

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SYRACUSE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR IN ITS CAMPAIGN “ BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

WHEREAS, nine (9) 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 continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, over the next thirty (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 \$2,000,000.00 every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal; and

WHEREAS, a new grassroots movement called "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War" has been endorsed by two hundred and fifty (250) health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions approved by thirty-two (32) municipalities, including the cities of Los Angeles, Baltimore, Salt Lake City, and Washington DC, with more under consideration; 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 July 2017 one hundred and twenty-two (122) nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which, upon entry into force, will make it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Nuclear War is a national grassroots initiative seeking to fundamentally change U.S. Nuclear weapons policy and lead us away from the dangerous path the world is on with respect to this issue and approached the Syracuse Common Council for its support in the campaign "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War"; and

WHEREAS, the Syracuse Common Council understands the importance of this issue and wishes to support the "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War" campaign;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council for the City of Syracuse hereby calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by: (1) renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; (2) ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack; (3) taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; (4) cancelling the plan to

replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and (5) actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council for the City of Syracuse calls on the United States to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

;and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, U.S. Representative John Katko, and Mayor Benjamin R. Walsh.