

- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Peace Commission will be holding the Eleventh Cambridge Peace and Justice Awards Dinner – honoring an amazing set of individuals and groups for their contributions to peacemaking in our city – on Sunday, November 16, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center, 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council does recognize and congratulate Mary Leno for all of her efforts; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Peace Commission to be presented to Mary Leno at the Eleventh Cambridge Peace and Justice Awards Dinner on behalf of the entire City Council.

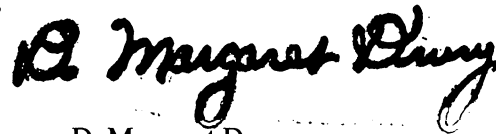
In City Council November 17, 2008.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

R-16.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 17, 2008

MAYOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MAHER
VICE MAYOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SEIDEL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Cambridge is home to many who use their time, talents, and energies to create more just, peaceful, and safe communities; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has many organizations and individuals promoting issues of peace and justice both locally and globally. This important work is done in a variety of ways and on a range of issues – from people who work for peace in families, schools, congregations, and neighborhoods to those working across the United States and internationally; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Peace Commission has created Peace and Justice Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations in Cambridge working for peace and social justice by soliciting the nominations of people or programs that build bridges among people, those who stand for peace and justice initiatives particularly in these times of conflict, war, and divisions, and who may be lifelong peace and justice makers, as well as those among us whose daily lives may be inspirations to their community; and

WHEREAS: **Maria Elena Letona** has been chosen by the Cambridge Peace Commission from among more than fifty nominees to receive a Peace and Justice Award for her work as Executive Director of Centro Presente, where she took her experience as an immigrant from El Salvador. She came to the U.S. in 1974 to become a concert pianist, and after graduation from Oberlin College moved to Boston. Like so many other musicians, she became a temporary worker, doing public health work at Pathfinder International, and then working at the Boston Department of Hospitals and Public Health where she first encountered first-hand the effects of racism, poverty, inequality apparent in public hospitals were Puerto Rican and Black, leading her to go back to school and receive a doctorate from UMASS Boston, where she connected with a network of community organizations, leaders, professors, and activists. She then brought these frameworks and theories with her when she joined Centro Presente, where she joined its work of empowering Latin American immigrants through the provision of basic services, development of leadership skills, and the promotion of civic and democratic participation, and for her new work that is just beginning at the Cambridge-based Interaction Institute for Social Change; and

RESOLUTION #16

Congratulations to Maria Elena
Letona on receiving a Peace and
Justice Award on November 16,
2008

**Mayor Simmons and entire
membership**

**In City Council
November 17, 2008**

ORDER ADOPTED