

Department of Peace and Nonviolence

Colorado Campaign – Congressional District 6 – Centennial



Campaign Overview
6/7/07

Presentation to Mayor Pye, Centennial, Colorado



Presentation to Mayor Pyle Overview

- Introductions
- Purpose of Presentation
 - Commend Mayor Pye & Council for Leadership and Foresight
 - Acknowledge the Centennial “Vision Project”
 - Address synergism with proposed **U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence**
 - Propose a **Centennial City Council Resolution** endorsing the Department of Peace
- Feedback



Introductions



- Presenters
 - Residents of Centennial – concerned about its long term future
 - Volunteers for the Colorado Campaign to establish a **U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence (DoPN)**
 - Ron Cole, State Campaign Coordinator
 - Retired UAL Pilot
 - Former Navy Pilot
 - Milt Hetrick, Model DoPN Project Coordinator
 - Retired Aerospace Engineer, Lockheed Martin
 - Former DoD and NASA contractor



Purpose of Presentation

- Commend Mayor Pye & City Council for Leadership and Foresight
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2007 State of Our City "A City Evolving"

Review of Centennial Assets

- ◆ Centennial is a safe city.
- ◆ Centennial has dedicated City employees, and visionary City leaders
- ◆ Centennial has great learning institutions that provide energy, creativity and ideas.
- ◆ Centennial is blessed with an active citizenry who give their energy and creativity to make our City all that it is.
- ◆ Centennial has incredible youth with the type of enthusiasm that makes a difference.
- ◆ Centennial has a strong business base with an amazing corporate ethic of sharing assets with the community.
- ◆ Centennial has great community organizations investing time and resources to strengthen our moral compass.

All of this provides the perfect backdrop for exceptional recreation, entertainment, commerce and housing that makes Centennial a great place to live.

- ◆ For the second year in a row, Centennial is the **safest** city in Colorado and in the top 50 of our size in the country.
- ◆ Willow Creek Elementary was named a 2006 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School, one of only five schools in Colorado and 250 schools nationwide to be recognized in 2006.



2007 State of Our City "A City Evolving"

"Quiet Crisis."

- Centennial is facing a funding dilemma.
 - Revenues are projected to increase at an annual rate of 3.9 percent per year while our costs are projected at current service levels to increase at 8.7 percent per year.
- This is the catalyst that will allow us to create a plan that will be the future of Centennial for the next 50 years.
- This is an opportunity to take proactive action to define our future.

Factors influencing future funding

- Our demographics are changing
 - new families are moving into the city,
 - Our population is aging
- land locked and built out
- limited future retail development potential
- sales tax leakage. Centennial citizens shop elsewhere
- aging neighborhoods and with it an aging infrastructure concern puts major pressure on our service delivery levels in the near future as well as a need for neighborhood revitalization and preservation.
- significant cost increases in both material and personnel.
- reduction of franchise fees due to recent state & federal regulatory actions.
- demands by our citizens to provide a larger variety of services and more depth in the services we currently provide.



2007 State of Our City "A City Evolving"

The Plan

Waiting is not an option.

Reduce Costs

- We will start immediately by looking at ways to better maximize our service delivery efficiency and ways to exploit new and existing revenue sources.
- Look at key cost-related activities. Develop better and more valid cost estimates within all of our departments but in particular Public Works where the costs are more volatile.
- During this year we will renegotiate our Inter-Governmental Agreement with Arapahoe County for road and bridge services and with the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services.
- We will put out a Request For Proposal to both the private and public sectors for engineering services and Capital Improvement Project management.
- We will significantly restructure our current Land Use Services Department to make it more effective for both the City and the customers we serve.
- We are asking City management to tighten our spending controls and at the same time I will ask that the Council embrace the concept that for every new service we provide or piece of legislation we seek to enact that a fiscal note be attached to it so we can see the monetary commitment we are making now and in the future before we adopt it.



2007 State of Our City "A City Evolving"

The Plan

Waiting is not an option.

