

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2024-**

**CALLING FOR A GLOBAL EFFORT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is the first municipality in the country to become a Nuclear-Free Zone and prohibits municipal investments in industries and institutions which are knowingly and intentionally engaged in the production of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, nine nations collectively have approximately 12,500 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 capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental 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 U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and numerous human security and social justice concerns highlight the need for greater investment in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$756 billion between 2021 and 2030<sup>1</sup> and \$1.7 trillion by 2046<sup>2</sup> to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which entered into force on January 22, 2021, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

As of September 30, 2023, 93 countries have signed the TPNW and 69 countries have ratified it<sup>3</sup>.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Takoma Park calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Takoma Park calls on the United States to embrace the TPNW.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Congressman Jamie Raskin, Senator Chris Van Hollen, and President Joseph R. Biden.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59054>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2017-12/news/cbo-nuclear-arsenal-cost-12-trillion>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.icanw.org/signature\\_and\\_ratification\\_status](https://www.icanw.org/signature_and_ratification_status)