

## **RESOLUTION NO. 5593**

### **A RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR THE END OF THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Albany, Oregon and their local elected representatives have the constitutional right to petition the national government on any matter of grave concern to our city, the nation, and the world community; and

WHEREAS, there have been insufficient public forums offered by our representatives at any level of government where citizens can discuss the issues of the Iraq war, and that the media (including newspapers) are providing us with inadequate news (particularly independently researched news) about the war; and

WHEREAS, the Albany City Council and the citizens of Albany respect and honor the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognize the sacrifices that each of them is making; and

WHEREAS, the 156,000 men and women of our Armed Forces serving in Iraq are the sons and daughters of our communities and we are concerned for their well-being and safety; and

WHEREAS, the war in Iraq, now in its sixth year, has caused: a) the deaths of more than 4,000 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis; b) the physical and psychological wounding and disabling of more than 16,000 American soldiers and of tens of thousands of Iraqis; and c) the destruction of the homes, communities, and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis; d) and the displacement of approximately 4 million Iraqis; and

WHEREAS, the current administration has failed to support the material needs of the troops in the field as well as the medical and social services upon their return; and

WHEREAS, important work in building Iraq's infrastructure, economy, and society has not progressed due to dangerous and unstable public security conditions; and

WHEREAS, more than 3 trillion dollars has been appropriated by Congress to fund military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and the cost has now reached \$720,000,000 a day or \$263,520,000,000 for 2008, this means that we in Linn County are indebted for \$116 million dollars (and counting); and

WHEREAS, the cost of deployment and redeployment (for even a third and fourth time) of the Armed Forces to Iraq has been significant, as determined by the loss of lives, combat injuries, psychological trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individual families and businesses, interruption of civilian careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in our community; and,

WHEREAS, Oregonians have joined the National Guard thinking they would be serving their neighbors by helping with Oregon-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to the United States requiring transfer to active duty; and,

WHEREAS, the federalization and deployment of the Oregon National Guard members to the war in Iraq threaten the safety and well being of the citizens of Albany because the Oregon National Guard is being diverted from its legally assigned duties of responding to local emergencies including fires, floods, and earthquakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY DOES:

- 1) Hereby urge the U.S. government to immediately commence planning an orderly, rapid and comprehensive end to the occupation of Iraq; and
- 2) Hereby call upon the President and the Congress of the U.S. to support our troops by ensuring that returning veterans receive compensation and care including full mental and physical health, education, disability, and rehabilitation benefits; and,
- 3) Hereby urge the U.S. government to provide the people of Iraq with diplomatic support and appropriate non-military aid as shall be necessary for the security of Iraq's citizens and for the rebuilding of Iraq; and
- 4) Hereby direct the City of Albany Mayor to forward this resolution immediately to President George W. Bush, Representative Darlene Hooley, Representative Peter DeFazio, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, Governor of Oregon Ted Kulongoski, State Representative Andy Olson, State Senator Frank Morse, the Linn County Board of Commissioners, and to candidates currently seeking nomination for those offices.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2008.

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

  
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Mayor