

**(DRAFT) MODEL CITY RESOLUTION**

**Calling for the United States to Sign  
the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

- WHEREAS, nuclear weapons cannot be used without catastrophic humanitarian consequences that violate every principle of international law, natural justice and human morality; and
- WHEREAS, the continued existence of these weapons poses an intolerable risk to human survival; and
- WHEREAS, the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China, signed and ratified a legally binding commitment more than 50 years ago to negotiate “in good faith” and “at an early date” the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and
- WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice ruled, in their 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons, that the legally binding commitment to negotiate means “bringing those negotiations to a successful conclusion;” and
- WHEREAS, in the year 2000 the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China gave an “unequivocal undertaking” to 187 other nations that they would fulfill their commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and
- WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, possess, stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons<sup>1</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, in January 2021, this Treaty entered in force, making it illegal in all countries who are party to this Treaty to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Treaty; and
- WHEREAS, more and more countries will continue to sign and ratify this Treaty, including sooner or later many key allies of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, this means that the United States will find it increasingly difficult to develop, manufacture, deploy or justify its continued dependence on nuclear weapons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of \_\_\_\_\_(city) commits to [joining/remaining an active member of] Mayors for Peace and joins the ICAN Cities Appeal. We call upon the President of the United States to show true leadership by signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without delay, inviting the other eight nuclear nations to do likewise, and working ceaselessly towards the ultimate ratification of this treaty and complete elimination of nuclear weapons from all countries.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.icanw.org/treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor and City Council hereby commit themselves to working on a legally binding city ordinance that would align \_\_\_\_\_ with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as far as legally and practically possible, by:

- Prohibiting nuclear weapons activities from within their jurisdiction;
- Divesting public funds from companies still involved in those activities;
- Refusing city contracts with those companies until they cease those activities;
- Notifying those companies of this policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of \_\_\_\_\_ calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to take immediate steps in the meantime to reduce the threat posed by the continued existence of these weapons and to prevent the possibility of nuclear war taking place by accident, miscalculation or design, 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 plans to replace the entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- leading a global effort to reduce tensions, particularly with Russia, through dialogue, diplomacy and other confidence-building measures that will restore trust and compliance with the dictates of international law and the institutions of the United Nations.

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. Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. Senator \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. Senator \_\_\_\_\_, and President \_\_\_\_\_.