

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-37

**RESOLUTION URGING THE US CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE PLANS TO
END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ & BRING OUR TROOPS SAFELY HOME**

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Bellingham, Washington supports the women and men serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognizes the sacrifices that each of them is making; and,

WHEREAS, the human cost of this war to our country now stands at 2,737 U.S. Soldiers killed; 20,687 injured and maimed, and thousands returning home with untreated Post Traumatic Stress Disorder only to experience reduced VA benefits; and,

WHEREAS, a family in Whatcom County has suffered the tremendous loss of their son, Corporal Jonathan Santos, while many other mothers and fathers live in daily fear for the safety of their children who are serving in Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, our courageous soldiers have been placed in untenable positions of determining who is and who isn't the enemy, of doing police keeping and providing security without the advantages of being trained in such duties and without essential safety equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the killing of civilians is an unspeakable crime against humanity and the number of documented Iraqi civilian deaths exceeds 100,000, with increasing incidents of torture and atrocities such as those at Abu Ghraib, Haditha and Mahmoudiya; and,

WHEREAS, this war was based on the false premise that Iraq had nuclear and biological weapons of mass destruction, and that, according to the United Nations Charter, a pre-emptive war against a sovereign nation is illegal; and,

WHEREAS, The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 was passed by the U.S. Congress on October 11, 2002 and that Public Law 107-243 cited Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction as a primary reason for the use of United State Armed Forces against Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, On January 12, 2005, President Bush officially declared an end to the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq; and,

WHEREAS, this war has cost the U.S. over \$333 billion, the state of Washington \$8.6 billion, Whatcom County \$212.3 million, and the City of Bellingham \$69.5 million while denying U.S. citizens basic rights to healthcare, education, safety; and,

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City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-676-6903

WHEREAS, environmental damage to Iraq has been catastrophic, the destruction of Baghdad and Falluja and the use of uranium-hardened bomb shells being prime examples; and,

WHEREAS, majorities in 10 of 14 foreign countries surveyed say the war in Iraq has made the world a more dangerous place including 60 % of those polled in Great Britain; and,

WHEREAS, 71% of Iraqis favor setting a timeline for U.S. withdrawal, half within six months, stating that it is offensive for their country to be occupied, with U.S. forces attracting more attacks and making violence worse; and,

WHEREAS, Iraq is a sovereign nation and should be free to exercise its right to self-determination, unhampered by outside influence; and,

WHEREAS, war is dehumanizing for all people; and,

WHEREAS, 78 U.S. cities have passed city council resolutions for immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM: that the City Council of Bellingham, on behalf of the citizens of Bellingham, shall urge the united states congress to immediately commence a planned, orderly, and rapid withdrawal of all military personnel from Iraq; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States shall not enter into any base agreement with the government of Iraq that would lead to a permanent US military presence in Iraq; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States will assist with Iraqi reparations as mandated by International humanitarian law outlined in the fourth Geneva Convention; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial resources used to prosecute this war and occupation be redirected to address the needs of our military veterans; and to provide healthcare, housing, and education for those citizens of our own country who are less fortunate and most vulnerable; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bellingham City Council shall send a suitable copy of this resolution to George W. Bush, President of the United States; members of the Washington State Congressional delegation, including our 2nd Congressional District Representative Rick Larsen and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell; and Governor Christine Gregoire.

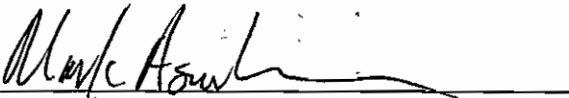
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PASSED by the Council this 9th day of October, 2006.

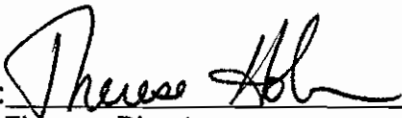


Council President

APPROVED by me this 18th day of October, 2006.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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