

City of Des Moines



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE THE MOST DEVASTATING WEAPONS EVER CREATED BY HUMANKIND, WITH IMMENSE DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY AND TRANS-GENERATIONAL RADIATION EFFECTS; AND
- WHEREAS, NINE (9) NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) COLLECTIVELY HAVE APPROXIMATELY 13,355 NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THEIR ARSENALS, MOST OF WHICH WOULD BE FAR MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE U.S. ATOMIC BOMBS THAT DESTROYED HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, JAPAN IN 1945; AND
- WHEREAS, THE DETONATION OF EVEN A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE WEAPONS COULD HAVE CATASTROPHIC HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD AFFECT EVERYONE ON THE PLANET; AND
- WHEREAS, THE U.S. CONTINUES TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS FIRST, WHICH REDUCES THE THRESHOLD FOR NUCLEAR USE AND MAKES A NUCLEAR WAR MORE LIKELY; AND
- WHEREAS, OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS, THE U.S. PLANS TO SPEND AN ESTIMATED \$1.7 TRILLION TO REPLACE ITS ENTIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INFRASTRUCTURE AND UPGRADE ITS NUCLEAR BOMBS AND WARHEADS AND THE BOMBERS, MISSILES AND SUBMARINES THAT DELIVER THEM WITH MORE CAPABLE/MORE USEABLE VERSIONS; AND
- WHEREAS, THE 2020 FISCAL YEAR FEDERAL TAX COST TO THE DES MOINES TAXPAYERS IF OVER 39 MILLION DOLLARS FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT MUST NEVER BE USED; AND
- WHEREAS, A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT CALLED "BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR" HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY 250 HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, ACADEMIC, PEACE, AND JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS RESULTED IN RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND 32 MUNICIPALITIES INCLUDING THE CITIES OF LOS ANGELES, BALTIMORE, SALT LAKE CITY, AND WASHINGTON DC, WITH MORE UNDER CONSIDERATION; AND
- WHEREAS, THE U.S. IS OBLIGATED UNDER THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO ELIMINATE ITS NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

THEREFORE, DES MOINES, IOWA CALLS ON THE U.S. 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.
- *CANCELLING THE PLAN TO REPLACE ITS ENTIRE ARSENAL WITH ENHANCED WEAPONS.
- *ACTIVELY PURSUING A VERIFIABLE AGREEMENT AMONG NUCLEAR-ARMED STATES TO ELIMINATE THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MONDAY JUNE 22, 2020, AS:

"BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR DAY"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT DES MOINES, IOWA CALLS ON THE U.S. TO WELCOME THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWENTY SECOND DAY OF JUNE, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES