities in the international sphere, which will complement those of the Departments of State and Defense. Organizational efficiency and synergy will be achieved by a reorganization to bring several existing agencies under the wing of the Department of Peace, such as the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Peace Corps.

Central to the Department of Peace will be the disbursement of grants to colleges and universities for the creation and/or expansion of peace studies departments. It will support further research in methods and means for promulgation of peaceful conflict resolution procedures. It will also establish the United States Peace Academy, which would closely resemble the military academies. It would research, develop, and teach the most cutting-edge, cost-effective ways to wage peace, such as nonviolent communication skills, conflict resolution techniques, cultural relationship building, and peacekeeping and peace-building processes and training.

The idea of a Department of Peace is not new, having been first proposed by Benjamin Rush, Thomas Jefferson, and other fathers of our country. More recently, legislation to establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace was introduced in the 107th and 108th Congresses, and on September 14, 2005, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio introduced H.R. 3760 in the House of Representatives in the 109th Congress. Also, on September 22, a companion bill (S. 1756) was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Mark Dayton of Minnesota.

As of October 1st, 2005, H.R. 3760 itself has garnered the co-sponsorship of the following members of Congress

Abercrombie, Neil (D-HI, 1st)
 Baldwin , Tammy (D-WI, 2nd)
 Boswell, Leonard (D-IA-3rd)
 Brown, Corrine (D-FL, 3rd)
 Brown, Sherrod (D-OH, 13th)
 Carson, Julia (D-IN-7th)
 Clay William (D-MO, 1st)
 Conyers, John (D-MI, 14th)
 Cummings, Elijah (D-MD, 7th)
 Davis, Danny (D-IL, 7th)
 Davis, Susan (D-CA 53rd)
 DeFazio, Peter (D-OR, 4th)
 Evans, Lane (D-IL, 17th)
 Farr, Sam (D-CA, 17th)
 Faleomavaega, Delegate Eni F.H. (D-
 American Samoa At Large)
 Filner, Bob (D-CA-51st)
 Grijalva , Raul (D-AZ, 7th)
 Gutierrez, Luis (D-IL. 4th)
 Hinchey, Maurice (D-NY, 22nd)

Holt, Rush D. (D- NJ)
 Honda, Michael (D-CA, 15th)
 Jackson, Jesse (D-IL, 2nd)
 Jackson-Lee, Sheila (D-TX, 18th)
 Johnson, Eddie Bernice (D-TX, 30th)
 Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH-9th)
 Kilpatrick, Carolyn (D-MI, 13th)
 Kucinich, Dennis (D-OH, 10th)
 Lee, Barbara (D-CA, 9th)
 Lewis, John (D-GA, 5th)
 Maloney, Carolyn (D-NY, 14th)
 McCollum, Betty (D-MN-4th)
 McDermott, Jim (D-WA, 7th)
 McGovern, James (D-MA, 3rd)
 McKinney, Cynthia (D-GA-4th)
 Meeks, Gregory (D-NY, 6th)
 Miller, George (D-CA, 7th)
 Moore, Gwen (D-WI-4th)
 Nadler, Jerrold (D-NY-8th)
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes (D-DC)

Oberstar, James (D-MN, 8th)
 Olver, John (D-MA, 1st)
 Owens, Major (D-NY, 14th)
 Payne, Donald (D-NJ,10th)
 Rahall, Nick (D-WV, 3rd)
 Rangel, Charles (D-NY,15th)
 Ryan, Tim (D-OH, 17th)
 Sabo, Martin Olav (D-MN-5th)
 Sanders, Bernard (I-VT, At Large)
 Schakowsky, Janice (D-IL, 9th)
 Scott, Robert C. (D-VA-3rd)
 Serrano, Jose (D-NY, 16th)
 Sherman, Brad (D-CA 27th)
 Solis, Hilda (D-CA, 32nd)
 Stark, Fortney (D-CA,13th)
 Thompson, Bennie (D- MS 2nd)
 Towns, Edolphus (D-NY, 10th)
 Tubbs Jones, Stephanie (D-OH, 11th)
 Waters, Maxine (D-CA,35th)
 Watson, Diane (D-CA, 33rd)

In summary, the people of San José will benefit from a federal Department of Peace in that there will be the availability of increased funding for local violence and crime prevention programs (including for the teaching of nonviolent conflict resolution in schools). It will also increase support for research on, and communication of, best practices across the state and country, and initiate the movement toward safer national and local communities, and the reduction of the threats of war and terrorism to our citizens.

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE
SUPPORTING A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2005, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio introduced in the United States House of Representatives of the 109th Congress proposed federal legislation (H.R. 3760) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence;

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2005, Sen. Mark Dayton of Minnesota introduced in the United States Senate of the 109th Congress proposed federal legislation (S. 1756) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will support existing programs and develop new programs to cope with and reduce the number and frequency of domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, racial or ethnic violence, and violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender individuals, which will assist members of our Police Department in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters, especially while making routine runs;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of San Jose by developing and distributing a curriculum and supporting materials to schools to facilitate building skills focused on peaceful communication techniques, nonviolent conflict resolution skills, and knowledge of mediation procedures;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence would encourage the development of conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within communities in San Jose, including its religious and non-governmental organizations, thus creating greater community involvement and thereby a strong, stable, and cohesive civil society;

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of San Jose has studied the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and has staged public discussion regarding the bill and has decided,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of San Jose supports and endorses the proposed federal legislation (H.R. 3760 and S. 1756) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence.