

RESOLUTION NO 8574

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO
ALTO SUPPORTING A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF PEACE
AND NONVIOLENCE

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2005, Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives of the 109th Congress proposed federal legislation (H.R. 3760) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence which has garnered to date the co-sponsorship of 60 members of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2005, Senator Mark Dayton (D-MN) introduced in the U. S. 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 establish a cabinet-level department that will be headed by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues that are both domestic and international in scope;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation to create a Department of Peace ("proposed federal legislation") will benefit the City of Palo Alto by holding peace as an organizing principle of American society, which will change the tone of the society;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Palo Alto by supporting existing programs and developing new programs that relate to the societal challenges of domestic violence, school violence, gang violence, guns, racial or ethnic violence, violence against gays and lesbians, and police-community relations and disputes, which will assist members of the Palo Alto Police Department in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters, especially while making routine runs;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Palo Alto by developing and distributing to the states and their schools a peace curriculum and supporting

materials for building communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict resolution skills, and knowledge of peace processes;

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Palo Alto by encouraging and supporting the development of 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 proposed federal legislation has 60 co-sponsor members of the U. S. House of Representatives, including the Bay Area Members of Congress Rep. Lynn Woolsey (6th District), Rep. Barbara Lee (9th District), Rep. George Miller (7th District), Rep. Pete Stark (13th District), Rep. Mike Honda (15th District), and Rep. Sam Farr (17th District);

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Palo Alto has studied the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and has held a public discussion regarding the bill;

WHEREAS, the Human Relations Commission has urged the Council's support for the proposed federal legislation and communication of that support, in writing, to the City's federal representatives in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, many local government agencies, including Berkeley, CA, Cambridge, MA, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Hamtramck, MI, Kauai, HI, Lincoln City, OR, Oakland, CA, San Jose, CA and Sebastopol, CA, have expressed their support of the proposed federal legislation by adopting similar resolutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does hereby RESOLVE, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Council hereby supports and endorses the proposed federal legislation (H.R. 3760 and S. 1756) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

SECTION 2. The Council urges Rep. Anna Eshoo to sign on as a co-sponsor of the proposed federal legislation (H.R. 3760) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence

and to use the powers of her office to otherwise actively support its passage among her colleagues in Congress.

SECTION 3. The Council urges U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to sign on as co-sponsors of the companion legislation in the United States Senate (S. 1756) to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and otherwise actively support its passage.

SECTION 4. The Council finds that the adoption of this resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act and the CEQA Guidelines and, therefore, no environment assessment is required.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: December 12, 2005

AYES: BURCH, CORDELL, FREEMAN, KISHIMOTO, KLEINBERG, MORTON, OJAKIAN

NOES: BEECHAM, MOSSAR

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager

Senior Asst. City Attorney

Director of Community Services

Director of Administrative Services