Increase Revenue

- Support in every way possible the Southglenn redevelopment project to maximize its potential within itself and to use it to spur redevelopment of existing retail around it and within the Arapahoe Road and University corridors.
- Determine if any revenue sources currently at our disposal may have the potential for uncollected revenues.
- Explore all revenue opportunities and sources not currently utilized by the City and determine their validity to our future.
- Hire an Economic Development Director and create an economic development plan that will focus on three fronts:
 - retain our existing businesses;
 - attract new businesses (with a major emphasis on retail); and
 - begin a plan to develop industry clusters that can be built off existing businesses currently in the City.
 - This will help us to expand Centennial's tax base, grow our own economy and create good jobs here in the City. (e.g. United Launch Alliance)



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2007 State of Our City "A City Evolving"

Community Vision Project

"Our City requires a vision and a plan and the willingness to push outside the status quo of our comfort boundaries. Not just for Centennial, but those landowners in the unincorporated part of the county that adjoin the City.

We will push your comfort level and we will entertain all plans and all ideas that are brought to us. It would be irresponsible of us if we didn't.

A plan is important only if we have a common vision for our City. If we are not unified, we will have change for the sake of change, and growth for the sake of growth, but we will ultimately not advance in making our City the prosperous, dynamic and desirable place that it can become.

Centennial is evolving and we must decide what Centennial wants to be today and in the future.

Leadership is .. developing a shared sense of destiny... creating the climate in which people join together and turn challenging situations and quiet crises into remarkable success.

It's about enrolling others so they can see how their own interests and aspirations are aligned with the vision and thereby become mobilized to commit their individual energies to its realization.

This Vision Project will create a community-owned road map that can show us the way for the next 30 to 50 years -- creating the "intentional city" -- a purposeful and thoughtful city that grows not only from opportunity, but from people's dreams, and what they are willing to do as partners with their government to make those dreams happen.

We need to map out where we go next. Where do we fit, in the context of this region and our surrounding cities? How do we succeed and how do we prosper? We need a strategy that capitalizes on our inherent community strengths. We need to establish a clear direction for stable economic growth and finally, but most importantly, a vision that unites us as a community."

7 June 2007



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What will the Department Of Peace Do?

The Department of Peace legislation (H.R. 808) calls for:

- A Secretary of Peace, who will advise the president on peacebuilding needs, strategies, and tactics for use domestically and internationally.
- The creation of a Peace Academy, a sister organization to our military service academies, that will build a world-class faculty of peacebuilding experts.

They will analyze peacebuilding strategies at all levels of the American society, advise other branches of government (Federal, State, and Local), and facilitate the training of peacebuilders for domestic and international service.

- **Funding to create and expand proven domestic peacebuilding programs in our communities, such as**
 - mediation trainings for police;
 - alternative dispute resolution techniques, peer mediation and nonviolent communication programs in public schools, in communities, in businesses, etc.
 - Transforming diverse perspectives into a common vision and constructively managing conflict to build cooperative plans for the future
- Providing ways to constructively transform and manage conflict and prevent escalation to violence.
 - Reduce the cost of interpersonal violence in the U.S (\$300 Billion annually).
- Identifying and addressing the root causes of all forms of violence (self-inflicted, interpersonal, collective and institutional/structural)
 - Violence is "any action that prevents a personal from reaching their human potential."
 - Peacebuilding is any action that assists a person (and community) from reaching their individual (and collective) potential



Department of Peace – Domestic Activities

- The field of peacebuilding is a great American asset that deserves greater investigation and exploitation.
- Our democratic process in its purest form is an application of domestic peacebuilding.
- Politicians who consider themselves Americans rather than a Republican or Democrat are actually ideal peacemakers – because they consider diverse perspectives and seek solutions that benefit all Americans.
- Peacebuilding tools such as those described in the legislation have grown dramatically over the past 20 years.
 - More than 300 colleges and universities give degrees in Peacebuilding and Peace Studies.
 - Two local examples include the University of Denver's Conflict Resolution Institute and Regis' Peace and Justice Studies Degree Program.



