
REPORT 1
(1215/52/IM)

DECLARATION OF WELLINGTON AS A PEACE CITY

1. Purpose of Report

This report recommends that the Committee recommend to the Council that it agree to declare Wellington a Peace City and consider the development of a programme of activities supporting that declaration.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Recommend to Council that it declare Wellington as a Peace City, in line with the amended draft declaration attached as Appendix 2.*
3. *Agree that officers will consider the development of a supporting Peace City programme of activities consistent with Council's strategic outcomes and within existing budgets.*

3. Background

The original impetus behind the Peace City declarations was the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation's (UNESCO) efforts in encouraging local communities around the world to build a culture of peace. The United Nations stressed this element in its 2002 Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education which stated:

"Municipal leaders, working with citizen groups, are encouraged to establish peace cities, as part of the UNESCO Cities for Peace network, through, for example, the creation of peace museums, peace parks, web sites and the production of booklets on peacemakers and peacemaking."

The Peace Foundation (Foundation), a not-for-profit organisation, submitted a proposal to declare Wellington as a Peace City to the Council at its meeting on 22 March 2006. The Foundation's mission is, "...[promoting] peaceful relationships among people of all ages, at all levels, through education, research and action" and it proposed, in addition to the Peace City declaration, that Wellington City Council adopt a supporting programme of activities.

The Foundation has established a Peace City Committee and a list of members is attached as Appendix 1.

The PEACE Foundation made a presentation to Council in March this year and the proposal was discussed at an Elected Members Session on 12 April 2006 which informed the preparation of this report.

Other cities in New Zealand have adopted or are in the process of adopting a Peace City declaration, including Christchurch, Hutt City and Waitakere. This move is also being supported by NZ Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Marian Hobbs, who in July 2005 sent a letter encouraging every mayor in New Zealand to:

“... consider establishing your city as a Peace City, in liaison with relevant local authorities and organisations, in order to educate and engage your community in the development of a culture of peace.”

4. Discussion

4.1 Peace City Declaration

The proposal to declare Wellington a Peace City focuses on tolerance at local, national and international levels, respecting the culture and values of others and promoting the peaceful resolution of conflict. This complements strategies and policies adopted by the Council in the areas of community well-being, health and safety, culture and arts, and the natural environment. Relevant Council outcomes include:

- people feel safe in Wellington at any time
- people are encouraged to develop their full potential as individuals and members of the community
- Wellington welcomes, values and celebrates a diversity of cultures
- people are encouraged to participate in community networks
- all residents are able to access community resources and public services
- the city values and celebrates the arts of a wide diversity of cultures
- Wellington is a memorable, beautiful city, celebrating its distinctive landmarks, defining features and heritage.

A draft declaration was provided in the proposal submitted by the Peace Foundation. The wording of this document has been slightly modified and omits references to the Wellington region which encompasses areas not governed by the Wellington City Council. It also makes all references with regard to the city's nuclear free status consistent with previous Council statements. The revised declaration is attached as Appendix 2.

4.2 Possible initiatives to support Wellington as a Peace City

The following includes possible activities which could be incorporated within a supporting Peace City programme, which would be funded from existing budgets.

4.2.1 Promoting existing activities in Wellington related to peace

Wellington is home to a large number of organisations that are engaged in activities related to the development of a culture of peace such as:

- peace groups
- mediation services

- conflict resolution trainers
- service groups
- ethnic education and support groups
- human rights groups
- international friendship societies
- family support services
- youth groups
- religious support groups.

The Council is also involved in activities related to the culture of peace which include:

- Sister City links
- organising and co-ordinating annual Race Relations Day activities
- maintaining the Peace Flame and Peace Tree in the Botanical Gardens
- participating in the Mayors for Peace organisation.

The Peace City declaration and programme would establish an overall unifying framework that will encourage increased collaboration between events, groups and activities, and also result in much greater public exposure. This could be achieved through three primary mechanisms:

- a dedicated section on the Council website showcasing the people, events, and groups that illustrate Wellington's identity as a Peace City
- a brochure educating the public about the services, activities, and principles that form the basis for Wellington's culture of peace
- a Peace City walkway guide in the 'Explore Wellington' series enabling residents and visitors to discover the various landmarks around Wellington devoted to the culture of peace.

4.2.2 Recognising contributions of Wellington to peace

A central part of the Peace City declaration and programme would celebrate Wellington's contribution to peace by profiling residents and organisations that have played a role in nurturing a culture of peace on a local, national, or international level on the Council website's Peace City section.

The Foundation's proposal suggests that the Council establish a commemorative peace day or create a peace award which would be given to individuals or organisations that have made a substantial contribution to peace. These are both positive initiatives but may be more appropriate for a community organisation such as the Peace Foundation or the Peace City Committee to lead with possibly indirect Council support through a community grant. If Council agrees to the Declaration, then officers will report back with further advice as to how best this will be achieved.

