



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Human Relations Commission
FROM: James R. Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator
DATE: September 20, 2012
SUBJECT: City Recognition of Individuals or Groups

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Latta".

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Example: International Mother Language Monument Proposal 2010
2. H.R. 3001: An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.
3. Letter from Charles M. Levy re Lady Marjorie Gilbert contribution

The following memo is provided to the Human Relations Commission to initiate a discussion on potential principles and parameters for consideration when requests for official City recognition of individuals or groups have been made.

The City receives a variety of requests for recognition of individuals, groups, historic actions or events, tragic events, celebrations, and special occasions. The requests are often accompanied by donations or offers to cover the costs of purchase and/or installation of a specific item such as a statue, monument, plaque, bench, artwork, rose garden, fountain, etc. It is common for the request to include a specific location or type of location. (attachment 1, *an example of a former request*). Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and commissioners may be asked to make recommendations to the City Council.

For example, at the October 2, 2012 Study Session the City Council will consider a request by a councilmember for remembrance of Raoul Wallenberg who would have been 100 years old on August 4, 2012 (attachment 2). The City received a pledge of \$10,000 for "an appropriate remembrance" from a community member when she learned that this request would be made (attachment 3). At this time, there are no details on what specifically will be requested, or whether recommendations for the remembrance will be requested.

The Commission is asked to prepare to respond to this request or any requests in the future. At the meeting, the Commission will be asked to participate in a white board exercise to draft questions to guide a reviewing body when evaluating such requests. Following the exercise, the Commission will be asked to "test" their questions by applying them to various means of expression of remembrance and tribute. Community Services Director Steve Zoet will be present to address any questions the Commission may have.



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: February 18, 2010

To: Human Relations Commission

From: James R. Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator; Julie Kahn, M.S.W., Human Services Outreach Manager

Subject: International Mother Language Movement Request to Place Monument in Beverly Hills

Attachment: International Mother Language Monument Proposal

The following report is for information and action. The Commission must consider whether they support or not support the proposal.

A proposal to build an International Mother Language Monument (Shaheed Minar) at a public park in Beverly Hills is attached for Commission consideration. The Shaheed Minar is being proposed by the International Mother Language Movement, an umbrella organization representing the Bangladesh Community of greater Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. The estimated costs of the Shaheed Minar would be \$55,550. Funding will be provided for the construction and maintenance of the monument through collection of donations, contributions from community members as well as pursuing federal, state and local grant opportunities.

The original Shaheed Minar is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh, commemorating the bloodshed and life-sacrifice of a number of heroic Bangalees on February 21, 1952. According to the proposal, the project would serve as a symbol of love for one's mother language. On November 17, 1999, the United Nations declared February 21 International Mother Language Day. The proposed Shaheed Minar would function as the site of an annual cultural and arts event organized by the Banglaee Americans to observe the International Mother Language Day.

Dr. Mahbub Khan, Administrative Coordinator and Board Member, International Mother Language Monument (Shaheed Minar) and Quazi Moshurul Huda, Board Member, International Mother Language Monument (Shaheed Minar) will provide an overview of the proposal at the meeting and answer any questions the Commission may have.

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3001

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg,
in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions
during the Holocaust.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Raoul Wallenberg Cen-
3 tennial Celebration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Raoul Wallenberg was born in Europe on
7 August 4, 1912, to Swedish Christian parents.

8 (2) In 1935, he graduated from the University
9 of Michigan in Ann Arbor, completing a five-year
10 program in three-and-a-half years.

11 (3) In a letter to his grandfather, Wallenberg
12 wrote of his time in America: “I feel so at home in
13 my little Ann Arbor that I’m beginning to sink down
14 roots here and have a hard time imagining my leav-
15 ing it. . . . Every now and then I feel strange when
16 I think about how tiny my own country is and how
17 large and wonderful America is.”.

18 (4) Raoul returned to Sweden, where he began
19 a career as a businessman, and afterwards, a Swed-
20 ish diplomat.

