

Resolution to End the U.S. Military Occupation of Iraq

WHEREAS the City Council of Urbana passed a resolution opposing entering war in Iraq prior to the U.S. invasion in March, 2003 (Resolution # 2003-01-002R);

WHEREAS the City Council of Urbana has in the past adopted resolutions against war (Resolution # 7273-R46);

WHEREAS the reasons given to the citizens of the U.S. for a pre-emptive war on Iraq have not been substantiated;

WHEREAS the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq has failed to end military hostilities, significantly improve the country's damaged infrastructure, brought basic civil order to the region, greater security to Iraq citizens, or lessened the threat of world terrorism;

WHEREAS the daily loss of human life in Iraq, civilian and military, continues to grow unabated;

WHEREAS we support American servicemen serving in Iraq, it is now doubtful that a continued occupation will significantly improve conditions in Iraq. Recent polling among American soldiers indicates that 72% favor pulling out within a year;

WHEREAS it is estimated that the war will cost Urbana citizens \$9.5 million in 2006 and has cost \$30.5 million thus far; and overall many billions of this country's dollars have been spent in the last three years on the Iraq war with the resulting rise in the national debt estimated to be 8 trillions of dollars [U.S. National Debt Clock, 3-5-06].

WHEREAS the City of Urbana, and citizens and municipalities everywhere, are now realizing they will bear the direct burden of continued unlimited war spending which could exceed \$500 billion, resulting in greater and greater loss of available funds at state and federal levels, upon which this City depends to support many basic social programs, health care services, affordable housing opportunities, Community Development Block Grants, student education loans, and the many other services benefiting all Urbana residents, including the elderly, the ill, the disabled, and the distressed families of this City;

WHEREAS this year's proposed federal budget reduces by 20% (roughly \$71,000) the level of City of Urbana CDBG funding, which funding supports housing and neighborhood efforts, including the Senior Repair Service, Habitat for Humanity, Frances Nelson Health Care, Center for Women in Transition, clearing blighted buildings, and our work with Urban League and others to provide affordable housing that is safe and well-maintained.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Urbana City Council supports initiating the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military forces from the country of Iraq;

THAT the U.S. government shall transfer the responsibility for maintaining civil order and internal security to the recently elected government of the Iraq people in a timely manner;

THAT the United States government shall keep its pledge to provide aid and financial support for national peacekeeping efforts and for the reconstruction of the destroyed Iraqi infrastructure;

AND THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to our representatives at the state and national level, including Illinois Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama, and United States Representative Timothy Johnson, to inform them of the will of the City Council and residents of Urbana, Illinois.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, _____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor