

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Salt Lake City Council Statement
March 11, 2003

The Salt Lake City Council has been approached by a number of people about passing a resolution opposing a war with Iraq. We understand that this is an extraordinarily important national and international issue which affects us all. We all wish to live in a peaceful world without war; opinions differ as to how that can best be achieved. Out of respect for the concerned opinions on both sides of the debate which we have received, we wish to explain why we have not placed the Iraq war on our agenda for debate and formal action.

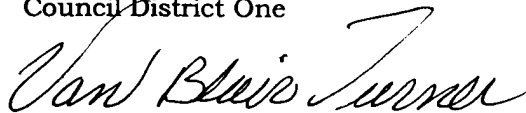
The Salt Lake City Council has made it a practice to decline to pass resolutions on issues outside our sphere of responsibilities, even though we are often called to do so. We were not elected to represent the citizens of Salt Lake on national and international matters, nor were we elected to make formal public pronouncements for the City on issues clearly outside of our responsibilities. To undertake such activities in contradiction of our general policy would undermine the essential non-partisan nature of this body, and distract us from the work we were elected to do. We think it would set an unwise precedent for a Council to become a tool for advancing partisan ideological causes, even on important national issues.

Moreover, even if the Council elected to make an exception to this general policy, it would do so only if there were a broad consensus of opinion, which there is not. Like our citizens, Council Members are divided on how this nation and the world should deal with Iraq and on the possible use of military force against Iraq. Given the lack of consensus, it would be particularly inappropriate for the Council to depart from its general policy.

For these reasons, we respectfully decline to pass a resolution on this issue. Council Members, like all citizens, are free to speak out on these issues as individual citizens, but the Council elects not to make a formal pronouncement purporting to state the position of Salt Lake City residents, be it supporting or opposing the use of military force against Iraq.



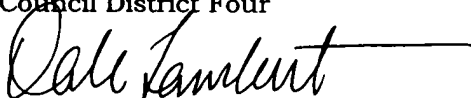
Carlton J. Christensen
City Council Chair
Council District One



Van Blair Turner
City Council Member
Council District Two



Nancy Saxton
City Council Member
Council District Four



Dale Lambert
City Council Member
Council District Seven



Jill Remington Love
City Council Vice-Chair
Council District Five



K. Eric Jergensen
City Council Member
Council District Three



David L. Buhler
City Council Member
Council District Six