

Draft Work Plan and Timeline for Getting Several Cities in the Bay Area to Sign onto the *Bring the National Guard Home* Resolution in one Week

Goal:

Create the beginning of a tidal swell of cities in CA and around the country calling for the National Guard to be brought home

Get National News Coverage regarding the Project and Code Pink

Expand our organizing capacity in cities around the Bay Area and California

Explore and discover who are allies are in city governments and how we can use those alliances

Objectives:

Get at least 5 cities in the bay area cities to pass a resolution by May 27th in their city councils calling to Bring our California National Guard home.

Determine where each persons on the targeted city councils stand in terms of the war and the issue of bringing the National Guard home.

Get at least 3 people in each of the targeted cities to form a working group on the Project, and activated/introduced to CodePink and our work. Ideally, at least one of these folks will be military/national guard. Also try to include an American Friends Service Committee folk.

Plan:

By May 1

Determine which cities to target and at least one point person in each city

Contact a point person in each city and give them the names of people who might be interested

By May 3

Make a list of names & contact info of city council members, by looking in the blue pages of the phonebook or through the internet.

By May 6

Call the city council members and attempt to speak to them; let staff members know what you are calling about and feel them out (if they have staff, which I mostly doubt they do). Use attached resolution and rap to talk to your city council person.

If they are leaning toward going forward but do not immediately go forward with the resolution, make an appointment to speak with them by May 13.

By May 10th

Check back with the original person and call several others or check in with the original person to see what kind of results they have gotten from contacting their colleagues. Ask when the resolution will be on the council's agenda. Ask what kind of help they need.

By May 13th

Have an appointment to speak w/council folks and/or have a date set for the resolution to be on the council's agenda

Sample Draft of Rap for talking to City Council People about the Bring the California National Guard Home Campaign

Hello, may I speak to [name of city council person]. Hi my name is _____, I am a constituent. I am currently working with CodePink on a project to bring the National Guard home. Our aim is to have city councils all over the state of California pass resolutions calling for the governor to ask for the Guard to return home. Does this sound like something that you would be interested in presenting to the city council?

[If no-]

Would you share with me what your issues are that limit your interest in the project?

I'd like to send you a copy of the resolution anyway for you to take a look at. Can I get your fax number/email address?

Is there another colleague of yours that you feel would be willing to go forward with this resolution?

[If yes-]

We have the resolution that calls for limiting the National Guard's military use to its original intent of serving Californians & California-based emergencies and "suppressing insurrection and repelling invasion", and for the governor to call on the Pentagon, the President and the Congress to take the necessary steps to withdraw the Guard from Iraq and return them to California. Two other states, Vermont and Montana, have already passed resolutions to bring (put into motion a call to return) their National Guards to their home states. The City & County of San Francisco has also passed this resolution to bring home our National Guard to California. I would like to fax or email you a copy of the resolution. What is the best way to get it to you? Can you give me your fax number/email address?

What do you think is the best way to go about getting such a resolution passed by the council in the near future?

[Possibilities:]

- a. Council member be willing to put on the agenda AND line up the support needed from other council members (preferable)
- b. Caller could call colleagues (ie. Other council members)
- c. Meeting could be set up between caller and council members (with other members possibly invited)

We are hoping to have a number of local cities pass their resolutions

by the end of May. Do you think that timeline will fit in with the process of the city council?

Can I call you back tomorrow to talk to you more about your thoughts on the resolution and the best way to get support from you colleagues? What would be the best time to reach you?

Tips for approaching your city council member, school board member, etc.

For the EASY ones:

- 1) identify your most left-leaning, most liberal council member(s)
- 2) speak to them over the phone, email/fax the resolution
- 3) determine if they have/can get the votes to pass the resolution
- 4) turn the resolution over to them
- 5) find out when the resolution will be up for discussion & vote
- 6) pack the meeting with supporters
- 7) call the press

For the MEDIUM ones:

- 1) make a list of your council people from your most left-leaning, most liberal council member(s) to the farthest away
- 2) set up meeting w/the first one (the most supportive) and w/their aide
- 3) bring small group w/as high-profile/powerful folks as possible (representatives from diverse communities as: business, peace, union, spiritual, military, family - or the folks that count the most to this council person)
- 4) make sure to focus on your goal: how are we going to get this resolution passed - do not get side-tracked into arguing about 'never happen', 'not feasible' - just see what this person(s) is going to do to get this resolution passed
- 5) ask someone to take minutes of the meeting for your information & for later reference & strategizing
- 6) if it gets to the point where you decide this council person(s) has no ideas about how to get it passed or is not going to put the energy into getting it passed, ask which council person would be able to help get this passed - stirring up a little competition....
- 7) Approach the next council person, until the very last
- 8) If you have the votes to pass the resolution, get as many supporters out to the meeting, and plan a press conference.
- 9) If you don't have the votes to pass the resolution, still try - but don't put it on the agenda until you can pack the meeting w/supporters, and until you have substantial signatures for voters in your council's districts

Difficult ones – to be continued...