



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

April 1, 2015

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk *MG*

SUBJECT: Adopt a resolution in support of the relatives', students', and the greater public's demand for an independent international investigation of the events that happened in Iguala, Mexico

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached resolution

DISCUSSION

Mayor Coler requested that this item be added to the agenda for the Council's consideration.

Last fall, 42 students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School in Mexico went missing after police in the city of Iguala, Guerrero, opened fire on their buses, and kidnapped a group of them. Now, three groups of family members of the students are traveling the U.S. on a caravan to raise awareness and support for these missing students, and to call for international investigation of the situation. Many of the cities along the way are passing resolutions in support of the Ayotzinapa families and calling for further investigations.

On Monday, April 6th, several family members of the missing students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School in Mexico will be hosted by the Community Media Center of Marin, where they will do an in-studio program.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed resolution

RESOLUTION 15-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
IN SUPPORT OF THE RELATIVES', STUDENTS', AND THE GREATER PUBLIC'S DEMAND FOR
AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF
THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN IGUALA**

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2014, forty-three students from the rural teachers' college of Ayotzinapa disappeared from Iguala, a Mexican town in the state of Guerrero; and,

WHEREAS, Mexico's Attorney General, Jesus Murillo Karam, declared that Iguala's municipal police kidnapped the students and handed them over to the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel, who allegedly had them executed, while the parents maintain the students are alive until presented with concrete proof to support the government's claims; and

WHEREAS, the Ayotzinapa students were mostly youth from poor, rural families who were training to become teachers and serve the indigenous and disadvantaged in their community; and

WHEREAS, the recent events in Guerrero represent human rights violations and have resulted in international outcry; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that 25,000 to 26,000 people have disappeared in Mexico since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax is a community that values learning, and the safety and freedom of students here and across the world; and

WHEREAS, parents of the Ayotzinapa students will visit Marin County in April 2015 as a part of a caravan that will visit several cities in the United States to seek justice for their missing children; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council offers its support to all those in Mexico and the world working for human rights and justice against corruption and violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX hereby formally expresses its support for the relatives', students', and the greater public's demand for an independent international investigation of the events that happened in Iguala in accordance with international standards of justice.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 1st day of April 2015 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Barbara Coler, Mayor

Attest:

Michele Gardner, Town Clerk