

RESOLUTION NO. R08-04 CMS

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING WAR WITH IRAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, The Bush Administration and many of its Congressional allies are engaging in a systematic campaign to convince the American people and their representatives in Congress that the Islamic Republic of Iran threatens the safety and security of the United States of America, members of our armed forces overseas, and our allies; and

WHEREAS, In a strategy disturbingly reminiscent of the lead-up to the Iraq War and Occupation, the Bush Administration and its Congressional allies are using unreliable sources, exaggerated threat assessments, selective use of information, and questionable accusations as centerpieces of their case to the American people for war against Iran; and

WHEREAS, A U.S. strike on Iran would be deadly for tens if not hundreds of thousands of Iranian men, women and children; and endanger the lives of the military personnel in Iraq, and

WHEREAS, According to the estimates of many respectable Western intelligence agencies as emphasized by the U.S. National Intelligence Estimate of December, 2007 that Iran is years away from having a usable nuclear weapon, if indeed it is seeking to manufacture one at all; yet nevertheless the Bush administration seeks to convince the world that Iran's nuclear program is a clear and present danger; and

WHEREAS, Iran has not threatened to attack the United States and has not been convincingly shown to be likely to initiate such an attack; and therefore a U.S. attack would violate the United Nation's Charter prohibition against preemptive military attack; and

WHEREAS, A widening of the United States war in the Middle East would almost certainly drive all segments of Iranian society into increased hostility toward the United States, turning potential friends into enemies by sending a signal that the United States prefers violence to the peaceful resolution of disputes, and would invite retaliation against our troops in Iraq and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive direct diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran would likely result in improved relations and reduced tensions between our nations; and

WHEREAS, Continued threats of violence and other aggressive or provocative actions exacerbate tensions with Iran and could obstruct efforts to cooperate with Iran over ending violence in Iraq, thereby delaying the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq; and

WHEREAS, The Iraq War has already cost the lives of more than 4,000 American soldiers, the physical and psychological wounding of more than 100,000 American soldiers, and the death and maiming of about one million Iraqi civilians, as well as the cost of over 500 billion dollars of American tax dollars; and embarking on yet another military campaign against a much stronger adversary could only further exacerbate international tensions, endanger the lives and livelihoods of millions of people both here and abroad, and do nothing to address the most serious problems facing the American people and humanity generally.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Oberlin, Lorain County, State of Ohio, five-sevenths (5/7ths) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1: That Oberlin City Council calls on our representatives in Congress, Senator George V. Voinovich, Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Marcy Kaptur, (1) to ensure that no preemptive military attack by the U.S. against Iran takes place; (2) to ensure that no provocative actions be carried out by the United States with the aim of precipitating a confrontation with Iran, (3) to make clear to the administration that such a preemptive attack or provocation has not been authorized by any law, resolution, court ruling or article of the Constitution; (4) to support diplomatic engagement with Iran; and (5) to maintain pressure against all escalations of war in the Middle East.

SECTION 2: That Oberlin City Council directs the City Clerk to send copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, our Congressional representatives, our Ohio legislative representatives, local media outlets; and to arrange that a copy of this resolution be placed on the Oberlin City website until January 20th, 2009.

SECTION 3: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

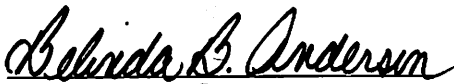
SECTION 4: That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, or to provide for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, to wit:

" to inform State and Federal elected representatives of the consensus of Oberlin City Council in regard to a possible U.S. military attack against Iran at the earliest possible date."

And shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED: 1st Reading – June 16, 2008(E)
2nd Reading –
3rd Reading –

ATTEST:


Belinda B. Anderson
CLERK OF COUNCIL


David E. Sonner
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 6/17/2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/16/2008