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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

VETERANS FOR PEACE, GREATER
SEATTLE, CHAPTER 92,
Plaintiff.

No. _____

V.

CITY OF AUBURN, WASHINGTON,

Defendant.

DECLARATION OF PIO DECANO IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

- I, Pio DeCano, hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington.
- 2. I joined the Marine Corps in 1959 and was honorably discharged in 1963. I served as a Regional Marine Clerk in Lima, Peru. I supported Marine Guards stationed in Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- 3. Four years in the Marines showed me that militarism can cloud the U.S.'s relationships with other countries. When I was discharged, I returned to complete my bachelor's degree. During my studies at the University of Washington, I studied how the U.S. government had supported governments that had not been democratically elected around the world. I had observed this in Peru.
- 4. I joined Veterans For Peace, Greater Seattle, Chapter 92 ("VFP 92") in 2003 and have served as a Vice President of VFP 92.

- 5. I joined VFP because I came to realize that the U.S. foreign policy of "walk softly, carry a big stick" didn't work. War doesn't solve anything, and a more equitable society will be achieved through peaceful means. I disagree with the attitude that anything can be solved by the exercise of power. Invading other countries and overthrowing governments does not create an environment for democracy to flourish.
- I have marched with VFP 92 in the Auburn Veterans Day Parade for the last five years.
- 7. When VFP 92 first began marching in the parades, the spectators would boo and hiss at us, and some uniformed men would turn their backs on us when we passed. The parade crowd was indifferent to our presence and our message in the parade. Over the years, the reception to our presence in the parade has become warmer, and in recent years, the parade crowd, including parade officials in the reviewing stand, has applauded our presence. I think that people have observed the Iraq and Afghanistan wars drag on our country and realized that war has caused us to lose lives at an unprecedented rate.
- 8. Marching in the parade is important because it shows that there are veterans, combat and noncombat, who don't view war as necessary to sustain civilization.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this from of November, 2012, at least leas

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Pio DeCano