RESOLUTION #08-10

A Resolution of the Albany City Council supporting House Bill 808 to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2007, House Bill 808 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, which to date has garnered the sponsorship of sixty-eight (68) members of the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will establish a cabinet-level department that will be headed by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both domestic and international in scope, giving peace-building a place, voice and budget at the highest levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by holding peace as an organizing principle for American society, and by providing adequate funding for peace-building initiatives which aim to change the tone of society from a culture of disrespect and violence towards a culture of respect and nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by supporting existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, gun violence, racial or ethnic violence, and hate crimes which will assist members of our Police Department in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters especially while making routine runs; and
WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by developing and distributing to the states and their schools a peace and nonviolence curriculum with supportive materials for building communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict resolution, and knowledge of mediation procedures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by encouraging and supporting development of conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within the community, including its religious and non-governmental organizations, thus creating greater community involvement and thereby a strong, stable, cohesive civil society throughout the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, such support will enhance and build upon the violence prevention initiatives and successes in Albany; and

WHEREAS, many local government agencies, including, but not limited to: Atlanta, Georgia; Berkeley, California; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Kauai, Hawaii; Los Angeles, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Newark, New Jersey; Oakland, California; Palo Alto, California; Portland, Oregon; San Francisco, California; San Jose, California; and Santa Cruz, California have passed similar resolutions in support of the enactment of the proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Non-Violence would promote peace before war and mass destruction, so that a large portion of our valuable resources now spent on the military and reconstruction could be redirected to funding improvements to education, health care, infrastructure and reduction of poverty at home and throughout the world; and
WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation should enhance but not limit education, mediation and violence prevention initiatives undertaken by Albany municipal government, the Albany Unified School District, and other local community agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albany City Council adopts this resolution in favor of enactment of House Bill 808 to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Albany urges U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to introduce a companion Bill into the United States Senate to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence and actively support its passage.

Robert S. Lieber, Mayor
RESOLUTION NO. 08-10

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,
this 3rd day of March 2008, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Okawachi, Wile & Mayor Lieber

NOES: None

ABSENT: None


[Signature]

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future.