

CITY COUNCIL
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, August 1, 2005
Civic Center - Room 2402
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aldermen Bernstein, Holmes, Jean-Baptiste, Moran and Tisdahl

STAFF PRESENT: Kathleen Brenniman, Doug Gaynor, Vincent Jones, Jay Terry, Audrey Trotsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Township Assessor Sharon Eckersall, Rosemary Jean-Paul, Township, (See Attached list of Attendees)

PRESIDING: Alderman Moran

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alderman Moran called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and announced the meeting will be moved to the Council Chambers to better accommodate all those in attendance. The meeting resumed in the Council Chambers at 7:19 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2005 MEETING

The minutes of July 18, 2005 MEETING were called and unanimously accepted (5-0).

III. CONSIDERATION OF JULY 2005 TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BILLS

Alderman Bernstein moved approval, seconded by Alderman Tisdahl. Alderman Jean-Baptiste proposed a motion to hold the bills and not take any action at the committee level until some information is received from the Legal Department regarding the status of the legal bills. The legal bills are included in the Township Bills and he would therefore ask they be held to be finalized at Council level.

Alderman Holmes questioned how the Assessor's total was arrived at. The current sheet shows \$4328.45 paid on June 21st and an amount of \$2420.02 which adds up to \$6748.47, yet the bill dated June 19th shows new charges of \$182.00 which includes \$22.00 paid by Ms. Weidman for a deposition. **Alderman Moran noted there are a number of questions regarding the legal bills and called for Alderman Jean-Baptiste's motion to approve the Township bills with the exception of the legal bills in relation to the Assessor's office for which further clarification will be sought in consultation with the City's Legal Department. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

IV. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 44-R-05 IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING THE NORTH SHORE LAKE MICHIGAN CITIES INITIATIVES

Alderman Bernstein asked Mr. Gaynor if there is anything we might have a different opinion with regard to our use of the lakefront. Mr. Gaynor responded this is a resolution of cooperation that does not obligate us financially or on any individual issues. Alderman Moran said his interpretation of this is by entering into this resolution we are agreeing to cooperate and collaborate with other communities, but are not bound as a City in respect to whatever those other communities think the City of Evanston should do with its lakefront. Mr. Gaynor said Alderman Moran's interpretation was correct.

Alderman Tisdahl wanted to know who goes to the meetings to determine what these positions are. Mr. Gaynor responded these are annual meetings and there has not been any issues discussed per se. He attends the meetings on behalf of the Mayor. Alderman Tisdahl asked if there will be more frequent meetings after this resolution is signed, to which Mr. Gaynor responded, at the last meeting there was no plan on having more than one meeting, unless an issue arises that needs to be addressed. Alderman Tisdahl hoped the group would become more active.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste suggested one of the issues we try to maintain is the North Shore Channel. The Environmental Board had been working to see how they can get greater usage out of the canal as part of the problem has been the water flow. There is not enough water flow to clean the water to allow for uses beyond what it's currently been used for. One of the problems with water flow is how much water is allowed to flow into the canal and he would suggest we put this issue on the table on behalf of Evanston. Since we have a number of potential benefits in participating in this collaboration he would add, as one of them, the exploration of improvement of the quality of North Shore Channel water. Mr. Gaynor said he will certainly bring that to the table and would point out the channel ends at the south end of Wilmette and is therefore a

matter of Lake Michigan water and Wilmette. It does not affect all of the North Shore communities listed on the resolution, but he definitely will make sure any issues that would provide better water quality for the channel are addressed. Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked to make sure the Environmental Board is consulted, to which Mr. Gaynor added they will be involved.

