



City of Chicago
Office of the City Clerk
Tracking Sheet



R2010-1392

Meeting Date: **12/8/2010**
Status: **Introduced**
Sponsor(s): **Balcer, James
Burke, Edward**
Type: **Resolution**
Title: **United States Justice Department urged to pursue legal
remedies against WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange**
Committee(s) Assignment: **Committee on Finance**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the WikiLeaks website has published large quantities of sensitive documents that contain information harmful to United States interests; and

WHEREAS, prior to a substantial release of sensitive diplomatic cables, the U.S. State Department's top lawyer warned Julian Assange, the founder of the WikiLeaks website, that American lives and military operations would be put at risk if the cables were released; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Assange was also warned by U.S. officials that the release of the documents would violate U.S. law; and

WHEREAS, in utter disregard for the risk to American lives, military operations, U.S. foreign policy interests, and the rule of law, Mr. Assange, through his WikiLeaks website, released 250,000 diplomatic cables between the U.S. State Department and over 270 U.S. diplomatic outposts around the world; and

WHEREAS, WikiLeaks' release of said documents has placed at immediate risk, the personal safety of American diplomats, intelligence professionals, and people around the world who come to the United States for assistance in promoting democracy and open government; and

WHEREAS, the release has further impacted U.S. foreign policy interests by hindering diplomatic efforts by compromising private discussions with foreign governments and opposition leaders; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2010, Julian Assange surrendered to British authorities in response to the issuance of a Swedish warrant stemming from a sex-crimes investigation; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has called for the prosecution of Mr. Assange under the Espionage Act of 1917; and

WHEREAS, the United States Justice Department is conducting an ongoing investigation into the criminal nature of the WikiLeaks' releases; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Chicago City Council, do hereby urge the United States Justice Department to pursue any and all legal remedies, both civil and criminal, against Julian Assange, and any persons assisting in obtaining, storing, publicizing, or releasing the diplomatic cables on the WikiLeaks website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Justice Department is urged to formally request the extradition of Julian Assange to face criminal charges on American soil for the release of said documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the United States Attorney General, Eric H. Holder Jr.

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Edward M. Burke