



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Long Beach, California

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January 22, 2008

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution in support of Religious Freedom Day 2008 (Citywide).

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to your request at the January 15, 2008 City Council meeting, a resolution in support of Religious Freedom Day 2008 is submitted for your consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney

By 
MICHAEL J. MAIS
Assistant City Attorney

MJM:kjm

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#A08-00225

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney
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 2008
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 2008 and future such days proclaimed by the
8 President of the United States, and declare January 16, 2008, 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