



## Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR  
 July 14, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington  
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin  
 Councilmember Max Anderson

Subject: PAROLE COMMISSION LETTER TO RELEASE LEONARD PELTIER

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Berkeley City Council send a letter to the United States Parole Commission encouraging them to grant Leonard Peltier parole at his July 28, 2009 hearing.

### BACKGROUND

Previously in 1999, the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution encouraging former President Bill Clinton to grant Leonard Peltier executive clemency. No clemency was granted.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

### CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington	510-981-7170
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin	510-981-7140
Councilmember Max Anderson	510-981-7130

Attachment:

1: Letter

United States Parole Commission  
5550 Friendship Boulevard, Suite 420  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-7286

July 14, 2009

Dear Commissioners,

Mr. Leonard Peltier, a Chippewa-Lakota Native American, was wrongfully and illegally convicted for the murders of two FBI agents during a massive firefight on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota on June 26, 1975 involving approximately 35 Indian men, women and children and over 150 FBI agents, BIA police, U.S. Marshals and local police. He remains unjustly imprisoned in the United States Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania to this day.

The United States government now admits that the affidavits which were used to arrest and extradite Mr. Peltier were falsified, that witnesses were coerced, evidence fabricated, and exculpatory evidence withheld in violation of his Constitutional rights. Additionally, the government has stated numerous times that they do not know what involvement Mr. Peltier may have had in the death of the two FBI agents.

Worldwide, numerous and responsible law, political and religious groups including Amnesty International, 35 members of the U.S. Congress and sixty members of the Canadian Parliament, have filed "Friends of the Court" briefs calling for a reevaluation of the Peltier case.

In addition to the concerns surrounding this case, Mr. Peltier has been a model prisoner throughout his prison sentence, receiving excellent evaluations from his work supervisors on a regular basis.

As a charitable painter and writer, Mr. Peltier is widely recognized for his good deeds and in turn has won several awards including the North Star Frederick Douglas Award; the Federation of Labour (Ontario, Canada) Humanist of the Year Award; the Human Rights Commission of Spain International Human Rights Prize; and the 2004 Silver Arrow Award for Lifetime Achievement. Mr. Peltier also has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize six times.

Mr. Peltier's health continues to deteriorate due to a degenerative jaw disease, coupled with two surgeries that have worsened his medical condition, and is unable to ingest and digest food properly. Peltier is in need of immediate, specialized medical care.

It is under these circumstances that the Berkeley City Council calls on the Parole Commission to grant Leonard Peltier parole so that he may live out his remaining days with his loved ones.