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.

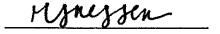
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this Resolution will be sent to U.S. Representatives David Trone and Jamie Raskin, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and to President Joseph R. Biden.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 18th day of August, 2022.

Witness

MICHAEL C. O'CONNOR, Mayor

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:



- [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"