

January 23, 2003

Dear Councilmembers,

At our January 27th committee meeting, I will be bringing forward the enclosed resolution opposing a war against Iraq. I have also included:

- a list of the 42 cities who have passed similar ordinances.
- a letter by Chicago alderman Joe Moore concerning the local effects of war.
- a news article about Chicago's recent passage of a similar resolution.

At a time when our country is preparing for a war that will risk the lives of our service men and women, will kill tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis in country where one fourth of its entire population has died of war and sanction related deaths in the past 12 years, and will cost an estimated \$100 billion per year according to the Congressional Budget Office, I hope you will support this resolution.

We do not live in a vacuum. War endangers our own citizens and residents of Urbana. Our state, our schools, and our city face serious budget crises which could be alleviated by a fraction of these war funds. Residents of Urbana will not be immune to the consequences of unpopular unilateral measures of violence that violate international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It is clear that the federal administration is currently weighing popular opinion in deciding whether to pursue diplomatic means or declare war in our dealings with Iraq.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this resolution. I invite you to contact me this weekend with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

Thank you.

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Resolution Opposing War Against Iraq

WHEREAS, the issues between Iraq and the world community have not proven to be irresolvable by traditional diplomatic efforts;

WHEREAS, the United States is obliged, legally and ethically, to solve international problems in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

WHEREAS, a war with Iraq will jeopardize the lives of American soldiers and will kill many innocent Iraqi civilians, without guaranteeing the safety and security of U.S. citizens;

WHEREAS, past military conflict in the region resulted in widespread environmental destruction and long term health problems for Iraqis and U.S. soldiers, the effects of which have not yet been mitigated or understood;

WHEREAS, the ultimate security of the residents of Urbana and the United States at large is dependent upon working cooperatively with all nations to eliminate poverty, injustice, inequality, environmental degradation and other factors that breed war and terrorism;

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimates a military action against Iraq will cost our nation between \$9 and \$13 billion a month, resulting in further cuts in federally funded projects and programs that benefit our city and its residents;

WHEREAS, the costs of war and the accompanying ballooning deficits could have significant impact on the residents of the State of Illinois, which is facing the 4th worst budget crisis in the country, the school districts of the state, 80% of which face budget crises this year, and the city of Urbana which predicts revenue loss this year;

WHEREAS, The billions of dollars to be spent on this war could much better be spent on schools, nutrition, health care, housing, infrastructure improvements, and generally eliminating poverty;

WHEREAS, There is growing opposition to war against Iraq given that: forty-two cities to date have enacted anti-war resolutions; an estimated 250,000 rallied in Washington recently to prevent war; the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, World Council of Churches, NAACP and numerous unions oppose the war; and local peace demonstrations have averaged once a week for over a year;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Urbana and its local elected officials have the constitutional right to petition the national government on this matter of grave concern to our community as part of the national and international debate now underway;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana, oppose a U.S. invasion of Iraq; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the U.S. to work through the U.N. Security Council and reaffirm our nation's commitment to the rule of law in all international relationships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the U.S. to help alleviate the budget crises faced by the majority of the states, and increase federal social service funding to municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney, Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Senators Peter Fitzgerald and Richard Durbin, U.S. Representative Tim Johnson, and local members of the Illinois House and Senate.

Signed this day _____ by _____.

Cities that have passed resolutions opposing war against Iraq

Illinois

* Chicago

* Evanston

(additionally Charleston, DeKalb, and Oak Park are all considering resolutions)

California

* Arcata

* Berkeley

* Oakland

* San Francisco

* San Luis Obispo

* Santa Barbara

* Santa Cruz

* Sebastopol

Colorado

* Boulder

* Telluride

Connecticut

* New Haven

* Salisbury

Indiana

* Gary

Iowa

* Des Moines

Maryland

* Baltimore

* Takoma Park

Massachusetts

* Brookline

* Northampton

* Somerville

Michigan

* Ann Arbor

* Detroit

* Ferndale

* Kalamazoo

- * Traverse City

New York

- * Danby
- * Ithaca
- * New Paltz
- * Rosendale
- * Syracuse
- * Woodstock

North Carolina

- * Carrboro

Oregon

- * Corvallis
- * Eugene

Pennsylvania

- * Haines Township
- * Philadelphia
- * York

Washington

- * Seattle

Washington, DC

Wisconsin

- * Madison

Vermont

- * Burlington

Councilmembers, the underlines are mine - Danielle

Below is my response to the Sun-Times editorial criticizing the City Council resolution on Iraq. Hopefully, they will print it in full. Please feel free to forward it to whomever you wish.

Joe Moore, Alderman, 49th Ward

December 7, 2002

Letters-to-the-Editor Chicago Sun-Times

To the Editor:

I must take issue with your recent editorial criticizing the City Council resolution that opposes a preemptive U.S. military strike in Iraq ("A Premature Leap Into World Affairs," Dec. 4). While I certainly will not question your description (albeit tongue in cheek) of life in the 49th Ward, I do strongly challenge your claim that the resolution has no relevance to the city of Chicano.

According to the Congressional Budget Office a military adventure against Iraq will cost our nation between \$9 and \$13 billion a month. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences estimates the war and post-war occupation of Iraq could cost as much as \$1.9 trillion over a 10-year period. Just where does the Sun-Times think the money will come from? From an increase in taxes? Of course not. President Bush has reaffirmed his intention to make permanent his trillion dollar tax cut plan. No, the war will be financed by deficit spending and drastic cuts in domestic spending. In either case, my neighborhood and the city of Chicago will suffer the consequences of a sagging economy and even more cuts in federally funded projects and programs. Just about every initiative that improves the quality of life of Chicago residents is supported at least in part by federal dollars- affordable housing, transportation, health care, childcare, education, public safety, and energy bill assistance for low-income families. The list goes on and on. These programs are already suffering reductions in funding, and will suffer even more dramatic cuts if our nation finances a war against Iraq.

And it is Chicago's sons and daughters who will be recruited, perhaps even conscripted, to fight that war. Given the very dire

consequences that waging an unprovoked war on Iraq would have on Chicago's neighborhoods, the members of the City Council are at least as qualified as newspaper editorial writers to weigh in on this important foreign affairs issue.

The 24 aldermen who now sponsor the City Council resolution certainly support our nation's right to defend itself when its security is at real risk. Our leaders in Washington have yet to make the case, however, that such an imminent danger exists. Where is the evidence that we are in more danger of an attack by Iraqi weapons of mass destruction than, say, North Korean weapons of mass destruction? Yet there is no talk of a preemptive strike against North Korea.

The arguments against a hasty rush into war are not those of college sophomores, as your editorial claims, but belong to well-known foreign policy "hawks," such as James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, Brent Scowcroft and General Norman Schwarzkopf. They all have cautioned against a hasty U.S. military exercise against Iraq and have urged the president to first pursue a policy of diplomacy and containment (a policy, by the way, that worked for forty years against a far more serious threat posed by the Soviet Union). It is that same thoughtful and deliberate approach to the Iraqi crisis that my colleagues and I are advocating through our resolution.

Very truly yours,

Alderman Joe Moore 49th Ward