



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: Declaring Berkeley's Opposition to Fascism

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution declaring the Council of the City of Berkeley opposes fascism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and any individuals or organizations promoting fascism and/or committing violent attacks on people in Berkeley or anywhere else. Request City Clerk to send copies of this resolution to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Representative Barbara Lee.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

We live in a climate of increased surveillance, militarization of the police, and the threat of an actual police state under martial law due to the signing of the fascist tool, the 2012 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act), which can now be used by the current President. The 2012 NDAA enables any President to point a finger of suspicion and accusation, with no evidence, at anyone, and have them arrested, not by the sheriff, but by the military, and have them disappear with no acknowledgement that they were taken and subject them to indefinite detention, while denying them the right to trial or counsel. Berkeley has been targeted this year by fascist groups physically and psychologically confronting people on our streets and in our parks with propaganda and violence.

At the September 11, 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 Declaring Berkeley's Opposition to Fascism and the Council send a copy of it to each of the listed elected representatives.

Ayes: Orozco, C.; Watson, R.; Lippman, G.; Bohn, D.; Meola, B.; Mabanta, A.;
 Gorrocino, G.; Marchesini, M.

Noes: Maran, R.

Abstain: None

Absent: Rodriguez, Z.; Agrawal, T.

BACKGROUND

There has been a xenophobic atmosphere of hate and hate crimes across the country in recent times, including physical attacks on people and including murders by members and followers of organized right wing and fascist organizations.

One example of those hate crimes was the murder of two men in Portland, Oregon on May 26, 2017, after they came to the aid of two women who were being harassed because they appeared to be Muslim.

Other examples of such recent hate crimes are the murder of Heather Heyer and the injuring of others by white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017.

Furthermore, the current administration has targeted vulnerable population groups throughout the United States, overseeing a rise in deportation and discriminatory policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This recommendation and resolution is consistent with the values of Berkeley and the mandate of the Peace and Justice Commission. Due to the dire atmosphere brought about by the federal administration, it is important that Berkeley make its voice heard clearly in opposition to fascism at this time.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Shallon Allen, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-981-7071
Alex Mabanta, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission 408-832-6769
Bob Meola, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission 510-644-1102

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

DECLARING BERKELEY'S OPPOSITION TO FASCISM

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 City of Berkeley and its residents have long stood for civil rights, human rights, civil liberties, peace, equality, and free speech; and

WHEREAS, the last time the United States issued a declaration of war, it fought a war against fascism; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Berkeley died with citizens of other places, fighting against fascism; and

WHEREAS, we live in a climate of increased surveillance, militarization of the police, and the threat of an actual police state under martial law due to the signing of the fascist tool, the 2012 NDAA, which can now be used by the current President; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 NDAA enables any President to point a finger of suspicion and accusation, with no evidence, at anyone, and have them arrested, not by the sheriff, but by the military, and have them disappeared with no acknowledgement that they were taken, and subjects them to indefinite detention, while denying them the right to trial or counsel; and

WHEREAS, there has been a xenophobic atmosphere of hate and hate crimes across the country in recent times, including physical attacks on people and including murders by members and followers of organized right wing and fascist organizations; and

WHEREAS, one example of those hate crimes was the murder of two men in Portland, Oregon on May 26, 2017, "after they came to the aid of two women who were being harassed because they appeared to be Muslim, police said."¹; and

WHEREAS, other examples of such recent hate crimes are the murder of Heather Heyer, and the injuring of others and the brutal beatings of people, by white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017;^{2 3} and

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/may/27/man-shouting-anti-muslim-slurs-fatally-stabs-two-men-in-us>

² <http://blogs.findlaw.com/blotter/2017/08/criminal-charges-following-violence-death-in-charlottesville.html>

³ <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/deandre-harris-viciously-beaten-poses-white-supremacists-article-1.3410063>

WHEREAS, the Trump/Pence regime has targeted vulnerable population groups for deportation and /or bigotry and hate, the loss of reproductive rights, the loss of clean air and water, the loss of medical care, the loss of education, and the threat of nuclear war, amongst other dire situations and threats; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley has been targeted this year by fascist groups physically and psychologically confronting people on our streets and in our parks with propaganda and violence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it opposes fascism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and any individuals or organizations promoting fascism and/or committing violent attacks on people in Berkeley or anywhere else.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Representative Barbara Lee.
