

Subject: Resolution No.212-10A16A

**Against the War on Iraq**

*[Introduced 12/10/02 United Nations' Human Rights Day]*

- Commissioners Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez

**WHEREAS:** The Reverend Martin Luther King said:

*"If we assume that life is worth living and that man has a right to survive, then we must find an alternative to war," and*

*"I am a clergyman as well as a civil rights leader and the moral roots of our war policy are not unimportant to me. I do not believe our nation can be a moral leader of justice, equality, and democracy if it is trapped in the role of a self-appointed world policeman," and*

*"(t)here comes a time when one must take the position that is neither safe...nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right. I believe today that there is a need for all people of goodwill to come(together) with a massive act of conscience and say in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "We ain't goin' study war no more," and*

**WHEREAS:** Today President George W. Bush and the United States government are preparing to initiate a war against the people of Iraq; and

**WHEREAS:** A war in Iraq by the United States Military would have devastating personal, economic and environmental consequences on the people of Iraq, the Middle East and the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** It is essential that the people and students of San Francisco be well-informed of the root causes of war and the consequences of military action by their government including the loss of billions of dollars of support for our schools and social services in a time of dire need; and

**WHEREAS:** Despite a longstanding SFUSD policy barring U.S. military recruiters from our schools (Resolution No. 11-22A3 *Military Recruitment*), students are now vulnerable to the U.S. military's \$2.4 billion [FY 2002] recruiting efforts and the military's new "open door" access to student names, addresses and telephone listings based on changes in the 2001 No Child Left Behind law; and

**WHEREAS:** Thousands of high school and college students from the Bay Area and throughout the U.S. took to the streets on November 20th for the National Student/Youth Day of Action Against The War, and

**WHEREAS:** In the biggest demonstrations since the Viet Nam war on October 26<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of thousands of people throughout the U.S. marched and rallied together to call for an end to the President's plans to wage war against Iraq, and

**WHEREAS:** Hundreds of thousands more will commemorate Martin Luther King's legacy with massive rallies on January 18, 2003 in San Francisco and other cities around the U.S. and at the grassroots Peace Congress in Washington, D.C. to call for an end to President Bush's \$200 billion war drive and the obscene growth in military spending while funding for our schools and social services are cut back.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District opposes the impending war on Iraq.

**1/14/03**