

California National Guard and the War in Iraq

Resolution calling upon the Governor of California to take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq NOW.

WHEREAS, The _____ City Council strongly supports the women and men serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognizes the sacrifices that each of them is making,

WHEREAS, in October 2002 the United States Congress adopted a Joint Resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq, relying on statements that were untrue, when in fact the United States was not threatened with attack by Iraq, Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein played no role in the 9/11 attacks,

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans would like to see a withdrawal of US troops from Iraq but there is, to date, no exit strategy,

WHEREAS, the costs of the call-up of California National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as determined in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and businesses, interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in many California communities and,

WHEREAS, these are costs which would be suffered willingly were there a threat to our nation, but which are not tolerable where there is none and,

WHEREAS, Californians have joined the Guard thinking that they would be serving their neighbors by helping with California-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to America requiring transfer to active duty and,

WHEREAS, stop-loss orders violate the mutual understanding between Californians in the Guard and the state and nation they agreed to serve and,

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of National Guard members has rendered the remaining Guard force unable to carry out its state activities effectively and,

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to "provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections and repel invasions," and the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the Governor of California to direct the training and arming of members of the California National Guard for defense of the State and,

WHEREAS, since 1986 the President and Congress have had nearly total control over state militias, including the California National Guard; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the _____ City Council ask California's Congressional Delegation to urge Congress to restore the balance between the federal government and the states vis-à-vis the Guard by limiting federal control to cases where there is an insurrection or a declaration of war under the United States Constitution;

RESOLVED, that the _____ City Council calls upon the Governor of California to insure that the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq as soon as possible and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____ City Council sends a copy of this Resolution to Governor Schwarzenegger, President Bush, each member of the California Congressional Delegation, and the President Pro Tempore of the California Senate.