



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 15, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Peace and Justice Commission
 Submitted by: Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission
 Subject: International Migrants Day—December 18th

RECOMMENDATION

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 2, 2009, the Peace and Justice Commission unanimously adopted the following recommendation:

That the City Council adopt a Resolution declaring December 18th as International Migrants Day and that it urge the United States to ratify the 1990 International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

M/S/C: (Bohn, D./Lippman, G.)

Ayes: Bohn, D.; Brody, D.; Kenin, W.; Lippman, G.; Litman, J.; Maran, R.; Marley, J.; Meola, B.; Nicely, M.; Sherman, M.; Sorgen, P.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Wornick, J. (excused)

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly approved the "International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families." The convention came into force on July 1, 2003. It is widely used internationally as a tool to promote the human rights of migrants and to recognize their many contributions. To date, the United States has not ratified this Convention.

The Peace and Justice Commission recommends that the Berkeley City Council declare December 18, 2009, and annually thereafter, as International Migrants Day in

recognition of the struggles of migrant workers and their families for basic human rights and in recognition of their many contributions to the communities in which they live and work.

Additionally, the Commission recommends that the Berkeley City Council urge the United States to ratify the 1990 International Convention and to similarly recognize December 18, 2009, and annually thereafter, as International Migrants Day.

CITY MANAGER

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

CONTACT PERSON

Bob Meola, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission, 644-1102
Diana Bohn, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Letter to elected officials

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

RECOGNITION OF DECEMBER 18, 2009 AS INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY AND SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code Section 3.68.030, establishing the Peace & Justice commission, indicates that "peace and social justice shall refer to the goal of creating a world community in which the relations between people are based on equality, respect for human rights, and the abhorrence of exploitation and all forms of oppression. (Ord. 5705-NS #3, 1986)"; and

WHEREAS, in December 18, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly approved the "International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families"; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the United Nations proclaimed December 18th as International Migrants Day to promote the recognition of the rights of migrants, and ask all member states, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to observe this day; and

WHEREAS, the "International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" came into force on July 1, 2003, and the Convention is widely used as a tool to promote the human rights of migrants, recognize their contributions and also to advocate for the U.S. government to ratify the convention.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley observe December 18th as International Migrants Day every year by celebrating the contributions of immigrants to the City of Berkeley and recognizing their human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley shall promote local events related to International Migrants Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges the U.S. Federal Government to both observe December 18th as International Migrants Day, and to ratify the 1990 International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and that the Council direct the City Clerk to send copies of this Resolution to President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and to Representative Barbara Lee.

Attachment 2

Letter to go to President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and to Representative Barbara Lee:

Dear _____:

Please note by the attached Resolution that the City of Berkeley supports observance by the U.S. federal government of December 18th as International Migrants Day. Furthermore, the City of Berkeley supports ratification of the 1990 International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Sincerely,

Deanna Despain, City Clerk
City of Berkeley

ADDRESSES:

President Barak Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Barbara Lee
2444 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515