

RESOLUTION No. 953

Declare Support for a United States Department of Peace.

WHEREAS, House Bill 808 proposing to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence is currently pending before the United State House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the House Bill 808 proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will be a cabinet-level department in the executive branch of the U.S. Government dedicated to peacemaking and the study of conditions that are conducive to both domestic and international peace, and headed by a Secretary of Peace, an advisor to the President on issues that are both domestic and international in scope; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will consist of seven offices including: an Office of Peace Education and Training, an Office of Domestic Peace Activities; an Office of International Peace Activities; an Office of Technology for Peace; an Office of Arms Control and Disarmament; an Office of Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution; and an Office of Human Rights and Economic Rights; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence seeks to develop policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, and peaceful resolution of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence occurs between family members everyday; and

WHEREAS, military conflicts in the twentieth century alone have killed millions of people, many of them innocent civilian men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will establish a National Peace Day urging all citizens to observe and celebrate peace and endeavor to create peace on such day; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three cities have passed measures endorsing the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Portland by encouraging the development of initiatives from the community, its religious groups and its non-governmental organizations, which ensures greater community involvement in peaceful activities, thereby creating a stronger, healthier city; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Council hereby adopts this Resolution in favor of the federal legislation to create the U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council appreciates Representatives Peter DeFazio's and David Wu's co-sponsorship of this proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and the Council urges Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden, and Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Darlene Hooley, and Greg Walden to support this proposed federal legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council supports the creation of the Department of Peace and Nonviolence to study and advance peace and nonviolence as the organizing principles in all human locally, nationally and internationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council directs the City Auditor to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Oregon's Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Council:

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy

Commissioner Saltzman
Prepared by: Sheila Pete
August 1, 2007