

## RESOLUTION No. 141-09

### A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR THIRD PARTY DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NIGER DELTA AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY SECURITY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY ACT

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**WHEREAS**, the Richmond City Council passed a resolution in November 2009 adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles and declared the city of Richmond to be a human rights city; and

**WHEREAS**, the Niger Delta has experienced 50 years of human rights abuses and exploitation from the oil industry and the Nigerian government and is the fifth largest exporter of crude oil to the U.S., to which it sends over 40% of its export supply; and

**WHEREAS**, the Niger Delta has deteriorated into a major environmental disaster and the population suffers poverty and continued human rights abuses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nigerian government began a military offensive in May 2009 in the Niger Delta that resulted in the death, injury and internal displacement of its own civilian population; and

**WHEREAS**, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during her mid-August 2009 visit to Nigeria stated support for the government's approach to security in the country, pledged to explore U.S. military support to the Nigerian government in their efforts to stabilize the Niger Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, many Niger Delta civil society groups, independent experts and some armed militants note that the recent amnesty will be ultimately ineffective because it does nothing to address the root causes of the crisis, including poverty and underdevelopment, lack of resource control by local communities or a real say in governance by the people and for the people of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, Chevron Corporation is one of the largest oil companies working in Nigeria; and

**WHEREAS**, Chevron Corporation's oldest refinery is located in Richmond and the city is close to Chevron Corporation's headquarters in San Ramon, California giving Richmond residents a direct stake in how our oil is extracted; and

**WHEREAS**, gas flaring in Nigeria has a serious effect on the health of local communities, the environment and climate change accounting for more than 40 million tons of carbon-dioxide emissions annually—according to statistics from the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership,

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area has a one of the largest populations of Nigerians living in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Bay Area consumers are renowned as strong advocates for Fair Trade and want to know that the products they use do not exploit people or the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Nigeria is confronting a moment of serious crisis that can be turned into a moment of opportunity, and the U.S. can help provide the influence to ensure that a constructive solution to the root causes of the crisis in the Niger Delta is undertaken; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. can help foster positive change in alignment with its values as a country that promotes democracy, freedom of the press, and peace through a process of diplomacy and independently monitored negotiations; negotiations that could remap how oil revenues are used to benefit Delta communities and ensure that Delta residents have a genuine say in their own government, leading to a true comprehensive political framework for peace; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) recently introduced the Energy Security Through Transparency (ESTT) Act [S. 1700] in the U.S. Senate that if passed would require

transparency from the extractive industry in their payments to foreign governments, which will provide an important tool for local communities in Nigeria and their allies overseas to hold companies accountable;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Richmond City Council does hereby request that the Obama administration and the California Congressional delegation support independently monitored third party diplomatic peace talks in the Niger Delta with all stakeholders to create real and creative solutions to the underlying causes of the troubles in the Niger Delta; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Richmond City Council encourages the Nigerian government with their oil company partners to work to end the destructive practice of gas flaring, to develop the Niger Delta in earnest and rebuild the communities destroyed in the current crisis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Richmond City Council does hereby support the Energy Security Through Transparency (ESTT)[S.1700] Act introduced by Senator Lugar and supports the introduction of a similar bill in the House; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Richmond City Council direct the City Clerk to send copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and Congressman George Miller.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the members of the Richmond City Council at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin.  
NOES: None.  
ABSTENTIONS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilmember Bates

DIANE HOLMES  
Clerk of the City of Richmond

[SEAL]

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        } : ss.  
City of Richmond               }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 141-09**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on December 15, 2009.

