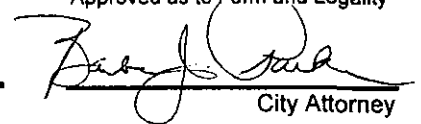


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OAKLAND

2009 JUL -2 PM 1:34

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Council President Brunner

RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN WHO ARE ACTING IN GOOD FAITH TO SECURE THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO TRANSPARENT SELF GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, June 13, 2009, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected to his second term, with the government reporting that he received 63% of the popular vote, despite the most recent public poll indicating a 54% to 39% lead for his challenger, Hossein Mousavi; and

WHEREAS, There have been widespread reports of election day irregularities including voting booths closing early due to a reported shortage of ballots and the country's cellphone and SMS (text messaging) networks going down on election day; and

WHEREAS, The reporting of the election results was highly suspicious with the government claiming that forty million hand-written ballots were counted in the span of twelve hours, and

WHEREAS, The election results showed near uniform results from virtually all regions of Iran, in stark contrast to the widely varying demographics that all previous Iranian elections have displayed; and

WHEREAS, no independent monitors such as the United Nations were allowed to observe the elections process; and

WHEREAS, the current regime under President Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have used less-than-transparent forces such as the security services and the Revolutionary Guard to help administer the election process; and

WHEREAS, Despite great adversity toward those that demonstrate their freedom of speech, millions of Iranians have exercised great feats of courage and creativity toward motivating a new reform movement not seen since the 1978-1979 revolution that toppled the Pahlavi dynasty; and

WHEREAS, There is electricity in the air in Iran as hundreds of thousands of protesters in the streets demanding a clean and fair election, and reforms such as women's rights and freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, The Iranian government has cracked down on these democratic protests, leading to the deaths of protesters, the arrests of hundreds of opposition leaders, continued disruptions of Internet, cellphone and SMS service, and the censoring of both foreign and domestic media; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 400,000 Iranian-Americans living in California, and nearly double that number in the entire United States; many of these eligible expatriates voted or tried to vote by absentee ballot in the recent Iranian presidential election; and

WHEREAS, Similarly to the "citizen diplomacy" strategies deployed between non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War of the 1970s and 1980s, fertile opportunity exists between the peoples of the United States and Iran to foster a new grassroots diplomacy aimed at pursuing peace between both nations and democratic reforms in Iran; and

WHEREAS, Even a "green revolution" in Iran will not happen overnight, and even the best democracies have their worst moments as evidenced by the electoral ascendancy of George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election; only to fuel passions that led to the election of President Barack Obama in 2008; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Oakland City Council urges the Iranian government to respect its people's right to peaceful protest; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council stands in solidarity with the nonviolent creative protests that seek corrective action to voting irregularities in Iran, and respectfully calls upon the Guardian Council and Ayatollah to implement electoral procedures that validate an accountable election process; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council declares its support for the people of Iran who are acting in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self-governance in the wake of the national election of June 13, 2009.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California