

Approving "A Call to Prevent Nuclear War," urging the US government to take steps to avoid nuclear war, such as renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons, taking nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and ending the unchecked authority of the President to launch a nuclear attack.

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Information

City Council	Ward Five City Councilor Mark Niedergang, City Councilor At Large Mary Jo Rossetti, City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott
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Department:

Sponsors:

Category: Resolution **Purposes:** Resolution

Official Text

WHEREAS: Nine nations collectively have approximately 15,000 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 would 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 continues to reserve the right by formal, stated policy to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. President has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS: Over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions; and

WHEREAS: Taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal; and

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

WHEREAS: In July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Somerville Board of Aldermen calls on 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 U.S. 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; and

- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That this resolution be communicated to Somerville's U.S. representative and senators in Congress.

Meeting History

[Sep 27, 2018 7:00 PM Video](#)

City Council

Regular Meeting

Alderman Ballantyne requested to waive the reading of item 17 and postpone it to October 25. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

[Oct 23, 2018 7:00 PM Video](#)

City Council

Regular Meeting

Ald. White and Ballantyne were excused from voting.

Alderman Niedergang stated that while generally, the Board does not get into foreign policy, he feels that this issue affects everyone. He said that President Trump announced plans to pull out of a major arms control treaty with Russia. He said the language of this resolution came from a conference attended by more than 200 people at Harvard University last year. He sponsored Christopher Spicer-Hinkley, a member of the disarmament movement, who spoke of families seeking peace, and the moral imperative to prevent a nuclear war.

RESULT: APPROVED