DATE: June 9, 2008

TO: City Council Colleagues

FROM: Vice Mayor Drekmeier and Council members Morton and Yeh

SUBJECT: Request for the City Council to consider a resolution in support of the safety, human rights and freedom of the Burmese people

We urge our Council colleagues to join us in approving the attached resolution in support of the Burmese people’s struggle for democracy and human rights. We believe it is the responsibility of all Americans to speak out against oppression and to ease human suffering wherever it may occur.
RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE PRESSURING THE BURMESE JUNTA TO RESPECT THE SAFETY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

WHEREAS, Tropical Cyclone Nargis hit Burma on May 2, 2008, killing at least 78,000 people and affecting more than 2 million Burmese; and

WHEREAS, the military regime of Burma has greatly restricted delivery of relief aid and denied relief workers prompt access to the stricken areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 tens of thousands of Burmese, led by human rights advocates, Buddhist monks, nuns and students, protested against the military regime of Burma and its socio-economic policies; and

WHEREAS, in response to the pro-democracy movement, the Burmese security forces, sanctioned by the ruling Junta, launched a violent military action to repress the demonstrators and their supporters, arresting hundreds and killing an unknown number of people; and

WHEREAS, Burma’s military regime has imprisoned many of its citizens who support democracy, including Congressional Gold Medal recipient and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi; and

WHEREAS, the Burmese junta recently extended the house arrest of opposition party leader and winner of the 1990 free election (since annulled by the ruling junta), Aung San Suu Kyi; now, therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Palo Alto supports the United States government’s continued advocacy for the health and safety of the Burmese people, and urges continued pressure on the ruling junta to accept all international aid for the victims of Cyclone Nargis; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Palo Alto urges the United States government to pressure the Burmese regime to immediately cease the suppression of nonviolent protests by its citizens, cease the detention of political prisoners, enter into negotiations with leaders of the movement for democracy and human rights and release Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to President Bush and Palo Alto’s Congressional representatives with requests to forward the resolution to the Burmese Junta and the United Nations.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: June 9, 2008

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENCIONS:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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City Clerk

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Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney

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City Manager