4.2.3 Supporting peace initiatives

New initiatives related to Wellington's culture of peace could benefit from the community resources that the Council already provides like:

- access to community grants through an application process
- discounted meeting space

- listing of upcoming community events on the Council's Feeling Great website
- website hosting through the Wellington Community Net.

The Council will explore the possibility of organising additional activities as part of its Peace City programme.¹

5. Conclusion

It is recommended that the Committee recommend that the Council adopt the Peace City declaration to demonstrate the Council's commitment to promoting tolerance, ensuring a safe city, and supporting a multi-cultural and diverse population.

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¹ For example, Christchurch, which has been a Peace City since 2002, has developed a programme which includes : a course in Peace Studies being taught at the University of Canterbury; an archive of oral and video histories of Christchurch peace people; exhibitions related to peace.

Waitakere is another city in the process of declaring itself a Peace City. The city is considering setting up among other things: a Peace City homepage, peace displays and signs, a Peace Festival and a Peace Park featuring a Peace Bell.

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The proposal will contribute to Council meeting the outcomes of: creating a more inclusive and welcoming community, and valuing and recognising multicultural diversity that is reflected in the City's culture.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Any costs related to this proposal will be covered from existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

This report does not contain issues requiring Treaty of Waitangi considerations.

4) Decision-Making

This report does not require the Committee to make a "significant" decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Council is not required under legislation to consult on this matter.

b) Consultation with Maori

The Peace Foundation has consulted on this proposal with: Awhina Wahine, Federation of Maori Authorities, Hokotehi Moriori Trust, Maori Womens Welfare League, Mokai Kainga Maori Centre, Taeaomanino Trust, Te Ata Wahi Maori Wardens – Wellington City Branch, Te Puni Kokiri, Te Whare Tiaki Wahine Refuge, Wellington Tenth's Trust.

6) Legal Implications

Not applicable.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Council policy.

Peace City Committee - Members

Alyn Ware (Wellington Peace Foundation – Wellington Office)
Annie Boanas (Wellington Peace Foundation – Wellington Office)
Barbara Holt (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)
Dr. Gregory Shahane De Costa (NZ Sri Lanka Friendship Society)
Edwina Hughes (Peace Movement Aotearoa)
Graham Brandreth Wells (Prisoner’s Aid and Rehabilitation Service)
Jimi Wallace (Soka Gakkai International)
Kasper Beech (Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament)
Kathleen Loncar (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom – Wellington Branch/National Consultative Committee on Disarmament)
Charlotte Fowler (Oxfam)
Marian Hobbs (Member of Parliament for Wellington)
Maui Solomon (Hokotehi Moriori Trust)
Raewyn Samuels (Walkwise)
Saray Torres de Riddell (Wellington International Poetry Festival)
Shagufta Zia (NZ Multicultural Music)
Sharon Clair (Council of Trade Unions/Make Poverty History/NZ Nurses Organisation)
Sheryn Elborn (Federation of Ethnic Councils)
Silvia Zonoobi (Wellington Refugee Council)
Tribhuvan Shrestha (Nepalese Community).

Declaration of Wellington as a Peace City

DRAFT

The City of Wellington:

Determined to protect and enhance the safety, security and well being of all people living in or visiting Wellington;

Affirming that the well being of all its citizens is advanced by the peaceful resolution of conflict, the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, and the full participation of citizens in society regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, culture, sexuality or religion;

Celebrating the diverse ethnic, religious, cultural and political backgrounds of the people in Wellington;

Stressing the importance of education for the development of peace, inter-cultural awareness, tolerance and conflict resolution;

Acknowledging the unique relationships between tangata whenua (original inhabitants) and tau iwi (those who have subsequently settled in Wellington) and respecting the rights of all peoples;

Accepting a responsibility to assist those who have settled in Wellington due to conflict or severe human rights violations in communities overseas, and seeking ways in which to support the promotion of human rights and the resolution of conflicts in these communities;

Affirming the special role that Wellington has as the capital city of Aotearoa/New Zealand to foster peace nationally and internationally, and in particular to encourage the non-proliferation and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the abolition of war and weapons of war;

Honouring the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and adopted without opposition by the United Nations General Assembly;

Responding to the recommendation in the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002, that 'municipal leaders, working with citizen groups, are encouraged to establish peace cities' and that this could include, 'the creation of peace museums, peace parks, web sites and the production of booklets on peacemakers and peacemaking.'

Does hereby declare itself to be a Peace City dedicated to the promotion of, and respect for, a culture of peace, tolerance and non-violence.

[adopted by Wellington City Council – Date]