Alderman Moran called for a motion in support of Resolution 44-R-05 establishing the North Shore Lake Michigan Cities initiatives. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

V. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY EVANSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD THAT THE EVANSTON CITY COUNCIL ENDORSE A PROPOSED INDOOR SMOKING BAN IN CHICAGO

Don Ziegler, 1430 Elmwood, Vice Chair of the Evanston Community Health Advisory Board, said this Board passed a resolution to support smoke free Chicago and brings that information to the City Council urging that they do that as well. One of the rationales for Evanston to turn down the request of the Health Advisory Board last year for all businesses to go smoke free was the allegation that businesses in Evanston would lose business because smokers would go into Chicago. We're calling on the City Council to support a smoke free Chicago as many other organizations are doing that as a major effort by the American Cancer Society. Four organizations in Evanston have already endorsed the resolution for smoke free Chicago, Second Baptist Church, The Evanston Community Health Advisory Board, Evanston Northwestern Health Care, and the School Based Health Center at the High School. A sentiment amongst the City Council members last year was to go to Springfield for a smoke free Illinois, one way to get there is through smoke free Chicago. Mr. Ziegler distributed copies of the endorsement that was signed by the Community Health Advisory Board (**Attachment #1.**), and urged his committee endorse and pass it on to the City Council.

Alderman Bernstein said he has had lengthy conversations with Mr. Ziegler about this issue when they have agreed to disagree and unfortunately he will do so again tonight. He was among those who brought up the concern about a lack of a level playing field if in fact Chicago was allowing smoking and Evanston restaurants across the border were to disallow smoking. It would be a bit disingenuous of him as an alderman of the City of Evanston who voted against this in his City to try to impose his will on aldermen of another municipality. The City of Evanston is part of the state and in conscience cannot support this. He does not frequent restaurants that allow smoking, but we are not going to re-litigate that issue here. He would love to see a smoke free Illinois as that would take it off all our platters. Some Council members were in favor and perhaps you can get to the floor that way.

Alderman Tisdahl said she supported this before and supports it now and could easily move that we sign the sheet for individuals to sign up. She asked Mr. Ziegler if he proposed that the Evanston City Council endorse the organization endorsement sheet as well. If so she would say the part "By taking the smoke-free Chicago pledge I recognize that..." is okay, but would take out "The restaurant business, bar business and tourism will not be damaged if smoke-free laws are enacted." She could agree that tourism will not be damaged but having had our City Council vote that the restaurant and bar business will be, it would be hard for us to then vote, even though she did not agree with that vote. **Alderman Tisdahl noted it would be hard for to take that position, but we could certainly agree to this and almost all of the endorsement and moved that we do so.** Alderman Moran called for a second to Alderman Tisdahl's motion; there was no second to the motion. Alderman Moran told Mr. Ziegler his efforts are appreciated and everyone on the committee respects his statement. His own interpretation of this is we are not here to speak for the City Council of the City of Chicago they will have to address that issue in their own right. Alderman Moran thanked Mr. Ziegler for his attendance and said his advocacy which has been constant and enduring is appreciated and the committee understands his perspective.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE EVANSTON NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE RESOLUTION FOR WITHDRAWN OF TROOPS FROM IRAQ OR TO END OUR INVOLVEMENT IN WAR

Bonnie Wilson, President of the Democratic Part of Evanston, presented a resolution calling for the end to the Iraq occupation and withdrawal of U.S. Troops. (**Ms. Wilson's remarks are attached, Attachment #2.**)

Susan Schell, Democratic Party of Evanston Board Member, began by saying although she is a member of the Democratic Party of Evanston this is not a Democratic or Republican issue, it is an American issue. (**Ms. Schell's remarks are attached, Attachment #3.**)

Dickelle Fonda, representing Neighbors for Peace, a grassroots peace activist group formed in Evanston four years ago following 9/11 and before the invasion of Afghanistan. (**Ms Fonda's statement is attached, Attachment #4.**)

Autumn Franger, representing Lake Street Church of Evanston, the Peace and Justice Committee, as they feel a profound obligation to go on record as opposing the undeclared Iraqi war. (**Ms. Franger's statement is attached, Attachment #5.**)

Marjorie Fujara, Pediatrician, mother, Evanston resident and a member of Code Pink. Code Pink is a grassroots peace and focus movement initiative about women whose goals are through non violent protest and direct action. They enthusiastically support the resolution before the committee tonight and they now know the case for going to war rested on falsehoods and resulted in suffering not increased security. Suffering for thousands of Iraqi children and suffering for American service men and women not far from childhood themselves. As stated so eloquently in this resolution the war in Iraq casts an unfit burden on tax payers at the expense of our schools, libraries and health care. It is critical for the citizens of Evanston to exercise their right to act to descent from this ill conceived and destructive policy and make our voices heard loud and clear. They urge passing this resolution to the full City Council.

