

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Allan L. Roeder
Dept: Interim City Manager
Subject: APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION HONORING HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY AND DECLARING GARDEN GROVE A CITY OF COMPASSION, TO BE PRESENTED TO HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA DURING HIS VISIT TO ORANGE COUNTY IN JULY 2015

From: Maria Stipe
Dept: City Manager
Date: June 9, 2015

OBJECTIVE

For the City Council to approve a proclamation honoring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 80th birthday and declaring Garden Grove a City of Compassion, to be presented to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama during his visit to Orange County in July 2015.

BACKGROUND

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama will celebrate his landmark 80th birthday in Orange County with a Global Compassion Summit during a three day visit in July. His Holiness will appear July 5 at the Honda Center in Anaheim, as well as at UC Irvine on July 6 and 7. During the summit world leaders, Nobel Laureates, celebrity guests, artists and many others will gather to discuss compassion and share their best wishes. With the intention of inspiring compassionate action within His Holiness' diverse global audience, the Global Compassion Summit will spark dialogues on awakening compassion and the significance of education in advancing universal human values. Secular ethics, or a return to basic human values such as love, compassion, kindness and forgiveness, will also be a main area of focus during His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's visit.

DISCUSSION

This milestone occasion is a joyous opportunity for people to come together in celebration of His Holiness' life and achievements. It is also an excellent opportunity for the City of Garden Grove to join His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in promoting his message of compassion. The attached proclamation declares Garden Grove a City of Compassion and honors His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's work to positively guide audiences all over the world to open their minds and hearts to peaceful and compassionate existence. The proclamation would be presented by the Mayor and City

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Council to His Holiness at a special meeting during his visit or at one of the currently scheduled events, along with a ceremonial key to the City.

The City of Garden Grove is a community rich in cultural heritage, faith and diversity. With this comes the desire to share and celebrate individual customs, traditions, and beliefs with others. City participation in His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's visit will inspire and advance tolerance between our many cultures and create an atmosphere that furthers our community's ability to express love and compassion for others here and throughout the world.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2015 Garden Grove Tourism Improvement District budget includes a \$2,500 allocation to sponsor costs that may be incurred by the City in association with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's visit.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- Approve the attached proclamation honoring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 80th birthday and declaring Garden Grove a City of Compassion, to be presented to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama during his visit to Orange County in July 2015.



MARIA STIPE

Deputy City Manager

Attachment 1: Proclamation

Attachment 2: Press Release – His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's 80th Birthday & Global Compassion Summit

Approved for Agenda listing



Allan L. Roeder

Interim City Manager

CITY OF Garden Grove

PROCLAMATION

Honoring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 80th Birthday and Declaring Garden Grove a City of Compassion

- WHEREAS, *His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, will mark his 80th birthday with a Global Compassion Summit during a three-day visit to Orange County. The Summit will serve as the official world celebration of His Holiness, and intends to galvanize the hearts and minds of a diverse audience into compassionate dialogue and action; and*
- WHEREAS, *His Holiness' stay in Orange County presents a rare and fortuitous opportunity for the City of Garden Grove to humbly join the international community's recognition of the Dalai Lama's enduring humanitarianism, and life mission to abolish suffering, reduce hatred, nurture kindness, and reinforce the principles of equity and fairness; and*
- WHEREAS, *As a City of Compassion, Garden Grove pledges to follow principles of compassion, which call for the bringing of voices of all cultures and faiths together, in a unified movement of peace, acceptance, and respect; and*
- WHEREAS, *The City is a proud and strong supporter of an organization founded 20 years ago, the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, which faithfully and proactively follows these same principles. Their efforts have not only enhanced, but truly elevated, the community's understanding of how differences are to be more than just tolerated, they are to be embraced and celebrated; and*
- WHEREAS, *The establishment of this groundbreaking organization aided in the transformation of ignorance to education, and apathy to empathy. The achievements of the Interfaith Council reflect a strong desire on this community's part to belong to a greater, kinder good, where love and compassion for others from a differing faith or race could be expressed; and*
- WHEREAS, *It is the City's belief that declaring our allegiance to the principles of compassion, and participating in the Dalai Lama's visit, will create an atmosphere that furthers our community's ability to share harmony with our neighbors locally, as well as globally.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Bao Nguyen, and the Garden Grove City Council do hereby proclaim Garden Grove as a City of Compassion, recognizing that this trait is an ethical imperative in policies affecting human services. The City joins the global community in honoring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, a figure at once both human and divine, a great spiritual master and patron deity of compassion, as he marks his 80th birthday.

July 6, 2015

Bao Nguyen,
Mayor

Steven R. Jones,
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan,
Council Member

Phat Bui,
Council Member

Kris Beard,
Council Member



PRESS RELEASE

HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED WITH A GLOBAL COMPASSION SUMMIT; JULY 5-7, 2015

Three-Day Summit is Presented by Friends of the Dalai Lama in Partnership with University of California, Irvine and Center for Living Peace, with a Special World Birthday Event at Anaheim's Honda Center

Irvine, Calif., March 12 2015 – Friends of the Dalai Lama announced today that a **Global Compassion Summit** will be held in honor of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's landmark 80th birthday. The summit will take place July 5-7, 2015 and will be the official world celebration of His Holiness' 80th birthday, featuring world leaders, Nobel Laureates, celebrity guests, speakers and performers from around the globe. Tickets will go on sale April 2, 2015.

