

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MILITARY INTERVENTION IN IRAN

WHEREAS, the President and members of his Administration have alleged that Iran poses an imminent threat to the United States, U.S. troops in the Middle East, and U.S. allies; and

WHEREAS, these allegations are similar to the lead-up to the Iraq War and U.S. Occupation, with the selective use of information and unsubstantiated accusations about Iran's nuclear program and its supply of weapons to Iraqi forces as centerpieces of a case to the American people for aggression against Iran; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives are currently considering non-binding resolutions S. R. 580 and H. Con. Res. 362, respectively, encouraging President Bush to increase pressure on Iran, including authorization for a Naval Blockade, which could be perceived to be an Act of War; and

WHEREAS, Iran has not threatened to attack the United States, and no compelling evidence has been presented to document that Iran poses a real and imminent threat to the security and safety of the United States that would justify an unprovoked unilateral pre-emptive military attack; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), representing the consensus view of all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, concluded that Iran froze its nuclear weapons program in 2003, and an earlier NIE concluded that Iran's involvement in Iraq "is not likely to be a major driver of violence" there; and

WHEREAS, Mohammed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the world's nuclear weapons inspectorate, insisted that he does not consider Iran a danger and said he will resign if a military strike is carried out; and

WHEREAS, we cannot ignore the history of U.S. government misinformation used to inspire U.S. aggression in Vietnam and again in Iraq, as embodied in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and more recently in what we know now as false claims of weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, we support the people of Iran who are struggling for freedom and democracy, and nothing herein should be misconstrued as support for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but it should be understood that a

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-676-6903

unilateral, pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iran could well prove counterproductive to the cause of promoting freedom and democracy there; and

WHEREAS, an attack on Iran is likely to cause untold thousands of American and Iranian casualties, lead to major economic dislocations, and threaten even greater destabilization in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, a pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iran would violate international law and our commitments under the U.N. Charter and further isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, an attack on Iran is likely to inflame hatred for the U.S. in the Middle East and elsewhere, inspire terrorism, and lessen the security of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Iraq War and Occupation has already cost the lives of 4,119 American service men and women, the wounding of over 30,000, with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) cases in excess of 300,000 from both Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a Rand Corporation study dated April 2008; and

WHEREAS, Iraqi mortality estimates exceed one million since the start of the Iraq War and Occupation according to recent surveys conducted by Lancet and British ORB (Opinion Research Survey), with Iranian casualties projected to be higher should Iran take retaliatory action following a U.S. pre-emptive attack, according to the Oxford Research Group; and

WHEREAS, the Iraq War and Occupation has cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$500 billion, depriving our cities of much-needed funds for services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, any conflict with Iran is likely to incur far greater costs and divert more precious national resources away from critical human needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham declared itself a *Troops Home!* city on October 9, 2006, thus setting precedent in favor of peace and nonviolence as cornerstones of our nation's foreign policy;

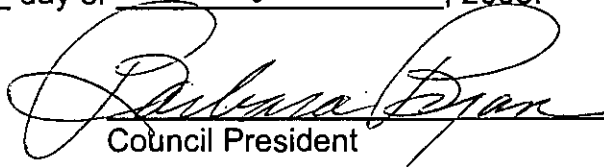
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM: that the City of Bellingham hereby urges the Bush Administration to pursue diplomatic engagement with Iran on nuclear issues in pursuit of good faith negotiations toward peaceful resolutions as outlined for signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the United Nations Charter; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham urges Congress to prohibit the use of funds to carry out any military action against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of the resolution be forwarded to President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, U.N. General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Al Khalifa, U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen, and U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

PASSED by the Council this 14th day of July, 2008.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 24th day of July, 2008.


Mayor

ATTEST 
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

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