Kyle Schafer, Co-President of Peace Project a Northwestern University student group composed of Northwestern Opposing War and Racism, Students for Economic, Justice and the Protest magazine. **(Mr. Schafer's statement is attached, Attachment #6.**

Peter Green, 15 Martha Lane, agrees with about everything in the resolution except for one line, the Iraqi's are in the midst of negotiating a constitution. Something that can only succeed if it can be done in as much spirit as can be mustered of accommodation and compromise. The date on this withdrawal, as soon as possible, could have the effect of making some insurgents feel good towards us, but there is a greater risk of making them feel we are retreating under pressure of the latest events and will harden the line by causing more violence. To be most effective it is to be put on hold for a short time until that process is done and it will gain more support from a lot of the public that doesn't support that position now.

Dick Solen, 824 Ridge Terrace, involved in Christian Social Ethics at Derek Seminary has been on the Board of North Suburban Peace Initiative since 1980. One thing we ought to be aware of on this issue is there is a commitment of the majority of people in Evanston for this kind of statement. In the fall of 2002 neighbors worked together getting signatures on petitions to send to Congress. In a very short time they got over 7,000 signatures with very little opposition. They brought in speakers for forums that attracted hundreds of people. Last January they took a full page ad where people paid \$20 each to get into all of the weekly papers from Evanston through Highland Park and suburbs to the west. In a two week period of time we got 450 people signed up for this ad that said things that were not easy to sign onto in our society. **(Copy of ad is attached, Attachment #7.)** He should say to the previous speaker that it is becoming clearer and clearer and there are more studies based on interviews coming out of Iraq that everyday the U.S. occupation continues it draws more and more insurgents into Iraq and then into the troops of terrorists around the world. Most of those coming into Iraq, including suicide bombers, did not find themselves committed to Al Qaeda or that process until we were in Iraq. Then it became that the American occupation is creating the very instability that we are seeking to eliminate. For the past 15 years he has marched in the Evanston 4th of July Parade under various peace matters and there was always a polite support. This year it was just one continuous applause all the way down the street, clapping, shouting, and waving banners. He trusts you will affirm this out of your own conscious and out of a moral conviction but also thinks you should adopt it as genuine representatives of this community.

Doug Hostetter, 731 South Boulevard, Lecturer in Sociology at Northwestern University, is here this evening as a representative of the Evanston Mennonite Church at 736 Dobson, where is a Peace Pastor. Mennonites have been resisting wars and working to build communities for almost 500 years. He was a conscientious objector during the Viet Nam War but chose to do his alternate service in Viet Nam by doing literacy work for 3 years. During that time he watched the American Air Force destroy many of his friends and neighbors and watched what it did to the American soldiers and to the Viet Nameese civilians. While there he started a literacy program for high school students teaching 4,000 children how to read and write their own language. Today those children are friends of his, one of which he has recently seen and is a University Professor giving guest lectures in American Universities. The longer we were in Viet Nam the more enemies we created. He thought by the time we left there American had learned something, now 30 years later we are repeating it again. He has been to Iraq reaching out to help civilians and knows we will make many more friends in Iraq or anywhere else by meeting the real needs of those people. Wars destroy people on all sides; there are more Viet Nam Veterans that have died of drug overdoses, alcoholism and suicide after the war than were killed during the war. Almost one third of all American Veterans that came back from Iraq have serious mental problems within 3 months of their return. Malnutrition has doubled since the American war started in Iraq. The war is also destroying us here in our own communities. The Mennonites are involved in a community project for more than a decade dealing with Section 8 for the elderly. In July the U.S. government did not make their Section 8 payments and when they were called about it said the seniors would eventually get the money but they didn't have the money now. He knows where that money went, you know where it went, it went to destroy the livelihood of the people in Iraq. We need to change that.

Leane Casten, 1030 Asbury said a lot of you have talked about what the ethics or history does to people. She has not yet heard one person talk about the Downing Street Memo, something that was written well before Iraq was invaded. It was a decision to invade Iraq and when 9/11 came they had their excuse. It was an act of a profound lie and they went to war because they wanted to go to war from the get go. This is a war of opportunity, a war where millions and millions of

dollars have gone into black holes for which there is absolutely no accountability. We have sprayed the areas with depleted uranium, a story that will not get main stream coverage. Little Iraqi children are not going to live till the age of 5 because of childhood leukemia. We have a higher rate of return of dying veterans than any war yet recorded because they have been exposed to depleted uranium. The military come back to poor care if any; some veterans wait 6 months before they even get near a V.A. hospital. The military has admitted to 500 deserters, she knows there are 1,500 and more which the military is too embarrassed to admit. What we are talking about is a war that is based on lies; it's an opportunity war that will allow some people to profit at the expense of thousands. Iraqis and Americans will be permanently damaged by what we have done to this country and who has never done anything to us. She urges this committee to accept the resolution.

John Bushnell, 1805 Crain, representing Northwestern University Faculty Against the War in Iraq. He can agree with almost everything that has been said before and has been getting email endorsements of the petition submitted to the committee from faculty as far away as South Korea. This is a grievously mistaken war launched with provocation by an invasive government and a war that one retired general after another is now telling us we can't win. An issue already troubling many people is now that we have broken Iraq don't we have an obligation to stay long enough to fix it. This is a plausible thing to worry about. If we withdraw now won't that mean that the insurgents will get out of control take over and make a government in Baghdad impossible to establish. The Kurds will then succeed and form their own independent Kurdistan that the Shiites in the south will then have very little choice but to form their own independent Shiite land and then there will be a continual conflict within the country. That may be a bad outcome but that's probably the best outcome that we can hope for right now. If they can reconcile the differences that they have there is certainly no way the United States can do it for them which now seems to be the reason why some people are dragging their feet in the hope that somehow we can establish stability that the Iraqis cannot do for themselves. He does not know if the desire to hold Iraq together as a single country is a reason to send Americans over to be killed and to kill more Iraqis which will only stir up more people against us. What is the point of City Council allowing a public debate and then voting on a resolution. A small majority of the American people are against the war and yet this opposition, if we go back to compare it with the Viet Nam era has been strangely muted. There are very few voices at the national level which are calling for any decisive action to get out of this disastrous mistake that we have created for ourselves. It is cities which are adopting a resolution calling for withdrawal that is our only hope. It is political leadership at the local level expressing the clear sentiment of the people where they live that may finally give our senators and representatives the courage to recognize that the patriotic and politically intelligent thing to do is to begin to attempt to force the Bush administration to break out of this war.

Katie Dahlsing, 737 Reba Place, the organizer of the Evanston Women in Black Movement, which began in 1988 in Israel and has become a global movement of women standing publicly mourning the death and suffering of women and children who are victims of war. Our numbers continue to grow and many women are coming out to stand and mourn silently and carry signs that tell our community we don't want to support this war. She has never seen a community so opposed to war and believes that it would be in the spirit of our community to pass this resolution to bring our troops home.

Madeline Goldstein, 817 Mulford, has a scar from a young man who came back from Viet Nam pained and dazed who beat her, raped her and left her to die. Her generation was ruined and her daughter's generation will be affected by the young people coming back to this country killing their wives and killing themselves. They all have post traumatic stress disorder, missing limbs, nightmares, and are not getting medical care. They are coming back full of depleted uranium and for generations to come their children will suffer from that. It is imperative that we get out of this illegal, immoral war that was created through lies to get the resources of the Iraq people. It is imperative that we take a stand for generations to come and she supports the resolution to go to full Council.

Fortuno Leon, President Evanston Latino Organization, has spoken to several of his neighbors who all say we must agree to end this war. From his perspective he feels there are some agencies in our government that are miserably failing America. They need to guarantee our safety, certain rights and pursuit of happiness. These agencies have portrayed us before the world as an oppressive nation. He endorses the initiative of this resolution because he wants to urge the federal government to make better use of our tax money in helping people implement skill, and to engage in dialogues with corporations and countries about their right to preserve peace and prosperity for all.

