



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** December 18, 2007

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** City Administrator's Office

**SUBJECT:** Consideration Of A Resolution Urging Cessation Of Combat Operations In Iraq And The Return Of U.S. Troops

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the request of Mayor Blum and Councilmember Williams regarding a Resolution Urging Cessation of Combat Operations in Iraq and the Return of U.S. Troops.

### DISCUSSION:

Attached is a memo from Mayor Blum and Councilmember Williams requesting that this resolution be placed on the agenda for Council's consideration and possible adoption.

**ATTACHMENT:** Memo from Mayor Blum and Councilmember Williams to Jim Armstrong

**PREPARED BY:** Linda Gunther, Administrator's Office Supervisor

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

Agenda Item No. \_\_\_\_\_



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Mayor and Council

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** December 13, 2007

**TO:** Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

**FROM:** Mayor Blum, Mayor  
Das Williams, Councilmember

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST TO PLACE AN ITEM ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA

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We are requesting that the attached resolution be placed on the Council Agenda for the next available Santa Barbara Council meeting.

Per Resolution No. 05-073, we ask that the Santa Barbara City Council consider adopting this Resolution and we consider that it meets the following criteria:

- A. A substantive outline or summary of the information that will be presented to the City Council:

Though there are many ways to account for the cost of the war in Iraq and some disagreement over what the precise number is, we know that the amount of money and focus of the nation is affecting the city and the community. As an example, the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the past five years has been reduced by \$255,293. The Housing Authority has seen cuts in the Capital Fund Program resulting in the loss of about \$150,000 a year.

- B. A concise statement of the specific action the City Council will be asked to take on the item:

To adopt a resolution calling on the President to withdraw American troops from Iraq within one year.

- C. A statement of the reasons why the requesting party believes it is appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the City Council to consider the subject matter and to take the requested action.

A number of local elected officials have asked us to take action. Local elected officials have the constitutional right to petition the national government on any matter of concern to the community. The conflict in Iraq is such a concern. It

has been informal City Council policy to restrain from passing resolutions on stated federal issues except when it directly affects local governance. As we have seen over the past two years, the war is now having direct and detrimental effects on local governance. Additionally, passage of this resolution has a clear precedent in the City council resolution that was adopted by council against the pre-emptive war in Iraq.

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA URGING CESSATION OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AND THE RETURN OF U.S. TROOPS

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Santa Barbara and their local elected officials have the constitutional right to petition the national government on any matter of concern to the community;

WHEREAS, the United States is currently spending \$2 Billion per week to occupy Iraq with the result that as of September 11, 2007, more than \$155.6 Million in tax revenues have been diverted from Santa Barbara to support the war and subsequent occupation of Iraq;

WHEREAS, on October 22, the administration submitted a request for a further \$45.9 billion in war-related spending for fiscal year 2008. This request is on top of \$147 billion already requested for the Department of Defense and \$3.6 billion for other agencies for the fiscal year. If appropriated by Congress, the vast majority would be spent on Iraq. Total spending for the Iraq War would rise to approximately \$611 billion;

WHEREAS, the war in Iraq has begun to directly effect the governance of the City of Santa Barbara, causing yearly attacks on Section 8 funding, making it harder to recruit police officers, delaying Army Corps of Engineers funding that could alleviate the threat of flooding of Mission Creek, promoting the national neglect of the mortgage crisis which could undermine Santa Barbara's prosperity;

WHEREAS, this diversion of funds to support the war and occupation severely degrades the quality of life for Santa Barbara residents, the funds diverted to date having been sufficient to hire 2,696 additional teachers for one year, or provide medical insurance for 93,178 children, or provide 7543 four year scholarships at public universities;

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2005, President Bush officially ended the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, thus terminating the mission that justified the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq

WHEREAS, the occupation of Iraq compromises United States security both by inspiring widespread unrest with violent resistance, and by placing significant strains on the capacity of the United States Armed Forces and the California National Guard;

WHEREAS, the occupation has failed to effectively support the repair of the physical and social infrastructure that was devastated by the war with the result that the quality of life in Iraq is far worse today than it was prior to the invasion, and  
WHEREAS, In the course of serving with honor and distinction in Iraq, approximately 100 members of the United States Armed Forces are killed each month, a total of more

than 3,800 having been killed and more than 28,450 been wounded since the start of the war;

WHEREAS, the loss of Iraqi lives is far greater, estimated as high as 655,000 since the inception of the war; and

WHEREAS, polls show that more than half of the American people support an end to the occupation of Iraq and almost 60% of Iraqis support killing American troops.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Council urges the President of the United States to immediately commence a rapid, humane, and complete withdrawal of United States military personnel, contractors supporting the military effort, and military bases from Iraq within one year.

SECTION 2. The Council urges the United States Congress to appropriate medical, psychological, financial, and educational assistance for veterans.

SECTION 3. The Council urges redirection of the financial resources used to prosecute the war in order to address neglected domestic needs, including health, education, homeland security, balancing the budget.

SECTION 4. The Council, recognizing that the stability of Iraq is crucial to the security of the citizens of Santa Barbara and to all Americans, urges the United States government to provide the people of Iraq with non-military material aid to support the security of Iraq's citizens and the rebuilding of Iraq.

SECTION 5. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to George W. Bush, President of the United States, and to members of the United States Congress representing residents of Santa Barbara.

SECTION 6. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly, and the California State Senate who represent residents of the City of Santa Barbara with the request that those elected bodies also adopt resolutions to immediately commence a rapid withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Iraq.

*Figures derived from nationalpriorities.org  
\*ABC/BBC/NHK News poll (09/10/07)*