

CITY OF WORCESTER

RENOUNCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PULL “BACK FROM THE BRINK” AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

WHEREAS, Approximately 13,100 nuclear warheads exist in the world today, with 91 percent of these weapons owned by the United States and Russia, and pose a significant risk to human survival; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States was the first country to develop and use nuclear weapons in war; *and*

WHEREAS, Nine nations collectively have approximately 13,100 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, Taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the United States’ nuclear arsenal; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States is currently planning to spend at least \$1.7 trillion to rebuild the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal, funds that could be used for necessary programs such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and a climate change mitigation; *and*

WHEREAS, On January 22, 2021, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force with a current 55 ratifications and 86 signatures, and support from the majority of the world’s nations; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war, but the President of the United States currently has de facto sole authority to order nuclear attacks without any required consultation or any system of checks and balances; *and*

WHEREAS, A grassroots movement called “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” has been endorsed by over 380 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions approved by numerous municipalities and states across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby call upon our federal leaders and our nation to make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy and join the global effort to prevent nuclear war, as outlined in the Back from the Brink campaign, by:

- I. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- II. Establishing a system of checks and balances ensuring that the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons;
- III. Taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- IV. Cancelling the plan to replace the entire United States nuclear arsenal with next-generation nuclear weapons; and
- V. Actively pursuing a verifiable and multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate nuclear arsenals; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby support the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and calls upon the United States federal government to join the treaty; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Worcester does hereby authorize the passage of this resolution be considered by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for the ICAN Save Cities Campaign, joining cities from around the world in formally supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to transmit suitably attested digital copies of this Resolution to U.S. Senators Markey and Warren, and U.S. Representative McGovern.

In City Council

March 8, 2022

Resolution adopted by a yea and nay vote of Six Yeas and No Nays



**Nikolin Vangjeli
City Clerk**

A Copy. Attest:

Introduced in City Council by Councilor Sean M. Rose