Department of Peace – Domestic Activities

- The current spectrum of our peacebuilding expertise includes leading-edge technologies in the fields of conflict resolution, peer mediation, post-conflict reconstruction and many others.
 - The Department of Peace will help train our best minds in the peacebuilding realm with the most sophisticated information, creating a body of expertise to deal with a broad array of issues spanning the spectrum, from school shootings, to urban gang violence, to child and elderly abuse, to the growing levels of incarceration-all problems which demand serious community solutions.
 - There exists today a vast array of problem-solving options at every level of our culture.
 - Many of these solutions are already working at a smaller scale in cities and states throughout the country. Current successful programs offer practical ways of improving community/police relations, rehabilitating prisoners, reducing recidivism rates, preventing domestic violence, providing cultural competency education, teaching nonviolent conflict resolution, and preventing school violence. All provide a valuable pool of tried and true methodologies.
 - Through the springboard of the Department of Peace, effective citizen and community-based programs will be identified, funded, expanded, and made available to communities around the country.
 - One example of the positive impact of these kinds of alternative approaches is in the field of Restorative Justice. Baltimore's "Community Conferencing" program reduces recidivism rates (return to the criminal justice system) by 60% in young offenders compared to similar juvenile justice cases in the traditional juvenile justice system.
 - We can teach our children positive socialization skills and tendencies - "preemptive education" in how to both manage and prevent conflict. Imagine K-12 core school curriculum integrating peer mediation and conflict prevention education.
- A US Department of Peace will significantly increase our ability to ensure that proven programs such as these are adequately funded and universally available. It will provide the institutional heft to increase and expand the breadth of their impact, offering practical, concrete, and effective solutions to our most pressing problems.



How could the DoPN help Centennial?

- DOPN can help reduce non-value added costs related to destructive / violent behavior
 - Centennial can do “more for less” if we continue to **avoid the non-valued costs of domestic/interpersonal violence** (as Centennial is now able to do with its current “demographics.”)
 - Prevention can be 10 times less expensive than incarceration and fixing / repairing the results of violence

The DOPN could help advise Centennial on ways to avoid the ills of large urban areas.

- DoPN can help the community turn conflict into constructive growth experiences
 - Conflict is inevitable – violence is not;
 - Conflict can be an opportunity for growth – we can embrace diversity and use it to our advantage
 - Centennial government could be a model for constructive conflict management / negotiation / ADR
 - The City could model constructive conflict management skills within their operations.
 - By empowering Centennial residents with the skills needed to constructively manage conflict, we also increase productivity and contributions to the community

The DOPN will provide educational and training resources and promote ADR services such as mediation/negotiation. These same skills could be implemented within Centennial businesses - with an end result of higher productivity, etc.

- DoPN can help Centennial retain its status as a “model” city
 - Retain its “Safe” status by being aware of areas where residents are under duress that will eventually escalate to destructive / violent behavior
 - Continue to be pro-active in preventing costs associated with violence
 - Continue to be pro-active and promote opportunities for all residents
 - Assure affordable housing for all residents
 - Be known as helping working adults continue their education

DoPN can help identify areas where the City may be inadvertently contributing to “structural violence” - help Identify specific individuals / groups who may be unduly constrained by government/business and limited in growth and opportunity to pursue their potential



How could the DoPN help Centennial?

- Centennial is looking for "new business" that provide "good jobs."
 - By being a "model" community that exemplifies "peacefulness" and a city that practices the principles of nonviolence, Centennial could become a leading candidate as the home of
 - a "Regional Office" of the DOPN or
 - a "Regional Campus" of the Peace Academy
 - Peacefulness is not just the absence of violence/crime (a safe city), but also the presence of opportunity for every resident so No Child/No Adult is left behind or restrained for reaching their human potential.
 - Centennial is currently in a great position on the "peacefulness" scale, but without continual attention to less privileged persons, this position can quickly worsen.

The DOPN can help identify areas where certain people are being left behind. These areas are potential sources of future frustration, discontent, and anger – that if left unresolved can escalate into destructive physical violence.

