



HR1385

LRB096 23393 GRL 42757 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, September 11, 2010 marks the 9th anniversary of
3 the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, where
4 almost 3,000 people were killed in suicide attacks by Islamic
5 terrorists linked to al-Qaeda; and

6 WHEREAS, The events of September 11th served as a catalyst
7 for the "war on terror", which has become one of the largest
8 scale international conflicts in history; the "war on terror"
9 has involved combat operations in nearly a dozen countries,
10 supported by hundreds of thousands of American troops
11 throughout the last 9 years; and

12 WHEREAS, The lasting physical effects of the attack can
13 still be seen at the former site of the World Trade Center;
14 American sentiment claims this location as hallowed ground,
15 with thousands of people visiting the site every year to pay
16 respects to those who perished in the cowardly attacks and to
17 show support for the ongoing "war on terror"; and

18 WHEREAS, The American Society for Muslim Advancement and
19 the Cordoba Institute have proposed a development plan to build
20 a \$100 million mosque and Muslim Community Center at 45 Park
21 Place in Lower Manhattan; this location is a mere 2 blocks from
22 Ground Zero, which has provoked concern among segments of the

1 American public and politicians from both parties alike; and

2 WHEREAS, The perpetrators of the September 11th attacks
3 were Muslim extremists; while the proposed mosque and Muslim
4 Community Center would be a place of peace and worship, many
5 Americans question the appropriateness of honoring Islam in
6 such close proximity to Ground Zero, where thousands died and
7 hundreds of victims were never recovered; and

8 WHEREAS, Typically, tragedies of such large scale are
9 honored at the site with monuments to remember and honor the
10 fallen; the proposed building of a mosque and Muslim Religious
11 Center in such close proximity to the site of the attack has
12 been controversial and could negatively impact those visiting
13 the area to pay respects to the thousands of innocent victims;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout history, the locations of tragic
16 occurrences and monuments have been claimed by the victims and
17 families of victims to memorialize the event and honor its
18 victims; the decision to allow the American Society for Muslim
19 Advancement and the Cordoba Institute to build a mosque and
20 Muslim Religious Center at Ground Zero has energized protests
21 across the U.S., generating negative media attention and
22 jeopardizing the integrity of future memorials; and

1 WHEREAS, While freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and
2 property rights allow for such a structure to be built,
3 sensitivity to the concerns of American citizens should be
4 prioritized by choosing another location for the Muslim
5 Community Center to show respect for the lives lost on
6 September 11, 2001; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 urge the American Society for Muslim Advancement and the
10 Cordoba Institute to reconsider their plans regarding the
11 building of a mosque and Muslim Community Center in such close
12 proximity to the site of the largest scale tragedy in the
13 United States to date; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to President Barack Obama, New York City Mayor
16 Michael R. Bloomberg, New York Governor David A. Patterson, and
17 the Manhattan Community Board.