



## City Council

ADOPTED

Meeting: 12/16/19 06:30 PM

Initiator: Kelley Mickiewicz

Sponsors: Gomez, Edwards, Lederman

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### Back from the Brink

- WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 15,000 of these weapons still exist and pose a great risk to human survival; and
- WHEREAS, 95 percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and
- WHEREAS, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons would cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine by putting millions of tons of soot into the upper atmosphere, cutting food production and putting billions of people on and over the brink of starvation; and
- WHEREAS, a large scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption, dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and
- WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and
- WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their use; and
- WHEREAS, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the Cuban Missile Crisis, "It was luck that prevented nuclear war," yet our nuclear policy cannot be the hope that luck will continue; and
- WHEREAS, as the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and
- WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of an estimated \$1.7 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but will fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and
- WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march to nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Springfield, Massachusetts calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make progress towards nuclear disarmament a centerpiece of our national security policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Springfield, Massachusetts calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to support a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, U.S. Senator Elizabeth A. Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, and President Donald J. Trump.

**RESULT: PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**