



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
Long Beach, California

**C-4**

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January 20, 2009

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution in support of Religious Freedom Day 2009 (Citywide).

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to your request at the January 6, 2009 City Council meeting, a resolution in support of Religious Freedom Day 2009 is submitted for your consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney

By   
J. CHARLES PARKIN  
Principal Deputy City Attorney

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
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333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

1 RESOLUTION NO.

2  
3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS  
5 FREEDOM DAY 2009  
6

7 WHEREAS, recognizing that each year the President of the United States  
8 proclaims January 16th to be national "Religious Freedom Day", this day shall also be  
9 designated Religious Freedom Day by the City of Long Beach to commemorate the  
10 passage of Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; and for other  
11 purposes; and

12 WHEREAS, January 16th is the anniversary of the passage in 1786 of the  
13 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom which statute was drafted by President Thomas  
14 Jefferson who considered it one of his greatest achievements; and

15 WHEREAS, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom ended the practice  
16 of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy, and it protected the civil rights  
17 of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of  
19 religion to a stable and lasting Union and the drafters of the United States Constitution  
20 relied on Jefferson's statute in establishing the First Amendment of the United States  
21 Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom; and

22 WHEREAS, the contributions of people of faith are and have been  
23 important to our society, and in order to maintain a pluralistic society we must work to  
24 ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations and people of faith without religious  
25 bigotry in any form; and

26 WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach recognizes the importance of the  
27 annual Presidential Proclamation of the Religious Freedom Day; and

28 WHEREAS, the Long Beach City Council encourages all residents of Long

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1 Beach to commemorate and celebrate Religious Freedom Day through appropriate  
2 events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship on January 16th of each  
3 year.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
5 follows:

6 Section 1. The City Council encourages all Long Beach residents to  
7 participate in Religious Freedom Day 2009 and future such days proclaimed by the  
8 President of the United States, and declare January 16, 2009, to be Religious Freedom  
9 Day in Long Beach.

10 Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
11 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

12 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City  
13 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the  
14 following vote:

15  
16 Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

17 \_\_\_\_\_

18 \_\_\_\_\_

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

21 \_\_\_\_\_

22 Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

23 \_\_\_\_\_

24 \_\_\_\_\_

25 City Clerk

26

27

28