



Peace and Justice Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
October 1, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Peace and Justice Commission
Submitted by: Grace Morizawa, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission
Subject: Resolution Name a City of Berkeley Major Street in Honor of Daniel Ellsberg

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution that the City of Berkeley Council name a Berkeley major street in honor Daniel Ellsberg to serve as an ongoing reminder of Berkeley’s commitment to peace.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

June 23, 2024, U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, “The Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers,” calling on “member cities to take action at the municipal level to raise public awareness of the growing dangers of wars among nuclear-armed states, the humanitarian and financial impacts of nuclear weapons, and the urgent need for good faith U.S. leadership in negotiating the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

At its regular meeting February 6, 2023, the Peace and Justice Commission adopted the following recommendation proposing City Council name a major street in honor of Daniel Ellsberg.

M/S/C: McNeil, Taylor
Ayes: Bohn, Jacquelin, Lippman, McNeil, Mencher, Morizawa, Taylor
Noes: Elias
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Guarino

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BACKGROUND

Daniel Ellsberg over many years advocated disarmament and spoke against nuclear weapons. He was an outstanding educator and activist on some of the most important issues facing the Earth for decades and supported, encouraged and inspired whistleblowers, journalists and activists all over the world. And in recognition of his contribution and significant leadership the City of Berkeley declared the week of April 24-30, 2023 Daniel Ellsberg Week.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070).

Berkeley has long been a national leader in speaking out for peace and justice, both locally and globally. Berkeley has repeatedly set a precedent for taking principled stances and recognizing those working for peace.

Naming a street in honor Daniel Ellsberg, who has been recognized by the City of Berkeley and known to the world as a leader of peace and spokesperson for nuclear nonproliferation will serve as an ongoing reminder to Berkeley's youth and all residents of the great moral value of whistleblowers, standing up for one's beliefs, and working for a permanent end to nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. If the City Council wishes to pursue this renaming, the item must be referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission for a recommendation pursuant to the Naming Policy in the City Council Rules of Procedure.

CONTACT PERSON

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Peace and Justice Commission Secretary, City Manager's Office
510-529-5376

Attachments:
1: Resolution

Name a City of Berkeley Major Street in Honor of Daniel Ellsberg

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RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION TO NAME A CITY OF BERKELEY MAJOR STREET
IN HONOR OF DANIEL ELLSBERG

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has long been a national leader in speaking out for peace and justice, both locally and globally. Berkeley has repeatedly set a precedent for taking principled stances and recognizing those working for peace; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2024, U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, "The Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers," calling on "member cities to take action at the municipal level to raise public awareness of the growing dangers of wars among nuclear-armed states, the humanitarian and financial impacts of nuclear weapons, and the urgent need for good faith U.S. leadership in negotiating the global elimination of nuclear weapons;"ⁱ and

WHEREAS, the USCM "calls on the Administration and Congress to reconsider further investments in nuclear weapons and find ways that our finite federal resources can better meet human needs, support safe and resilient cities, and increase investment in international diplomacy, humanitarian assistance and development, and international cooperation to address the climate crisis;"ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has long been a member of Mayors for Peace, the original sponsor of the above resolution;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ellsberg risked life in prison to reveal the Pentagon Papers including 7,000 government pages of deceptions by successive presidents who exceeded their authority, bypassed Congress, and misled the American people and the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellsberg's actions contributed to ending the war in Vietnam, and to discouraging further war-making, including by informing the public of the inner workings of the U.S. government;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ellsberg was an outstanding educator and activist on some of the most important issues facing the Earth for decades and supported, encouraged and inspired whistleblowers, journalists and activists all over the world;^v and

Name a City of Berkeley Major Street in Honor of Daniel Ellsberg

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WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley declared the week of April 24-30, 2023 Daniel Ellsberg Week; and

WHEREAS, naming a major Berkeley street in honor of Daniel Ellsberg will serve as an ongoing reminder to Berkeley's youth and all residents of the great moral value of whistleblowers, standing up for one's beliefs, and working for a permanent end to nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Berkeley that Berkeley shall name a major city street in honor and recognition of Daniel Ellsberg, his moral courage and as a legacy for peace.

ⁱ "The Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers," June 2024, U.S. Conference of Mayors, https://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/92nd_Conference/proposed-review-list-full-print-committee-individual.php?resid=a0FKY000000sZ8x2AE

ⁱⁱ USCM

ⁱⁱⁱ USCM

^{iv} City of Berkeley Proclamation in Honor of Daniel Ellsberg, April, 24, 2023.

^v City of Berkeley