

CITY OF OLYMPIA
Olympia, Washington

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 25, 2004

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to Consider a Resolution Concerning the Visit to Olympia by the USS Olympia

ORIGINATED BY: City Council

STAFF CONTACT: Marylou Berg, Management Assistant (753-8231)
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REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Allow public testimony regarding the Resolution that a majority of Councilmembers requested be prepared for consideration at tonight's meeting.
2. Vote to accept or reject the Resolution either as written, or with amendments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Hold the public hearing as scheduled.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. [Resolution concerning the planned visit of the USS Olympia](#)
2. [Letter to Mayor Foutch from Paul Marconi](#), Commanding Officer of the OLYMPIA.
3. [Email advising the cancellation of the planned visit](#) of the USS OLYMPIA
4. [Navy history of the USS OLYMPIA](#)
5. [Written correspondence received](#) by the City Council on this topic since last Tuesday, May 18, 2004

BUDGET IMPACT & SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

PRESENTERS AND OTHERS NOTIFIED: United States Navy
Secretary of State
Port of Olympia

BACKGROUND: On April 20, 2004, the City of Olympia received a letter from the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval submarine USS OLYMPIA. The letter was written to update the City about recent activities of the USS OLYMPIA and advise the City of a possible visit by the submarine to Olympia in late May or early June.

At the May 18, 2004 City Council meeting, some citizens utilized the public communication portion of the meeting to voice their

opposition to a possible visit of the USS OLYMPIA.

Following discussion, Council passed a motion on a 4-3 vote to direct staff to prepare a Resolution to consider opposition to the proposed visit and to schedule a Public Hearing on the Resolution at the May 25, 2004 City Council meeting.

On May 20, 2004, the City of Olympia received word that the USS OLYMPIA would not be visiting the Olympia community.

**ANALYSIS AND
OPTIONS:**

Option1. conduct public hearing, take testimony, vote on resolution

Pros

1. The hearing has already been publicized. Therefore, citizens will be expecting to have an opportunity to present testimony about a planned visit of the USS OLYMPIA.
2. Public will have the opportunity to discuss the issue of a nuclear submarine visiting Olympia.

Cons

1. May be holding a public hearing regarding an event that will not be happening.
2. Consideration of previously scheduled Agenda items may be delayed because of time needed for the Public Hearing.

Option 2. Set aside time to take public testimony about the USS OLYMPIA, but do not take any action

Pros

1. Citizens can publicly express their views about the USS OLYMPIA.
2. Council can hear public testimony to be used in the future as they deem appropriate.

Cons

1. Council will not memorialize a position about the planned visit of the USS OLYMPIA.
2. Consideration of previously scheduled Agenda items may be delayed because of time needed for the Public Hearing.

Option3. Do not hold public hearing

Pros

1. Originally scheduled items on Council calendar will not be delayed.

Cons

2. Citizens who have heard about the planned public hearing may be present and not have the opportunity to speak about a visit to Olympia by the USS OLYMPIA.

Option 4. Hold a public hearing. Take action other than the proposed resolution such as sending a letter to Congressional representatives and the Navy about community concerns about safety of nuclear powered vessels visiting heavily populated areas. The letter could also address the impact of the submarine visit on community access to Budd Inlet and the waterfront due to the high level of security required for such a visit.

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