Anya Cordell, lives in the 60203 zip code. After September 11th she became consumed with the hate backlash directed towards Arabs and Muslims and beyond that Shiites, Hindus, and Latinos, just somebody that someone looked at irrationally. She became intimately acquainted with families of men who were murdered after September 11th, portraits of grief which the media was not covering. There are a lot of other portraits of grief that we should be focusing on that have been eluded to and also spoken about very eloquently tonight. She can't sit with the way we've gone to war in the past. We all know the names that were given to groups so that it was easier to kill them, names that demeaned and diminished whole groups of people. We're told that Iran and Iraq and North Korea are the axis of evil. We were told we don't do body counts in this war so many people had hideous atrocities happen to them. We are creating more Timothy McFays; we are engaged in an endless cycle of creating the things we most undermine, everything that we care about in life. We are

going to face a draft; we all know that's the direction that we're heading. We have to do something otherwise we will be the ones looking back and saying what did we do when this nightmare was being waged in our name.

Ellen Alexander, member of the Peace Dialogue of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation. The message is this is not a small part of Evanston, this is not a minority view, this is Evanston. Sometimes you need to have courage; this is not a federal case but a local matter. You're being asked to be courageous tonight and reflect the will of this community and we hope that you will.

Schona Buranda, Chair of the Human Relations Commission, is here on behalf of the Commission. Everything she would have liked to have said has been said already. She wanted to implore you and echo our sentiments already said, we are strongly in support of the resolution and urge the Council to please adopt this resolution for the betterment of everybody.

Alderman Bernstein could not conceive there is any opposition to a resolution. In reflecting back to January 2002 when we passed a resolution asking to stop the war that was imminent. He has had conversations with some of the drafters of the resolution with respect to particular items of the resolution. He does not want to bog it down with subjective kinds of considerations. The underlying fact is this is not a courageous act, it's something that has to be done. In his personal opinion the war has legitimized fanaticism. He would move that we forward a resolution of some type, but it will not get to the Council before September. We're living on an island in Evanston and have a tendency to forget what's happening in the rest of the world to the extent that our voice can be raised to create this critical mass that someone spoke about and which he thinks we should do. The only problem he has with the City Council is that we haven't done this sooner. He wants to convey that the spirit of the resolution is the people of the City of Evanston want us out of Iraq. Staff prepared the January 2002 resolution when we asked not to go into Iraq which was pretty generic to the extent that we kept it objective no subjective statements that people could deliberate about and diminish the effectiveness of the message. The message is the City of Evanston City Council should indicate its opinion that the people of the City of Evanston are requiring its government to get us out of Iraq.

Alderman Bernstein moved to have City staff prepare a resolution, the import of which is that the City of Evanston wants America out of Iraq now, which in principle says the City Council of Evanston wants America out of Iraq now. Alderman Jean-Baptiste said he would add that we take significantly from the resolutions that have been presented to the committee and draft something as quickly as possible for us to deliberate over, discuss among ourselves, get comfortable with the language and advance. Alderman Holmes seconded the motion.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste remarked that some of us had some concerns about making sure that some of the statements of fact were actually things that we can document in terms of the cost of the war and the number of lives that were lost. Alderman Moran asked if the suggestion is that this resolution that is to be prepared by staff will be returned to the Human Services Committee? Alderman Jean-Baptiste said he would not return it to the Human Services Committee as the next meeting is in September, but would suggest we get it to the Council and try to build consensus with whatever language is proposed and move the process forward at that level. Alderman Tisdahl thought we would build consensus a lot quicker with a lot fewer whereas clauses.

Alderman Moran asked if staff feels comfortable with the direction that has been given. Mr. Terry said based on the comments the committee has made we can come with a draft which he would then propose be circulated at first to the five members of this committee to let us know if there is some language they feel is missing or detrimental to consensus, then forward it to City Council under this committee's name.

Alderman Moran had some comments but said he would withhold them and look forward to the resolution as it's prescribed and brought forward to the City Council. **Alderman Moran called for a vote on the motion for a resolution to end the war in Iraq, motion passed 4-1, (Aldermen Bernstein, Holmes, Jean-Baptiste voted aye, Alderman Moran, Committee Chair, voted no.)**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Trotsky, Department of Health and Human Services