Hosted by **Friends of the Dalai Lama, UC Irvine** and the **Center for Living Peace**, the kick-off will be held at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif., which accommodates 18,000 attendees. The following two days of summit dialogues, panels and special gatherings will take place on the UCI campus. This will be the Dalai Lama's first visit to Anaheim, The City of Kindness, and third visit to Irvine. All events are open to the public.

"This milestone occasion is a joyous opportunity for people to come together in celebration of His Holiness' life and achievements," said Venerable Lama Tenzin Dhonden, Personal Emissary for Peace to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and Founder and Chair of the independent, non-profit Friends of the Dalai Lama.

"His Holiness has devoted his life's work to positively guide audiences all over the world to open their minds and hearts to peaceful and compassionate existence. On this very special birthday, we will have a chance to celebrate his accomplishments in many areas and hear his exciting view for the years to come," Lama Tenzin continued. "I believe 2015 is a year of great hope. On behalf of Friends of the Dalai Lama, I'd like to express my gratitude to UC Irvine and the Center for Living Peace for joining us in hosting the upcoming Global Compassion Summit in Southern California this July 2015."

"We are humbled and honored that His Holiness the Dalai Lama will return to our campus on this special birthday. It is an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate his achievements which have inspired our students through the **UCI XIV Dalai Lama Scholarship** to create impactful projects to promote and celebrate compassion throughout our community and beyond," shared Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Thomas A. Parham. "At UCI, we believe that developing global citizens must involve educating the heart as well as the mind, while we also seek to excite students' passions and ignite their spirits."

"Few people exemplify living peace as poignantly as His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama," said Kelly Thornton Smith, philanthropist and founder of Center for Living Peace. "We feel such a deep sense of gratitude to be able to host this momentous occasion and to help inspire everyone around the globe to make Good Happen everyday."

The Global Compassion Summit is designed to foster a dialogue on compassion and peace with His Holiness' diverse, multi-ethnic global audience. The event will be a celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's lifetime of devotion to the work of spreading the message about the value of peace, kindness and universal compassion throughout the world.

The program will highlight the different areas in which His Holiness has had great impact. It will be a platform for on-stage dialogue amongst friends, fellow Nobel Laureates, leaders and experts with whom he has collaborated or shares common values toward the achievement of Universal Peace. Dialogues to include:

Awakening Compassion: The Transformative Power of Creativity and Art
Compassionate Planet: The Effects of Climate Change and Taking Action to Resolve this Global Issue

Wisdom, Vision and Experience: A Dialogue with Nobel Laureates
Youth Leadership Panel: The Significance of Education in Advancing Universal Human Values

"The Global Compassion Summit provides an opportunity for people from all walks of life to learn about universal compassion – to better themselves and the world they live in," said Lama Tenzin Dhonden. "Together we will celebrate the tireless work and accomplishments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the official 80th birthday celebration, while sharing well wishes for a long life."

Friends of the Dalai Lama is an independent, non-profit organization founded to amplify the positive messages of His Holiness. The organization supports important endeavors that align with His Holiness' values of compassion and peace. The Global Compassion Summit honoring His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th Birthday is the first event presented by Friends of the Dalai Lama, and only official event of its kind taking place during his actual birthday.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama does not charge a speaking engagement fee and no aspect of His Holiness' visit is being used to profit financially. The Global Compassion Summit and the world birthday celebration for His Holiness is a privately funded event.

For additional information please visit <http://www.hhdl80.org>

For all media inquires, please contact kelly@harmonica.co

About Friends of the Dalai Lama: Friends of the Dalai Lama is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2014 by Lama Tenzin Dhonden, Personal Emissary for Peace to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Friends of the Dalai Lama facilitates the participation of His Holiness in public and private events. The work it delivers is based on Six Core Value Elements that enable each audience to gain a deeper and actionable understanding of His Holiness' message on Human Values, Secular Ethics, Inter-Religious Dialogue, Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Compassionate Education and Ethical Leadership for the sake of humanity. <http://www.friendsofdalailama.org/>

About UC Irvine: UC Irvine's connection with the Dalai Lama dates back to 2004 when he first visited the campus and inspired the creation of the XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship. Since then, 12 scholars have married the values of ethical leadership, peace and positive global relations with the university's mission of public service to the community with such projects as "Compassion in Medicine," "Kindness Month" and the "Peace Flag Project." The Dalai Lama spoke to a sold-out arena at UCI in 2011 and has maintained correspondence with students about gratitude and compassion in action. The Dalai Lama and UCI leadership are aligned in support of holistic education as a path to a better world. For more on UCI, visit <http://www.uci.edu/>

About Center for Living Peace: The Center for Living Peace is a non-profit organization founded by Kelly Thornton Smith that creates opportunities for people to find inner peace and purpose, discover their own gifts and talents, and share them with the world. Nestled inside a unique facility near UCI, public classes and program offerings encourage the community to turn positive intentions into action and to truly be the change they wish to see in the world. Get to know more by visiting <http://GoodHappens.org>

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