

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Falun Gong is a peaceful spiritual movement that originated in the People's Republic of China and has grown rapidly worldwide, including thousands of practitioners in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Falun Gong encourages its practitioners to cultivate "truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance"; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides to its citizens freedom of speech, assembly, association, and religious belief; and

WHEREAS, Falun Gong practitioners report first-hand of the Chinese government's terror campaign, which survivors say includes persecution, arrests, imprisonment, torture, and murder; and

WHEREAS, In addition to persecution in China, Falun Gong followers in the United States report that they have been victims of spying, harassment, intimidation, and violence by agents of the Chinese government; and

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution guarantees to its citizens freedom of religion, association, and speech, which allows Americans to live without fear and in accordance with their personal beliefs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doody, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, on behalf of the citizens, strongly urge the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of its own citizens who exercise their legitimate rights to freedom of religion, speech, and association; and to cease its interference in the constitutionally guaranteed religious and political freedoms of United States citizens who practice Falun Gong; and encourage China to respect the religious freedom of its citizens.

FURTHERMORE, it is requested that the United States issue an official, public, diplomatic statement to the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemning China's repeated violations of basic human rights protected in international covenants to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 11th day of June, 2006.

Mayor