- Centennial might consider and adapt a variation of the "Kalamazoo Promise"
 - The Kalamazoo Michigan school district made a promise to each and every student in their district that they will have the financial "opportunity" to go to college.
 - Students must still apply themselves to the learning environment and demonstrate they would take advantage of a college opportunity.
 - Businesses in the area bought into this promise and are helping finance it.
 - This "Promise" has had a far reaching positive impact on the community
 - An environment that is good for youth will attract younger families to offset the aging population
 - Families with children are moving back into Kalamazoo, real estate prices are increasing,
 - Younger families are willing to invest in their home, upgrade, enhance, etc. - This is good for local small businesses (construction, landscaping, home decorating,)
 - General pride and morale within the city has increased,
 - Youth are excited and have renewed hope for their future (regardless of their current economic status).

The DoPN could help make a "Centennial Promise" a reality.



How could the DoPN help Centennial?

- Centennial could be known as having "World Class" Pre-schools and Day Care Centers
 - Youth in single parent families or two career parent families will not be left behind experientially
 - Centennial's "World Class" Pre-schools and Day Care Centers would provide safe, healthy, and stimulating pre-school environments to grow up in.
 - We know these youth placed in such an environment have a higher probability of doing well in school and have a lower probability of dropping out and getting involved in non-productive / violent behavior.

The DOPN could help the Mayor and Council keep a "youth centric" perspective and identify "Best Practices" for youth development.



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City Council Resolutions

20 Cities already support the Department of Peace and Nonviolence

- City councils representing over 6.5 million people have passed measures endorsing the legislation.
- Some of the largest cities in the nation are endorsing this legislation.



Atlanta, GA
[Berkeley, CA](#)
Cambridge, MA
[Chicago, IL](#)
[Cleveland, OH](#)
[Detroit, MI](#)
Everett, MA
Gainesville, FL
Hamtramck, MI
Kauai (County), HI
Lincoln City, OR
Minneapolis, MN
[Newark, NJ](#)
[Oakland, CA](#)
Palo Alto, CA
San Francisco, CA
San Jose, CA
Santa Cruz, CA
Sebastopol, CA
Silver City, NM



City Council Resolution – Centennial, Colorado

Resolution No. 2007-

An Emergency Resolution Supporting the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace, encouraging those members of the Colorado Delegation who have not yet become sponsors of the proposed legislation to sign on as sponsors of the bill and further encouraging the U.S. Congress to pass said legislation.

- WHEREAS, during the 110th Congress, Representative Dennis Kucinich introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives legislation H.R. 808 to create a United States Department of Peace, that has now garnered the sponsorship of 60 members of the U.S. house of Representatives; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace, which will be headed by a Secretary of Peace who will advise the President on issues that are both domestic and international in scope; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Centennial by holding peace as an organizing principal for American Society, thus changing the tone of American Society; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Centennial by developing new programs that address root causes of the societal challenges of domestic violence, school violence, guns, and racial or ethnic violence; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation will further benefit the City of Centennial by encouraging development of initiatives from the community, its religious groups, and its non-governmental organizations, that will create greater community involvement and cooperation thereby creating a stronger city; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the City of Centennial by reducing the cost of International and Domestic conflict, thereby allowing funds to be redirected to the states and cities; and
- WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,
- **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL:**
- Section 1. That this Council hereby supports the proposed federal legislation to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, encourages those members of the Colorado Delegation who have not yet become sponsors of the proposed legislation to sign on as sponsors of the bill and further encourages the U.S. Congress to pass said legislation.
- Section 2. That the Clerk of the Council is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the State of Colorado.
- Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

7 June 2007

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For More Information, Contact:

