

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 301095

ADOPTED ON DEC 05 2005

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego established official sister city ties with the City of Yantai, People's Republic of China, on July 15, 1985; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego International Sister Cities Corporation has declared that "The San Diego Sister Cities Program is dedicated to letting people give expression to their common desire for friendship, goodwill, and cooperation for a better world for all"; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego hopes to continue to develop an open and healthy relationship with the City of Yantai for the benefit of the residents of both cities and nations; and

WHEREAS, Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a peaceful practice of mind and body improvement that has benefited tens of millions of people in China, the United States, and over sixty countries; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego is home to Falun Dafa practitioners from different walks of life, who host six different Falun Dafa practice sites in the area and have shared their practice in many free workshops in parks and libraries as a service to the community; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the City's attention that the Government of the People's Republic of China has been carrying on a brutal persecution in China since July 20, 1999, to force Falun Dafa practitioners to give up their practice of and belief in Falun Dafa; and

WHEREAS, the inhuman persecution by the Chinese government of Falun Dafa is in direct violation of the fundamental human rights to freedom of personal belief and practice, expression, and assembly guaranteed by the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, the authorities of the City of Yantai have actively engaged in the persecution of peaceful Yantai citizens who are Falun Dafa practitioners and the police force in

the City of Yantai has reportedly killed no less than 17 Falun Dafa practitioners and tortured thousands more; and

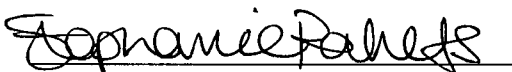
WHEREAS, the brutality in the City of Yantai runs directly against the wish for peace stated by the Mayor of the City of Yantai, Mr. Yang Jinjing, to the City of San Diego that the “people of Yantai are willing to make our continuing commitment, together with the people of San Diego and all peace loving people around the world, to enduring peace and stability, and create a better world where all people will enjoy happy lives under a peaceful sky”; and

WHEREAS, “Amnesty International is calling on the Chinese government to stop the mass arbitrary detentions, unfair trials, and other human rights violations resulting from the crackdown on the Falun Gong”; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2002, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed, by a vote of 420-0, House Concurrent Resolution 188 “Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners”; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego does hereby proclaim December 5, 2005, to be “**FALUN DAFA DAY**” in the City of San Diego as a tribute to the many people who are persecuted for practicing Falun Dafa and in the spirit of friendship, goodwill, and peace among the sister cities of San Diego and Yantai.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By 
Stephanie Rahlfs
Deputy City Attorney

SR:jb
11/22/2005
Or.Dept:Council-Frye
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