

Proclamation

BACK FROM THE BRINK CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

WHEREAS, Nine nations collectively have approximately 14,500 nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in 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 United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch; and

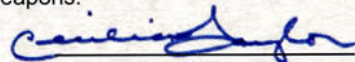
WHEREAS, The United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 a new grassroots movement "Back from the Brink," initiated by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility, and supported by many peace organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, the Federation of American Scientists, the Friends of the Earth, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Veterans for Peace, and the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, and others, identified five concrete steps (referred to as "The Call") that address nuclear weapons issues by calling on the U.S. federal government to (1) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; (2) end the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack; (3) take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; (4) cancel the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and (5) actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, The five steps in The Call have been endorsed by 250 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations, and have been incorporated in resolutions approved by 32 municipalities, including six California cities (Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, Ojai, and Arcata) as well as by the California State Assembly in Joint Resolution 33 passed on Sept. 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The City of Menlo Park, California, as a Mayors for Peace city, follows the leadership of the State of California in urging our federal leaders and nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by endorsing the five steps in The Call.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Cecilia Taylor, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, do hereby recognize The Call of Back From the Brink, to build a world free of nuclear weapons.



Cecilia Taylor, Mayor
May 2020