National Campaign (The Peace Alliance)

www.dopcampaign.org

PO Box 70095

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

248.813.8950

Colorado Campaign

www.codopcampaign.org

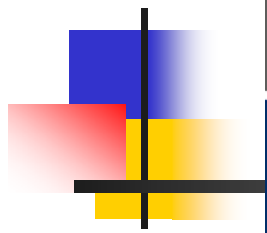
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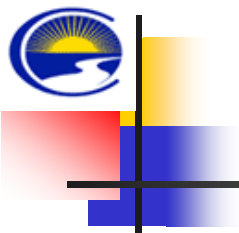
Additional Resource Material



Campaign for the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
PEACE

www.dopcampaign.org



The primary function of a United States Department of Peace will be to research, facilitate, and articulate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict



The Urgent Need for a Department of Peace (INTERNATIONAL)



- Nuclear proliferation creates critical need for the interruption of current cycles of violence
 - Nuclear arsenals -- those both friendly and hostile to the United States -- are susceptible to terrorist attack or theft



The Urgent Need for a Department of Peace (DOMESTIC)



- Criminal and domestic violence places intense financial pressure on city, county, and state government budgets
 - Example: 80% of all police runs in the City of Detroit are in response to domestic violence



Addressing Causal Issues

- Current policy-making tends toward reactive, not proactive approaches to violence reduction
- Traditional political problem-solving focuses primarily on addressing *symptoms* of violence, such as imprisonment of offenders and engagement in armed conflict
- The Department of Peace and Nonviolence will continue to focus on “prevention” and an understanding of “root cause” of violent behavior – violence in all forms
- The Department of Peace and Nonviolence will focus on “promoting” opportunities for people to reach their individual and collective potential



Addressing Causal Issues (Cont...)

- Suppression of symptoms should be augmented by stronger preventative measures and treatment of root causes of violence
- The United States should be as effective in addressing the sources of violence as we are effective in addressing its symptoms



We Need a Dept. of Peace



- ...To reduce domestic and international violence
- ...To gather and coordinate information and recommendations from America's peace community
- ...To teach violence prevention and mediation to America's school children
- ...To effectively treat and dismantle gang psychology



We Need A Dept. of Peace (Cont...)



- ...To rehabilitate the prison population
-To build peace-making efforts among conflicting cultures both here and abroad
- ...To support our military with complementary approaches to ending violence



Proposed Federal Legislation to Establish a U.S. Department of Peace



- Bill was introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives during the 107th, 108th, 109th and now the 110th Congress. Current bill number is H.R. 808.
- Proposed legislation calls for the Department's budget to be the equivalent of 2% of U.S. defense budget (~1 % of the total budget)



The Benefits: International



The Department of Peace will:

- Advise the President, the Secretaries of Defense and State, and others on root causes of violence, plus practical ways to dismantle violence while still in a formative phase



The Benefits: International (Cont...)

The Department of Peace will:

- ◆ Support the military by:
 - Providing cultural, ethnic and psychologically insightful information, education and technology
 - Offering practical skills (conflict resolution techniques, and the like) for the amelioration of violence among adversarial factions
 - Administer the training and support of civilian peacekeepers to participate in multinational nonviolent peace forces



The Benefits: Domestic

The Department of Peace will:

- Develop field-tested educational programs promoting conflict-resolution and peer mediation among school-age children
- Provide violence-prevention programs addressing domestic violence, gang violence, drug and alcohol-related violence, and the like
- Provide much-needed assistance for the efforts of city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs in their own communities, as well as programs newly developed and provided by the Dept. of Peace



Responsibilities of the Secretary of Peace

In addition to leading the Department, the Secretary shall:

- Provide the President with statistically-verified recommendations on how a specific policy either increases or diminishes the prospect of domestic and international peace
- Provide the President with recommendations regarding the social and financial impact of domestic and international policies



A U.S. Peace Academy

- The Department of Peace will create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the U.S. Military Academy
- The Academy will research and teach the most leading-edge techniques for the amelioration of violence among domestic and international populations



A U.S. Peace Academy (Cont...)

- The Peace Academy will provide assistance to the military in international conflict-resolution
- The Peace Academy faculty will be derived from well-established practitioners known for best practices in the field of conflict reduction and resolution

The Time



7 June 2007

Is Now