

RESOLUTION NO. 190-26

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA
SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN “BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALL TO
PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR”**

WHEREAS, “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” is an active campaign conceived and initiated by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) in the Fall of 2017; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) launched its new Cities Appeal, ICAN Save My City, a global campaign to persuade cities to express support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW); and

WHEREAS, this past August, on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, several cities each passed unanimous “Back from the Brink” city council resolutions that included text affirming support of the TPNW; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors voted unanimously in June 2018 to support similar resolutions in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the current administration is increasing the threat of nuclear war by walking away from key disarmament treaties; expanding the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy; and planning to spend \$1.7 trillion dollars over the next three decades to build up our nuclear arsenal, fueling a dangerous new global arms race; and

WHEREAS, last year, as an alternative to this march to nuclear war, 122 nations called for the elimination of nuclear weapons by voting to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which would ban nuclear weapons just as chemical, biological, and other indiscriminate weapons of war are banned; and

WHEREAS, the “Back from the Brink” campaign has support from prominent public health, science, environmental, faith-based and justice organizations, adding great momentum; and

WHEREAS, our residents are deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to all communities and have the right to live in a world free from this threat; and

WHEREAS, for 37 years Arcata has hosted the Lantern Floating Ceremony to memorialize lives lost in the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, affirming Arcata’s dedication to the cause of peace; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, through tax dollars, the people of the City of Arcata spent a cumulative \$3,579,645.96* on nuclear weapons programs—costs that will increase dramatically with the Trump Administration’s “Nuclear Posture Review”, a plan to:

- drastically increase the existing U.S. nuclear arsenal;
- increase long-term reliance on nuclear arms;
- lower the threshold for use of nuclear weapons;
- emphasize the role of such weapons in responding to “nonnuclear strategic attacks”; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 the Arcata City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1124, creating the “Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Act,” the purpose of which states: “The people of Arcata find that the presence of nuclear weapons facilities within Arcata is in direct conflict with the maintenance of the community’s public health, safety, and economic well-being.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Arcata does hereby encourage the United States to enter into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of its national security policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Arcata call upon the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arcata City Clerk shall be directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, Governor Gavin Newsom and to the President of the United States Donald Trump.

*Source of the above calculations: <https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>

This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

DATED: October 16, 2019

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Bridget Dory

City Clerk, City of Arcata

B.H.

Mayor, City of Arcata

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 190-26, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, California, held on 16th day of October, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: **WATSON, WINKLER, ORNELAS, PEREIRA, PITINO**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**

Bridget Dory

City Clerk, City of Arcata