

PUBLIC DISCUSSION DRAFT
Revised December 9, 2011

RESOLUTION No.

Establish as a position of the Portland City Council that a preference that misdirected funds to continue wars in Iraq and Afghanistan be redirected to domestic priorities, including pressing needs in the City of Portland.

WHEREAS, every member of the Portland City Council and the Portlanders we represent support our brave men and women in uniform and their families; and,

WHEREAS, the drawdown of troops should be done in a measured way that does not destabilize the region and that can accelerate the transfer of responsibility to regional authorities; and,

WHEREAS, the drawdown should include the removal of the thousands of military contractors that the United States has funded and cancellations of their contracts which have caused additional drain on our nation's economy; and,

WHEREAS, in June 2011, the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution calling for the ending of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and redirect military spending to domestic priorities; and,

WHEREAS, the severity of the ongoing economic crisis has created budget shortfalls at all levels of government and requires us to re-examine our national spending priorities; and,

WHEREAS, as long as the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest remain intact, the American financial system will not sustain the costs associated with domestic and foreign priorities; and,

WHEREAS, the people of the United States are collectively paying approximately \$126 billion dollars per year to wage war in Iraq and Afghanistan; and,

WHEREAS, 6,328 members of the US armed forces to date have died in these wars; and at least 120,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since the coalition attacks began; and,

WHEREAS, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley submitted an amendment, which was adopted in the U.S. Senate as part of the Defense authorization bill, urging the President to expedite the reduction in U.S. forces in Afghanistan and to make periodic reports to Congress on the progress of that plan; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council supports efforts to speed up the ending of these wars; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, every member of the Portland City Council and the Portlanders we represent support our brave men and women in uniform and their families; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council calls on the President and U.S. Congress to end the wars as soon as strategically possible and immediately redirect these war dollars home to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, rebuild our infrastructure, aid municipal and state governments, and develop a new economy based upon renewable, sustainable energy and reduce the federal debt.

Adopted by the Council:

Mayor Sam Adams

Prepared by: Clay Neal and Jennifer Yocom

Date Prepared: [Date]

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Deputy