



Peace and Justice
Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 19, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Peace and Justice Commission
 Submitted by: Alex Mabanta, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
 Subject: Endorse and Sponsor *The Boys Who Said No!*

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution allowing the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission to endorse and sponsor the film, *The Boys Who Said No!*

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None. There is no expectation of financial support for the film.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Boys Who Said NO! is a documentary film, scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2018, profiling the young men and women who actively opposed conscription in order to end the draft and the Vietnam War. They called themselves “The Resistance”. The film shows how their personal and collective acts of nonviolent noncooperation with the draft and risking arrest and imprisonment for up to five years, were a critical part of the antiwar movement, intensifying opposition to the war and eventually forcing an end to both conscription and the war.

Directed by Oscar nominated filmmaker Judith Ehrlich, *The Boys Who Said NO!* will tell, for the first time, the full story and impact of the Vietnam War draft resistance movement and its lessons for today.

The Boys Who Said NO! draws on original interviews with more than thirty male and female nonviolent activists and historians. Among the better known people featured in the film are: Joan Baez, David Harris, Daniel Ellsberg, Randy Kehler, a draft resister, and later a national leader against nuclear weapons, whose decision to resist influenced Ellsberg to release the Pentagon papers; and Mark Rudd, a key organizer of Students for a Democratic Society and the violent Weather Underground, now a proponent of nonviolence.

The Boys Who Said NO! explores the influence of Gandhian nonviolence and the impact of the civil rights movement on resistance members, a connection illustrated in

footage of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting and supporting Joan Baez and others jailed for blocking the Oakland Induction Center in 1967.

The film explores the Selective Service System, the labyrinthine federal justice system, and the prosecution and trials of war resisters. Documentary and news footage capture anti-war demonstrations and marches, anti-draft meetings, and men, young and old, speaking out about the resistance movement. Smuggled film shows resisters serving time in federal prison.

The Boys Who Said NO! is an overdue and definitive account of the principled and powerful nonviolent resistance to our most problematic war. These young men risked years in prison to challenge a national policy that resulted in a war of tragic human proportions. Their leadership, personal sacrifices, and example had a direct effect on changing that terrible policy, and are an important example for today's movements for social justice and peace.

A film synopsis, the current movie trailer, and other film clips are available for viewing on the film's website at <https://www.boyswhosaidno.com/>.

At the November 6, 2017 meeting of the Peace and Justice Commission, the Commission approved the following motion:

M/S/C (Meola/Bohn) That the Council of the City of Berkeley adopt the resolution to endorse and become a sponsor of the film, *The Boys Who Said No!*

Ayes: Agrawal, T.; Bohn, D.; Gorrocino, E.; Lippman, G.; Mabanta, A.; Maran, R.;
Meola, B.; Rodriguez, Z.; Watson, R.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hariri, A.; Marchesini, M.; Orozco, C.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission has authored three resolutions, later passed by the Berkeley City Council, in support of conscientious objection and war resisters [Resolution No. 63,666 Conscientious Objectors' and War Resisters' Day, Resolution No.63,869--N.S. Reaffirming the City of Berkeley as a Sanctuary City for Conscientious Objectors, and Resolution No. 64,803 Universal and Unconditional Amnesty for Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan war Military Resisters and Veterans Who Acted in Opposition to the War for Matters of Conscience].

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental effects

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This film is in sync with the values of peace and justice the City of Berkeley has continued to support with the resolutions mentioned above that it has passed in recent years. At a time when “resistance” animates political discourse, this film offers important lessons for today and the future.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the commission’s report.

CONTACT PERSON

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Bob Meola, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission 510-644-1102

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ENDORSE AND BECOME A SPONSOR OF THE FILM, *THE BOYS WHO SAID NO!*

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code [BMC] Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission has authored three resolutions, later passed by the Berkeley City Council, in support of conscientious objection and war resisters [Resolution No. 63,666 Conscientious Objectors' and War Resisters' Day, Resolution No.63,869--N.S. Reaffirming the City of Berkeley as a Sanctuary City for Conscientious Objectors, and Resolution No. 64,803 Universal and Unconditional Amnesty for Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan war Military Resisters and Veterans Who Acted in Opposition to the War for Matters of Conscience]; and

WHEREAS, a new documentary film, *The Boys Who Said No!* directed by Academy Award nominee Judith Ehrlich and produced by former draft resister Christopher Colorado Jones, is in production and chronicles the experiences and impact of young men who, for reasons of conscience, risked long prison sentences rather than cooperate with the draft during the Vietnam war and through compelling interviews, archival footage, and memorable music, explores the lives and legacy of these courageous nonviolent resisters and their supporters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission to lend its name, "Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission", as an endorser and sponsor of the film, *The Boys Who Said No!*, allowing its name to be credited in the film's credits, promoting the film in any way possible, if possible, through its electronic presence of emails and/or website, and exploring the possibility of sponsoring a showing of the film in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this endorsement and sponsorship of the film, *The Boys Who Said No!* be communicated to its producers, Bill Prince and Christopher Colorado Jones.