

**RESOLUTION#392**

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2007, House Bill 808 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, which to date has garnered the sponsorship of sixty-eight (68) members of the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will establish a cabinet-level department that will be headed by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both domestic and international in scope, giving peace-building a place, voice and budget at the highest levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Lansing by holding peace as an organizing principle for American society, and by providing adequate funding for peace-building initiatives which aim to change the tone of society from a culture of disrespect and violence towards a culture of respect and nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Lansing by supporting existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, gun violence, and hate crimes which will assist members of our Police Department in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters especially while making routine runs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Lansing by developing and distributing to the states and their schools a peace and nonviolence curriculum with supportive materials for community-building, communication, nonviolent conflict resolution, and mediation information, skills and resources; and

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

WHEREAS, such support will enhance and build upon the violence prevention initiatives and successes in Lansing; and

WHEREAS, many national and international organizations, including, but not limited to, Amnesty International, Center for Nonviolent Communications, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for

Peaceful Tomorrows, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi USA, School Mediation Center, Veterans for Peace, and Youth for Environmental Sanity, have endorsed the legislation to establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, many local government agencies, including, but not limited to: Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Newark, New Jersey; and Cambridge, Massachusetts; have passed similar resolutions in support of the enactment of the proposed legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council adopts this resolution in favor of enactment of House Bill 808 to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lansing urges U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers to sign on as a co-sponsor of the proposed federal legislation (HR 808) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and to use the powers of his office to actively support its passage among his colleagues in Congress;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lansing urges U.S. Senator Carl Levin and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow to introduce a companion Bill into the United States Senate to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and actively support its passage.

By Councilmember Jeffries

To accept a substitute resolution for the one originally placed in the packet

Motion Carried

By Councilmember Jeffries

To place an affirmative roll on the substitute resolution

Motion Carried