

MAKING USE OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Presented by Lorraine Yin





Nonviolent soldiers are called upon to examine
their greatest weapons: their heart, their
conscience, their courage and sense of justice.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



WHY?

Speaking to your local government sets precedents that ripple outward. It...

- **Raises visibility:** Local officials become aware of certain problems that are prevalent in the area.
- **Promotes accountability:** When the public engages civically, leaders are reminded that their actions have consequences.
- **Builds pressure:** Peaceful and persistent advocacy creates tension. It cannot be ignored.

HOW?

- **Know who represents you:** Find out who your elected representatives are, so you can communicate with them in-person and online.
- **Show up and speak up:** Attend city council meetings. Public comments are the most direct channel of communication with local government.
- **Follow through:** Government change can move slowly. Persistence is key.

KNOW WHAT TO ASK FOR

It's crucial that we aim for concrete goals that local government can adopt and implement. For example...

PROCLAMATIONS

Purpose: to show support
+ easy to complete
- mostly symbolic
- does not carry major political influence

ORDINANCES

Purpose: to enact real political change within the city

- + carries major political influence
- + requires vote and adoption
- - applies only to a specific area
- - is a tedious process from drafting to adoption

RESOLUTIONS

Purpose: to endorse protests and express a political stance

- + requires vote and adoption
- + flexible tool for quick decisions
- - does not carry major political influence

COALITIONS

Purpose: to show regional unity across shared values

- Passing parallel ordinances
- Adopting joint resolutions
- Signing the same petitions

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me –
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Pastor Niemöller
(14 January 1892 – 6 March 1984)

**As youth
representatives, it
is our duty to
speak up.**



Elected officials
“Stop the Raids” Letter Sign On

Thank you!



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