

**THE CITY OF FREDERICK  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**RESOLUTION NO: 22-14**

**A RESOLUTION** concerning

A Request for Federal Action – Move Back From the Brink and Toward Nuclear Disarmament

For the purpose of calling on Congress to act to move back from the brink of a policy that makes nuclear war more likely

**BACKGROUND**

The tragic destabilizing events in Ukraine have, for the first time in recent memory, raised the specter of the use of nuclear weapons [1]. The United States and the Russian Federation, together, possess 90% of the world's nuclear weapons [2], the detonation of even a small number of which would have unparalleled, catastrophic world-wide impacts on human survival, the environment, global economies, and collective psychosocial well-being [3].

The City of Frederick, with its proximity to Washington DC, its Army base (Fort Detrick), its ranking as the second most populous incorporated city in Maryland [4], and its strategic location as a crossroads in travel would make it a "high value target" for an adversary. Frederick citizens collectively paid approximately \$20 million in taxes for the nuclear weapons complex in tax year 2021 alone [5] [6], and this annual figure would likely increase with any escalation in the nuclear arms race.

The destabilizing ongoing pursuit of missile defense systems [7], weapons in space, hypersonic weapons, and weapons systems under the control of artificial intelligence may complicate future efforts to de-escalate the global nuclear weapons complex. This combined status quo is unacceptable, and must be improved, especially for the sake of our children.

Now, to that end, a national grassroots movement called "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War" [8] has, since 2017, been endorsed by over 400 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions adopted by numerous other Maryland jurisdictions and other states.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FREDERICK**, after careful consideration and in solidarity with the Back from the Brink campaign, call on the Congress of 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 of hair-trigger alert;
- Cancelling the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons, and;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That The City of Frederick urges the United States to embrace the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons [9], which has been approved, in overwhelming consensus, by 122 nations of the world.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That a copy of this Resolution will be sent to U.S. Representatives David Trone and Jamie Raskin, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and to President Joseph R. Biden.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.**

  
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Witness

  
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MICHAEL C. O'CONNOR, Mayor

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

  
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[1] Reuters News Service, April 21, 2022

[2] Federation of American Scientists webpage, "Status of World Nuclear Forces"

[3] Witze, Alexandra. "How a small nuclear war would transform the entire planet." Nature (online) News Feature, March 16, 2020

[4] Wikipedia, "Frederick, Maryland"

[5] PSR-LA's Nuclear Weapons Community Costs Program webpage and algorithm, using Frederick, Maryland data from reference [6].

[6] U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts Page; Frederick, Maryland data. Frederick's 2021 population estimated as 78,171; Frederick's 2021 per capita income estimated as \$39,218.

[7] Panda, Ankit. "A New U.S. Missile Defense Test May Have Increased the Risk of Nuclear War." Online commentary, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace webpage, November, 19, 2020.

[8] Website of the Back from the Brink Campaign (PreventNuclearWar.org)

[9] Wikipedia, "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"