21 (5) In 1936, Raoul’s grandfather arranged a
22 position for him at the Holland Bank in Haifa, Pal-
23 estine. There Raoul began to meet young Jews who
24 had already been forced to flee from Nazi persecu-
25 tion in Germany. Their stories affected him deeply.

1 (6) He was greatly troubled by the fate of Jews
2 in Europe, confiding to actress Viveca Lindfors the
3 horrific plight of Jews under Nazi Europe.

4 (7) Under the direction of President Franklin
5 D. Roosevelt, the War Refugee Board was estab-
6 lished in January 1944 to aid civilians that fell vic-
7 tim to the Nazi and Axis powers in Europe.

8 (8) One of War Refugee Board's top priorities
9 was protection of the 750,000 Hungarian Jews still
10 alive.

11 (9) It was decided that Raoul Wallenberg, aged
12 31 at the time, would be most effective in protecting
13 Jews and victims of the Nazis in Hungary under the
14 War Refugee Board. He was recruited by Iver
15 Olsen, an agent for the Office of Strategic Services
16 and sent to Budapest, Hungary, under his official
17 profession as a Swedish diplomat. He was instructed
18 to use passports and other creative means to save as
19 many lives as possible.

20 (10) Wallenberg created a new Swedish pass-
21 port, the Schutzpass, which looked more imposing
22 and official than the actual Swedish passport. He re-
23 portedly put up huge place cards of it throughout
24 Budapest to make the Nazis familiar with it. He
25 unilaterally announced that it granted the holder im-

1 munity from the death camps. The Schutzpasses
2 alone are credited with saving 20,000 Jewish lives.

3 (11) In one example of his heroism, Wallenberg
4 was told of a Nazi plot to round up several thousand
5 Jewish women and acted swiftly to save them.
6 Former Wallenberg staffer, Agnes Adachi, recalls
7 the time when she and other staff, spent the whole
8 night making around 2,000 Schutzpasses before 6
9 a.m. They were all completed and personally deliv-
10 ered to the women in time to save their lives.

11 (12) Using the money the United States put
12 into the War Refugee Board, Wallenberg was able to
13 purchase about thirty buildings, which he used as
14 hospitals, schools, soup kitchens, and safe houses for
15 over 8,000 children whose parents have already been
16 deported or killed.

17 (13) Tommy Lapid, a young boy who was stay-
18 ing with his mother in a Swedish safe house (his fa-
19 ther was already dead), gave an eyewitness account
20 of how his family was helped by Wallenberg and the
21 War Refugee Board: "One morning, a group of
22 Hungarian Fascists came into the house and said
23 that all the able-bodied women must go with them.
24 We knew what this meant. My mother kissed me
25 and I cried and she cried. We knew we were parting

1 forever and she left me there, an orphan to all in-
2 tents and purposes. Then two or three hours later,
3 to my amazement, my mother returned with the
4 other women. It seemed like a mirage, a miracle. My
5 mother was there—she was alive and she was hug-
6 ging me and kissing me, and she said one word:
7 Wallenberg.”.

8 (14) Even as the war was coming to a close,
9 Wallenberg remained vigilant and attentive to the
10 people under his care. Adolf Eichmann, the SS colo-
11 nel charged with the extermination of Jews in East-
12 ern Europe, was determined to exterminate the
13 70,000 Jews kept as prisoners in a guarded ghetto
14 in Budapest. As soon as Wallenberg heard of the
15 plot, he sent Pal Szalay, an Arrow-Crossman senior
16 official, who defected and turned to Wallenberg.
17 Szalay was sent to speak to General Schmidhuber,
18 who was ordered to spearhead the ghetto extermi-
19 nation in Budapest. Szalay informed Schmidhuber
20 that, seeing as the war was coming to an end, if the
21 planned massacre took place, Wallenberg would see
22 to it personally that Schmidhuber would be pros-
23 ecuted as a war criminal and hanged. The plans
24 were ultimately abandoned and considered Wallen-
25 berg’s last big victory.

