

Resolution of the City of Minneapolis

Supporting Shifting Federal Funding Priorities from Military Operations to Meeting the Needs of Local Communities.

By Gordon, Glidden, Hodges, Schiff, Reich, Quincy and Lilligren

Whereas, in 2011 Minnesota government was shut down over disputes as to how to address a \$5 billion two-year budget shortfall; and

Whereas, Minnesota taxpayer spending for war far exceeds the state's budget deficits with Minnesotans having spent more than \$39.8 billion to fund the Iraq and Afghan wars since 2001; and

Whereas, the taxpayers of Minneapolis have paid more than \$2.3 billion for our share of Iraq and Afghanistan war costs, including \$205.8 million in 2012 alone; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has struggled to maintain core services like public safety and infrastructure despite drastic cuts to Local Government Aid from the State of Minnesota and to Community Development Block Grants by the federal government; and

Whereas, from 2008 through 2011, the State of Minnesota certified that Minneapolis would receive more than \$70 million more in Local Government Aid than the State actually provided, resulting in painful service cuts and property taxes hikes; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has experienced a cut of over 30% in the federal government's Community Development Block Grants funding since 2002, from \$16.8 million to \$10.7 million annually; and

Whereas, in addition to these costly wars, Minnesota taxpayers are spending more than \$16 billion in 2012 for our share of the base Pentagon budget, a budget that increased from \$290.5 billion to \$526 billion between 2000 and 2011; and

Whereas, in 2012, 59 cents of every dollar of federal discretionary spending is funding military purposes; and

Whereas, the budget for veterans is separate from the military budget we seek to cut, and our nation has a responsibility to provide veterans with quality medical and health care services and other supportive programs, including opportunities for training, education and meaningful jobs; and

Whereas, our nation desperately needs to better balance its approach to national security to include the economic, social, and environmental needs of our communities, state, and nation; and

Whereas, Congressman Keith Ellison has introduced House Resolution 733 which would express the sense of the House of Representatives that any deal on taxes and spending should "significantly reduce defense spending to focus the United States Armed Forces on combating 21st century risks" and "promote economic growth and expand economic opportunity by including strong levels of job creating Federal investments in areas such as infrastructure and education, and by promoting private investment";

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis calls on the Minnesota Congressional Delegation to support shifting federal funding priorities from military operations to meeting the essential needs of our local communities.