

# RESOLUTION OPPOSING A UNILATERAL U.S. MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAN

1. WHEREAS, Most independent observers believe the issues between Iran and the world community can still be resolved by traditional diplomatic efforts; and
2. WHEREAS, President Bush and members of his Administration nonetheless have alleged that the Islamic Republic of Iran poses an imminent threat to the United States, U.S. troops in the Middle East and key U.S. allies, including the nation of Israel; and
3. WHEREAS, These allegations are similar to the lead-up to the Iraq War and U.S. occupation, with the selective use of information and unsubstantiated accusations about Iran's nuclear program and its supply of weapons to Iraqi forces as centerpieces of a case to the American people for aggression against Iran; and
4. WHEREAS, We, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, unequivocally support the right of our nation to defend itself and its allies, including the nation of Israel, from any military attack or imminent threat of such attack from Iran or any other nation; and
5. WHEREAS, We also support the efforts of the United States and its allies to prevent the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran from turning Shi'a militia extremists in Iraq into a Hezbollah-like force that could serve its interests inside Iraq; and
6. WHEREAS, We support aggressive diplomatic and economic pressure, including sanctions on Iran, to ensure that Iran does not become a greater threat to the security of the United States and the Middle East region; and
7. WHEREAS, No compelling evidence has been presented at this time to document that Iran poses a real and imminent threat to the security and safety of the United States, Israel, or its allies that would justify an unprovoked unilateral pre-emptive military attack; and
8. WHEREAS, We support the people of Iran who are struggling for freedom and democracy, and nothing herein should be misconstrued as support for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but it should be understood that a unilateral, pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iran could well prove counterproductive to the cause of promoting freedom and democracy there; and
9. WHEREAS, A 2007 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), representing the consensus view of all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, concluded that Iran froze its nuclear weapons program in 2003, and an earlier NIE concluded that Iran's involvement in Iraq "is not likely to be a major driver of violence" there; and
10. WHEREAS, An attack on Iran is likely to cause untold thousands of American and Iranian casualties, lead to a sharp rise in oil prices, further undermine struggling U.S. and world economies, and threaten even greater destabilization in the Middle East; and
11. WHEREAS, A pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iran would violate international law and our commitments under the U.N. Charter and further isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world; and
12. WHEREAS, An attack on Iran is likely to inflame hatred for the U.S. in the Middle East and elsewhere, inspire terrorism, and lessen the security of Americans; and
13. WHEREAS, The Iraq war and occupation has already cost the lives of over 4,000 American soldiers, the maiming and wounding of over 38,000 American soldiers, the death and maiming of over one million Iraqi civilians; and
14. WHEREAS, The Iraq War and occupation has cost the people of the City of Chicago \$5.6 billion, approximately \$112 million for each of its 50 Wards, and deprived our City of much-needed funds for services and infrastructure; and
15. WHEREAS, Any conflict with Iran is likely to incur far greater costs to Chicago and the nation and divert more precious national resources away from critical human needs; and
16. WHEREAS, We give our unconditional support to U.S. military personnel serving at home and abroad in their tireless battle against global terrorism, and should our military forces be sent to battle against Iran, we give our unyielding support to our young men and women serving in our nation's military, even if we oppose the policy that sent them there; now, therefore,
17. BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby urges its Congressional representatives to push the Bush Administration to pursue aggressive diplomacy and economic pressure on Iran to ensure that Iran does not become a greater threat to the security of the Middle East region; and
18. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Chicago urges its Congressional representatives to clearly express the will of the people of Chicago in opposition to a unilateral attack on Iran in the absence of a verified Iranian act of aggression against the U.S., Israel, or any other ally, and
19. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago urges its Congressional representatives to prohibit the use of funds to carry out any military action against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization; and
20. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be forwarded to President George W. Bush and all members of the Chicago Congressional delegation.