

Vancouver Peace Forum at Risk - Contact City Council

Posted by

Monday, 28 March 2005 03:12 - Last Updated Monday, 28 March 2005 03:12

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PEJ News: We need your help immediately. The World Peace Forum 2006 is at risk! Email, fax and/or call Mayor Larry Campbell to tell him you expect that he and the full Vancouver City Council will support the World Peace Forum 2006 at the City Council Meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2005 at 9:30 am. Plan to be there on March 31st to show your support for the World Peace Forum 2006 - Vancouver City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver. The entire Vancouver City Council voted in principle to support the World Peace Forum 2006 in 2004, now it is at risk of being derailed by the city bureaucracy. The B.C. Federation of Labour and the Vancouver and District Labour Council both support the Forum.

From: "Elsie Dean" <ewdean@telus.net>

Subject: Van.Peace Forum at risk contact City Council

Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2005 16:55:50 -0800

Dear Friends:

We need your help! World Peace Forum 2006 At Risk! Please circulate this as broadly as possible.

On March 15, 2005 the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) of the City of Vancouver Peace and Justice Committee and the World Peace Forum Society delivered our solid proposal to convene the World Peace Forum 2006 in Vancouver June 23 - 28, 2005 in conjunction with the City of Vancouver and the World Urban Forum. The full proposal, which we have been working on for over the past year, runs 43 pages with 120 pages of appendices. Background documentation can be found on the Vancouver Peace and Justice website - www.peaceandjustice.ca. Despite the substantive work done in refining the proposal in cooperation with the Mayor's office, the City Manager has issued a report that will effectively kill the World Peace Forum 2006 if it is adopted by Vancouver City Council. Should that happen we believe that the City will then attempt to simply convene a meeting of civic politicians and bureaucrats from world cities in conjunction with the World Urban Forum, thereby cutting out the WPF 2006, civil society and social movements entirely. We cannot let this happen.

The World Urban Forum, an UN conference, will conclude the day before the start of the World Peace Forum 2006. From the outset we have designed the WPF 2006 to be complementary to the WUF. The theme for the WPF 2006 "Cities and Communities: Working together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World" has caught the imagination of people and organizations

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around the world. Significant global organizations have decided to hold their meetings in Vancouver in June 2006 in order to dovetail with the work of the World Peace Forum 2006: International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors For Peace, the Joint Meeting of IAPMC & MFP, Canadian Pugwash AGM, UN Association of Canada National Meeting, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War General Meeting and the World Federalist Movement Annual Conference. The Dalai Lama has recently contacted us indicating he wishes to participate in the World Peace Forum 2006.

Bringing civic governments together with civil society and social movements internationally to strategize on peace and sustainability is an historic first. We hope it is not the last. Cities and local authorities, acting with community support, can effectively contest global militarism and curtail ballooning military budgets which starve local and regional governments of the resources necessary to provide quality housing, health, education and community services. The challenge is to coordinate the networks of civic and social movements to work towards a peaceful, just and sustainable world, city by city, expanding to nations and internationally.

We are asking the City to commit \$150,000 towards the WPF 2006 \$2.18 M budget as well as host a joint meeting between the WUF, the WPF 2006, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and Mayors for Peace. The Simons Foundation committed \$100,000 towards development of the World Peace Forum 2006 proposal and is prepared to commit a further \$350,000 contingent on Vancouver City support. The City-contracted consultants, upon which the City Manager's report is based, which is more balanced, concluded that "the current Plan put forward by the JSC sets out requests of the City that are manageable, and consistent with activities endorsed by past Councils". The report recommends the City 1) commit to organizing civic leaders' meetings with final approval subject to further planning; 2) formally endorse the World Peace Forum 2006; and 3) provide funding for WPF 2006.

We have a solid plan which will produce a successful World Peace Forum 2006. We anticipate thousands of people from around the world will converge on Vancouver to participate in the WPF 2006 and the above noted meetings. The organizational and legacy benefits to the world peace and sustainability movements are enormous. The economic benefits to Vancouver and surrounding regions are significant. This is an historic opportunity that simply cannot be allowed to fail.

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Here's how you can help!

Email or fax the Mayor Campbell and the City Councillors to tell them you support the World Peace Forum 2006 request of the City today. The email addresses are: larry.campbell@vancouver.ca ; fred.bass@vancouver.ca ; david.cadman@vancouver.ca ; jim.green@vancouver.ca ; peter.ladner@vancouver.ca ; raymond.louie@vancouver.ca ; tim.louis@vancouver.ca ; anne.roberts@vancouver.ca ; tim.stevenson@vancouver.ca ; sam.sullivan@vancouver.ca ; ellen.woodsworth@vancouver.ca . The Mayor's fax number is 604 873-7685. The City Councillor's fax number is 604 873-7750. The City of Vancouver mailing address is 453 W. 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1V4. Please copy the Joint Steering Committee by cc'ing admin@worldpeaceforum.ca . Phone and speak to or leave a message with the Mayor and City Councillors. Their phone numbers are: Mayor Larry Campbell - 604 873-7621; Fred Bass -

604 873-7750; David Cadman - 604 873-7244; Jim Green - 604 873-7246; Peter Ladner - 604 873-7421; Raymond Louie - 604 873-7243; Tim Louie - 604

873-7248; Anne Roberts - 604 873-7249; Tim Stevenson - 604 873-7247; Sam Sullivan - 604 873-7242; Ellen Woodsworth - 604 873-7245. Come to the City Council Meeting on Thursday, March 31st, 2005 at 9:30 am to show your support for World Peace Forum 2006 and hold the Mayor and Councillors responsible for their actions. City Hall is on the 3rd Floor,

453 W. 12th Ave.(at Cambie), Vancouver. With your immediate support we are hopeful that the World Peace Forum 2006 will be a resounding success and will mark a milestone toward building a peaceful and sustainable world within our lifetimes.

Sincerely,

The World Peace Forum Society