



Maxwell Anderson
Councilmember District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 29, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Max Anderson, District 3
Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2
Subject: Support of Congo Week October 18 – 24, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting Congo Week for the Bay Area Friends of the Congo (BAFOTC) in the City of Berkeley.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NONE

BACKGROUND

BAFOTC is a group of leading San Francisco Bay Area entrepreneurs, activists, artists and like-minded folks dedicated to ending conflict in the Congo. BAFOTC hosts a listserv, plans awareness raising events and engages in advocacy efforts around the Congo in the San Francisco Bay Area.

BAFOTC is a sister group to the Washington D.C. based Friends of the Congo (FOTC), a 501c3 organization working to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since 1996 nearly six million children, women, and men have died in the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to conflict and hundreds of thousands more have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity, and Congolese deaths continue today at the rate of 45,000 each month.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Max Anderson, District 3
Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2

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RESOLUTION NO. XXXXX

SUPPORTING CONGO WEEK FOR THE BAY AREA FRIENDS OF THE CONGO

WHEREAS, adoption of Congo Week October 18-24, 2009 for the BAY Area Friends of the Congo (BAFOTC); and

WHEREAS, Congo week calls for peace, justice and national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

WHEREAS, offers condolences for the lost lives and moral support for the survivors; and

WHEREAS, calls for the protection of the environment and endangered species in the Congo; and

WHEREAS, calls for an end to conflict and for the support by world leaders and people of good will across the globe in this effort; and

WHEREAS, call for the wrongful exploitation of the Congolese peoples' resources, recognizing that these resources should not be a curse but rather a blessing, and that the Congolese people are the rightful beneficiaries of their great natural wealth; and

WHEREAS, encourages the community to observe this week by connecting with friends, fellow employees, and relatives as well as religious, school, and civic groups, to encourage in projects benefiting the people of the Congo; and

WHEREAS, supports community efforts in bringing this conflict to an end through education, policy and advocacy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it directs the City Clerk to send the attached letter to US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and President Barack Obama, with a copy to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Attachment:

Background references:

New York Review of Books: “Kagame’s Hidden War in the Congo” Sep 24, 2009
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/23054>

Friends of the Congo (national)
<http://www.friendsofthecongo.org>

Bay Area Friends of the Congo:
<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/285341?m=de0957a2>

Dear Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton,

Since 1996 nearly six million children, women, and men have died in the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to conflict and hundreds of thousands more have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity. Today, Congolese deaths continue at the rate of 45,000 each month.

These crimes against humanity threaten the peace, security and well-being of the Congo and its people, and those responsible for such crimes have largely gone unpunished.

The United Nations has named the Congo as the deadliest conflict in the world since World War Two.

For these reasons, the Berkeley City Council communicates its grave concern for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We urge that:

- a) There be no use of the US military in the Congo.
- b) The US make a priority of supporting local Congolese institutions with a proven record of delivering services to the people.
- c) The US government hold US corporations accountable for their actions in the Congo.
- d) The US play a key role in facilitating a political-economic framework for ending the conflicts in the Congo and the African Great Lakes region and relieving the tremendous suffering of the region's women, children and men.
- e) The US hold its allies Rwanda and Uganda accountable for their actions in the Congo.

Berkeley City Council
Berkeley, California

Cc:
President Barack Obama
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon