



City of Cambridge

O-14.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 14, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has a large population of Hispanics and Puerto Ricans and many of them are concerned about the ecological damage and human trauma resulting from military operations in Vieques; and
- WHEREAS: City of Cambridge businesses have established commercial relations with Puerto Rico for over 100 years, and many businesses are interested in the economic conversion of military to civilian uses; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has relations with the United States First District Court of Appeals which has jurisdiction over federal affairs in Puerto Rico, and where cases about environmental contamination in Vieques have been presented by the Government of Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has relations with the Office of the Government of Puerto Rico which advocates for the well being of Puerto Ricans in Boston and in Puerto Rico, and the Governor of Puerto Rico supports the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is the home of the many Hispanic organizations, which advocates for the civil rights of Puerto Ricans in Massachusetts and in Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has many descendants from the island of Vieques and they are concerned about the lives of their relatives in Vieques, Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: Since 1941, the United States Navy has operated a training facility on two-thirds of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico; and

- WHEREAS: The island of Vieques, Puerto Rico is populated by more than 9,000 Puerto Ricans, US citizens, who are submitted to the disgrace of seeing its territory bombarded by land, air and sea; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy's presence and activities violate the natural right of the people of Vieques to enjoy their natural resources; and
- WHEREAS: For more than half a century, the US Navy has thwarted the healthy development of Vieques' economy forcing the people of Vieques to emigrate in search of work and well being, resulting in family disintegration; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy has used depleted uranium, napalm bombs and other chemical and toxic weapons that have an adverse impact on the public health and the environment; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy's war practices has contributed significantly to the pollution of air, water and land and has contributed to high cancer levels in Vieques; and
- WHEREAS: In 1993, a Navy FA-18 fighter jet missed its target by approximately 10 miles, dropped 500 pound live bombs one mile from civilians living in the town of Isabel Segunda; and
- WHEREAS: In 1998, Navy and National Guard exercises accidentally fired live bullets to municipal vehicles, including school buses and public works vehicles, forcing civilian employees to run for their safety; and
- WHEREAS: On April 16, 1999, a resident of Vieques and citizen of the United States, was killed and four persons injured as a result of a routine war exercise conducted by the US Navy; and
- WHEREAS: On May 11, 1999, the Governor of Puerto Rico issued an Executive Order appointing a Special Commission on Vieques to Study the Existing Situation on the island Municipality of Vieques with Regard to the Activities of the United States Navy; and
- WHEREAS: On June 25, 1999, the Special Commission issued its report which included in its recommendations a demand that the United States Navy immediately and permanently cease all military operations on Vieques and transfer all property controlled by the Navy on Vieques to its people; and
- WHEREAS: The people of Vieques have unanimously demanded that the US Navy cease its bombings and leave the island; and
- WHEREAS: Puerto Rico's civil society unanimously support the immediate withdrawal of the Navy from Vieques; and

WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico adopted as public policy the recommendations of the Special Commission of Vieques and the will of the residents of Puerto Rico; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts calls upon the United States Navy to relocate from the island of Vieques and return the land to the Municipality of Vieques for civilian uses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to President William J. Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Navy Secretary John H. Dalton, Senators Edward F. Kennedy and John F. Kerry, Congressional Representatives for the City of Boston John Joseph Moakley and Michael Capuano and Congressional Hispanic Caucus Representatives Carlos Romero Barcelo, Jose Serrano, Nydia Velazquez and Luis Gutierrez and Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello and Puerto Rico's Secretary of State Norma Burgos on behalf of the entire City Council.

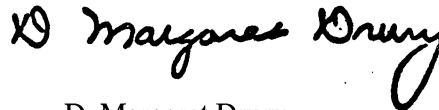
In City Council February 14, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

COUNCILLOR REEVES

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February 14, 2000

**RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE US CONGRESS ON THE ISSUE OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO**

- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has a large population of Hispanics and Puerto Ricans and many of them are concerned about the ecological damage and human trauma resulting from military operations in Vieques; and
- WHEREAS: City of Cambridge businesses have established commercial relations with Puerto Rico for over 100 years, and many businesses are interested in the economic conversion of military to civilian uses; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has relations with the United States First District Court of Appeals which has jurisdiction over federal affairs in Puerto Rico, and where cases about environmental contamination in Vieques have been presented by the Government of Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has relations with the Office of the Government of Puerto Rico which advocates for the well being of Puerto Ricans in Boston and in Puerto Rico, and the Governor of Puerto Rico supports the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is the home of the many Hispanic organizations, which advocates for the civil rights of Puerto Ricans in Massachusetts and in Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has many descendants from the island of Vieques and they are concerned about the lives of their relatives in Vieques, Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: Since 1941, the United States Navy has operated a training facility on two-thirds of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The island of Vieques, Puerto Rico is populated by more than 9,000 Puerto Ricans, US citizens, who are submitted to the disgrace of seeing its territory bombarded by land, air and sea; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy's presence and activities violate the natural right of the people of Vieques to enjoy their natural resources; and

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WHEREAS: For more than half a century, the US Navy has thwarted the healthy development of Vieques' economy forcing the people of Vieques to emigrate in search of work and well being, resulting in family disintegration; and

WHEREAS: The US Navy has used depleted uranium, napalm bombs and other chemical and toxic weapons that have an adverse impact on the public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS: The US Navy's war practices has contributed significantly to the pollution of air, water and land and has contributed to high cancer levels in Vieques; and

WHEREAS: In 1993, a Navy FA-18 fighter jet missed its target by approximately 10 miles, dropped 500 pound live bombs one mile from civilians living in the town of Isabel Segunda; and

WHEREAS: In 1998, Navy and National Guard exercises accidentally fired live bullets to municipal vehicles, including school buses and public works vehicles, forcing civilian employees to run for their safety; and

WHEREAS: On April 16, 1999, a resident of Vieques and citizen of the United States, was killed and four persons injured as a result of a routine war exercise conducted by the US Navy; and

WHEREAS: On May 11, 1999, the Governor of Puerto Rico issued an Executive Order appointing a Special Commission on Vieques to Study the Existing Situation on the island Municipality of Vieques with Regard to the Activities of the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS: On June 25, 1999, the Special Commission issued its report which included in its recommendations a demand that the United States Navy immediately and permanently cease all military operations on Vieques and transfer all property controlled by the Navy on Vieques to its people; and

WHEREAS: The people of Vieques have unanimously demanded that the US Navy cease its bombings and leave the island; and

WHEREAS: Puerto Rico's civil society unanimously support the immediate withdrawal of the Navy from Vieques; and

WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico adopted as public policy the recommendations of the Special Commission of Vieques and the will of the residents of Puerto Rico; now therefore be it

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RESOLVED: That copies of this Resolution be sent to President William J. Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Navy Secretary John H. Dalton, Senators Edward F. Kennedy and John F. Kerry, Congressional Representatives for the City of Boston John Joseph Moakley and Michael Capuano and Congressional Hispanic Caucus Representatives Carlos Romero Barcelo, Jose Serrano, Nydia Velazquez and Luis Gutierrez and Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello and Puerto Rico's Secretary of State Norma Burgos.

- WHEREAS: The island of Vieques, Puerto Rico is populated by more than 9,000 Puerto Ricans, US citizens, who are submitted to the disgrace of seeing its territory bombarded by land, air and sea; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy's presence and activities violate the natural right of the people of Vieques to enjoy their natural resources; and
- WHEREAS: For more than half a century, the US Navy has thwarted the healthy development of Vieques' economy forcing the people of Vieques to emigrate in search of work and well being, resulting in family disintegration; and
- WHEREAS: The US Navy has used depleted uranium, napalm bombs and other chemical and toxic weapons that have an adverse impact on the public health and the environment; and
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- WHEREAS: The people of Vieques have unanimously demanded that the US Navy cease its bombings and leave the island; and
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WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico adopted as public policy the recommendations of the Special Commission of Vieques and the will of the residents of Puerto Rico; now therefore be it

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In City Council February 14, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

February 14, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES
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- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is the home of the many Hispanic organizations, which advocates for the civil rights of Puerto Ricans in Massachusetts and in Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has many descendants from the island of Vieques and they are concerned about the lives of their relatives in Vieques, Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS: Since 1941, the United States Navy has operated a training facility on two-thirds of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico; and

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Order #14

Urge the United States Navy to
relocate from the island of Vieques
and return the land to the people of
Vieques.

**Councillors Reeves, Galluccio
and entire membership**

In City Council February 14, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED