

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL



Resolution To Support Our Troops By Bringing Them Home From Iraq And Afghanistan And To Cut The Military Budget In Order To Have The Resources That We Need At Home

By Councilors Chuck Turner, Felix D. Arroyo, Charles C. Yancey, Sam Yoon and Michael Ross

February 14, 2007

- Whereas, the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan has cost more than \$357 billion and the deaths of over 3,000 U.S. GI's and over 650,000 Iraqis; and
- Whereas, the 2007 budget for the Pentagon (Defense Department), excluding the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, is expected to exceed \$500 billion dollars; and
- Whereas, the President of the United States is expected to seek an additional \$100-200 billion dollars to pursue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and
- Whereas, the money that is being spent on the Pentagon and on the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan has been taken from programs that poor and working people desperately need – jobs, healthcare, housing and education; and
- Whereas, officials of the Boston Police Department have testified at City Council hearings that a major difficulty in maintaining the number of officers on the streets at 1990 levels results from the cut backs in federal resources that were provided during that period; and
- Whereas, officials of the City's Department of Education have acknowledged in City Council hearings that the City has no ability to make all the necessary repairs to bring all schools up to an appropriate levels of health and safety without federal financial assistance; and
- Whereas, officials of the City's Department of Neighborhood Development have testified at City Council hearings that one of the major difficulties in providing the subsidies necessary to increase affordable housing in Boston is the cut back in federal housing funds; and
- Whereas, the Bush administration has been threatening to drastically reduce the Section 8 program which is the major federal initiative to provide affordable housing across the country by taking away vouchers from people who are presently using them to house themselves and their families; and
- Whereas, officials of the Boston Housing Authority have testified at City Council hearings that there has been a continual cut back in federal allocations for the operation of the Boston Housing Authority as well as other housing authorities across the country; and
- Whereas, officials of the Boston Housing Authority asserted three years ago that they had to

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terminate the employment of youth workers at all developments in the City since those workers had been paid through federal funds that that were no longer available; and

Whereas, officials of the Boston Housing Authority requested and received approvals from the Boston City Council last year that allowed them to turn over the Franklin Hill Housing Development to a private developer so that federal tax credits could be obtained for the development since the BHA could identify no other source of funds to provide the rehabilitation necessary given the absence of federal fund; and

Whereas, an official of the Boston Housing Authority told Whittier Street Task Force representatives three years ago estimated that it would cost approximately a billion dollars to provide the rehabilitation necessary for Boston's 65 state and federal public housing developments; and

Whereas, Mayor Menino acknowledged in his State of the City speech three years ago as well as in other speeches that one of the major financial problems facing Boston is the cut back in federal funds available for local needs; and

Whereas, the Boston City Council in 2005 declared a State of Emergency for HIV/AIDS in Boston for Communities of Color; and

Whereas, as of October 1, 2006 an estimated 6,700 individuals were living with HIV/AIDS and facing an estimated \$3 million in federal Ryan White HIV funding cutbacks from the Boston Public Health Commission due on March 1, 2007; and

Whereas, the November, 2006 national elections are viewed as an overwhelming vote against the war by the American people; and

Whereas, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Feb. 1967 "The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs in Viet Nam explode at home: they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America...Poverty, urban problems and social progress generally are ignored when the guns of war become a national obsession." Therefore Be It

Resolved, that in view of the above outlined drastic decline in federal resources available to the City of Boston since the beginning of the wars in the Middle East, the Boston City Council calls on the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to work with their fellow members to develop policies that will lead to a safe withdrawal of American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and a significant increase in federal resources available for meeting the domestic needs of the people of Boston and the rest of the country; and Be It Further

Resolved, that the Boston City Council supports gatherings such as the one that will take place in Washington, D.C., on March 17, 2007 which show the support of the people of this country for policies such as those outlined above.

Passed 2/14/07

Voting In favor -Turner, Arroyo, Yancey, Yoon, Ross, Consalvo, Flaherty, Tobin.

Opposed - Murphy, McDermott, Feeney. Present – LaMattina