

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 07-77

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF PEACE LEGISLATION**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo, held on October 15, 2007 at or after 7:00 p.m., local time, at City Hall, 241 W. South St.

PRESENT, Commissioners: Anderson, Cooney, Juarez, McCann, Miller, Vice Mayor Hopewell, Mayor McKinney

ABSENT, Commissioners: None

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2007, Representative Dennis Kucinich, Democrat of Ohio, for himself and on behalf of other members of the United States House of Representatives, introduced legislation identified as House Resolution 808 (HR 808) in the United States House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence;

WHEREAS, House Resolution 808 has since garnered co-sponsorship of sixty-eight (68) members of the United States House of Representatives, including three Representatives from Michigan, Representative John Conyers, Jr., of the 14th District, Representative Dale E. Kildee of the 5th District, and Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick of the 13th District;

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence, which will be headed by a Secretary of Peace who will advise the President on issues of non-violent conflict resolution that are both domestic and international in scope;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization reports the cost of interpersonal violence in the U.S., excluding war-related costs, at \$300 billion a year;

WHEREAS, documents issued by the U.S. government, including the U.S. Department of Defense, estimate the cost of the War in Iraq at more than \$450 billion and climbing at a rate of \$10 million per hour, with the share borne by citizens within the City of Kalamazoo being more than \$65 million;

WHEREAS, President Dwight David Eisenhower stated on April 16, 1953, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Kalamazoo by holding peace, understanding and nonviolent conflict resolution - at both the community and international levels - as a principle of American society;

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Kalamazoo by supporting existing programs and developing new programs that relate to the societal challenges of domestic violence, neighborhood violence, school violence, gang violence, gun-related violence, racial or ethnic violence, violence against gays and lesbians, violence against the homeless, and violence associated with police-community relations;

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo has experienced emotional trauma and financial expense from incidents involving hate groups, teen shootings and stabbings, and beatings of homeless or indigent citizens,

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Kalamazoo by promoting the development and distribution to states, counties, municipalities and school districts a peace through understanding curriculum and supporting materials for building communication skills, nonviolent conflict resolutions skills, knowledge of peace processes, and knowledge of positive, healthy human relationships;

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Kalamazoo by encouraging and supporting the development of nonviolent conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within the community, including its religious groups and non-governmental organizations, thus creating greater community involvement and thereby a strong, stable, cohesive civil society in and around the city;

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo, its churches, organizations, schools and citizens have already demonstrated their desire for activities that foster peace, understanding and nonviolent conflict resolutions through institutions and programs such as neighborhood associations, neighborhood block parties, youth associations and programs, ministerial alliances, gun buy-back programs, the Ethnic Diversity Celebration, presentations by Nobel Peace Laureates, Challenge Day programs, PeaceJam groups and others;

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo chooses to conceptually link the success of these institutions, programs and activities with a rising awareness of peace and nonviolence consciousness nationwide, joining with cities, counties and tribal councils that have already passed resolutions in support of the legislation to create the U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence, including Detroit, Hamtramck and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan, and the cities of Arcata, CA, Atlanta, GA, Berkeley, CA, Cambridge, MA, Chicago, IL, Cleveland, OH, Everett, MA, Gainesville, FL, Lincoln City, OR, Minneapolis, MN, Newark, NJ, Oakland, CA, Palo Alto, CA, Portland, OR, Providence, RI, San Jose, CA, Santa Cruz, CA, Sebastopol, CA, Silver City, NM, West Hollywood, CA, and the counties of Kauai, Hi, and San Francisco, CA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo supports and endorses the proposed federal legislation, House Resolution 808, to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan, will send a copy of this adopted resolution to Michigan's 6th District Congressman, Fred Upton, along with a letter that asks Congressman Upton to officially sign on as a co- sponsor of the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, House Resolution 808, and to use the powers of his office to otherwise actively support HR 808's passage among his colleagues in Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo will send a copy of this adopted resolution to Michigan's Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, along with a letter that asks Senators Levin and Stabenow to introduce companion legislation into the United States Senate to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and actively support its passage.

The above resolution was offered by Commissioner Anderson and supported by Commissioner Juarez.

AYES, Commissioners: Anderson, Cooney, Juarez, McCann, Miller, Vice Mayor Hopewell, Mayor McKinney

NAYS, Commissioners: None

ABSTAIN, Commissioners: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo at a regular meeting held on October 15, 2007. Public notice was given, and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267, 1976). Minutes of the meeting will be available as required by said Act.



Scott A. Borling, City Clerk