

1 **RESOLUTION #08-10**

2 **A Resolution of the Albany City Council supporting House Bill 808 to create a**  
3 **United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence**  
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5 WHEREAS, on February 5, 2007, House Bill 808 was introduced in the United  
6 States House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and  
7 Nonviolence, which to date has garnered the sponsorship of sixty-eight (68) members of  
8 the United States House of Representatives; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a United States Department of Peace  
11 and Nonviolence will establish a cabinet-level department that will be headed by a  
12 Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both  
13 domestic and international in scope, giving peace-building a place, voice and budget at  
14 the highest levels of government; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department  
17 of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by holding peace as an  
18 organizing principle for American society, and by providing adequate funding for peace-  
19 building initiatives which aim to change the tone of society from a culture of disrespect  
20 and violence towards a culture of respect and nonviolence; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department  
23 of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by supporting existing  
24 programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency  
25 of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang  
26 violence, gun violence, racial or ethnic violence, and hate crimes which will assist  
27 members of our Police Department in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters  
28 especially while making routine runs; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department  
2 of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by developing and distributing  
3 to the states and their schools a peace and nonviolence curriculum with supportive  
4 materials for building communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict resolution, and  
5 knowledge of mediation procedures; and

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7           WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department  
8 of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by encouraging and supporting  
9 development of conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within the  
10 community, including its religious and non-governmental organizations, thus creating  
11 greater community involvement and thereby a strong, stable, cohesive civil society  
12 throughout the City of Albany; and

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14           WHEREAS, such support will enhance and build upon the violence prevention  
15 initiatives and successes in Albany; and

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17           WHEREAS, many local government agencies, including, but not limited to:  
18 Atlanta, Georgia; Berkeley, California; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois;  
19 Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Kauai, Hawaii; Los Angeles, California;  
20 Minneapolis, Minnesota; Newark, New Jersey; Oakland, California; Palo Alto,  
21 California; Portland, Oregon; San Francisco, California; San Jose, California; and Santa  
22 Cruz, California have passed similar resolutions in support of the enactment of the  
23 proposed legislation; and

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25           WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department  
26 of Peace and Non-Violence would promote peace before war and mass destruction, so  
27 that a large portion of our valuable resources now spent on the military and  
28 reconstruction could be redirected to funding improvements to education, health care,  
29 infrastructure and reduction of poverty at home and throughout the world; and

1 WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation should enhance but not limit education,  
2 mediation and violence prevention initiatives undertaken by Albany municipal  
3 government, the Albany Unified School District, and other local community agencies;  
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5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albany City Council adopts this  
6 resolution in favor of enactment of House Bill 808 to create a United States Department  
7 of Peace and Nonviolence;  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Albany urges  
10 U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to introduce a companion  
11 Bill into the United States Senate to create a United States Department of Peace and  
12 Nonviolence and actively support its passage.  
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16 Robert S. Lieber, Mayor  
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