



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 16, 2009  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** James Latta, LCSW Human Services Administrator *J.L.A.*  
**Subject:** World March for Peace Endorsement Recommendation Request  
Report from the Human Relations Commission

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### INTRODUCTION

At the Formal City Council meeting on January 6, 2009, during oral communications, Philip Freeman, on behalf of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, sought an endorsement from the City for two international peace initiatives. Councilmember Brucker, who was mayor at the time, asked that the matter be referred to the Human Relations Commission for their recommendation.

### DISCUSSION

At the April 16, 2009 Human Relations Commission meeting, Mr. Freeman addressed the Commission. He requested an endorsement in the form of a declaration of December 2<sup>nd</sup> as National World March for Peace and Nonviolence Day and the promotion of a march to bring attention to the goals for world peace and to maximize participation throughout the country by having an event in each of the 50 states.

In addition to the presentation by Mr. Freeman, the Commission considered information from the websites provided by the proponent prior to the meeting: [www.marchmundial.org](http://www.marchmundial.org) (international) and [www.worldmarchusa.net](http://www.worldmarchusa.net) (USA). The Commission asked questions about the organization, its goals, funding and the status of endorsements from other US cities. During discussion, Mr. Freeman advised that the stated goals of the group were to promote peace, end nuclear weapons and oppose all forms of violence. The source of funding was not disclosed. The only city in the U.S. that had endorsed was Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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Only after a lengthy discussion, did the Commission learn that an *unstated* goal was for the “immediate withdrawal of troops from all occupying forces.” Mr. Freeman said that it did not appear on the website or in their publications “due to a lack of space.”

**RECOMMENDATION**

After deliberation, it was the unanimous decision of the Commission to advise the City Council that they do not recommend any endorsement or support for the group.

Steve Miller   
Approved By