1 (15) Of the 120,000 Hungarian Jews that sur-
2 vived, Raoul Wallenberg, acting under the War Ref-
3 ugee Board, is credited with saving an estimated
4 100,000 of them in a six-month period.

5 (16) Raoul Wallenberg's fate remains a mys-
6 tery. In January 13, 1945, he contacted the Rus-
7 sians in an effort to secure food for the Jews under
8 his protection—as he was still working hard to pro-
9 tect them.

10 (17) In 1981, President Ronald Reagan made
11 Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United
12 States, an honor only previously extended to Win-
13 ston Churchill.

14 (18) These findings show that Raoul Wallen-
15 berg showed exceptional heroism and bravery with
16 his actions during the holocaust. Working with the
17 War Refugee Board, a United State's agency, he
18 was able to save about 100,000 Hungarian Jews,
19 many of which were later able to immigrate to the
20 United States.

21 (19) Indeed, hundreds of thousands of Amer-
22 ican Jews can directly or indirectly attribute their
23 own lives to Raoul Wallenberg's actions during
24 World War II. Many of the people Wallenberg saved
25 have been influential citizens contributing to Amer-

1 ican institutions and culture, including Congressman
2 Tom Lantos (February 1, 1928–February 11,
3 2008), Annette Lantos, and the Liska Rebbe, Rabbi
4 Yoizef (Joseph) Friedlander, who carried forth the
5 Liska Hassidic dynasty from Hungary to the United
6 States after being saved by Raoul Wallenberg.

7 (20) His actions and character make him an ex-
8 cellent contender for a Congressional Gold Medal in
9 time for the centennial of his birth, to celebrate his
10 achievements and humanitarian accomplishments.

11 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
14 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
15 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
16 medal of appropriate design to the next of kin or personal
17 representative of Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his
18 achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
20 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
21 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
22 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
23 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate
4 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to
5 section 3 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-
6 cient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including
7 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
8 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

9 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

10 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
11 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
12 51 of title 31, United States Code.

13 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
14 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
15 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

16 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
17 **SALE.**

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CHARGES.—There is author-
19 ized to be charged against the United States Mint Public
20 Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be necessary to
21 pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this
22 Act.

23 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
24 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be

1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
2 Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives April 16, 2012.

Attest:

Clerk.

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3001

AN ACT

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Charles M. Levy
815 Moraga Drive
Los Angeles, California 90049-1639
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August 6, 2012

VIA EMAIL AND
FIRST CLASS MAIL
Mcrowder@beverlyhills.org

City Council
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: Raoul Wallenberg Remembrance

Gentlemen:

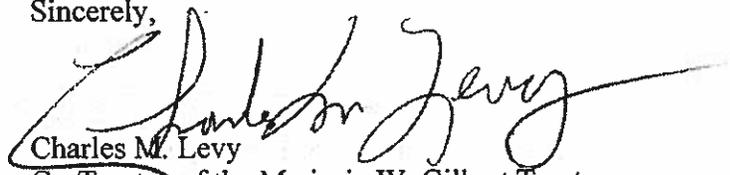
Lady Marjorie Gilbert and I are co-Trustees of the Marjorie W. Gilbert 2001 Trust established by her late husband, Sir Arthur Gilbert.

Sir Arthur was very interested in the plight of Raoul Wallenberg and devoted a substantial amount of time, and funds, to attempts to locate and free this great humanitarian. Of course, as we all know, Raoul was never located.

Lady Gilbert learned of a request that will be made of the Beverly Hills City Council for an appropriate remembrance of Raoul Wallenberg's 100th birthday. In memory of her late husband, Sir Arthur, the Marjorie Gilbert Trust would like to make a contribution to that cause.

You may count on us for a \$10,000 contribution.

Sincerely,


Charles M. Levy
Co-Trustee of the Marjorie W. Gilbert Trust

CML:kr

cc: Lady Marjorie Gilbert

