

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2018-17
AFFIRMING THE CITY'S SUPPORT OF THE
TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park established itself as a nuclear-free zone in 1983, when the City Council adopted the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act; and
- WHEREAS,** the Act prohibits production of nuclear weapons as well as facilities, equipment, components, supplies, or substance used for their production; requires that the City develop a socially responsible investment policy, specifically addressing any investments the City may have or may plan to have in industries and institutions which are knowingly and intentionally engaged in the production of nuclear weapons; and, prohibits the City from granting any award or contract to a nuclear weapons producer or purchasing or leasing products produced by a nuclear weapons producer; and
- WHEREAS,** the Act established the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee to ensure compliance with the Act, provide advice to the City Council, and conduct educational activities related to the intent and purpose of the Act; and
- WHEREAS,** Takoma Park has continued to take the lead among nuclear-free cities in maintaining a high level of awareness about the importance of abolishing humankind's most deadly and unnecessary invention; and
- WHEREAS,** in the more than 70 years since nuclear weapons were used on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the weapons technology has proliferated and the number of nations with known nuclear warhead production capability has grown to nine, despite efforts to contain it; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the Federation of American Scientists, in 2017 the nine nuclear weapons powers had a total of 14,900 nuclear warheads, over 13,000 of which are held in the arsenals of the United States and Russia; and
- WHEREAS,** another five European nations host US nuclear weapons on their soil as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement, and roughly two dozen other nations claim to rely on US nuclear weapons for their security; and
- WHEREAS,** the production, testing, and deployment of these weapons results in health and environmental hazards and harm, while diverting scarce public resources away from human needs; and

WHEREAS, nuclear-weapons testing programs have historically caused harm to people of color, including residents of the Marshall Islands who endured numerous U.S. nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958 that destroyed valued land and caused long-term health problems; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons have been the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a categorical ban, despite the catastrophic consequences that would result if they are used again; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by 122 nations on July 7, 2017, establishes a ban; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty establishes the same standards for all nations and embodies the principle that there can be no safe hands for nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, once 50 nations have ratified or acceded to it, the Treaty will enter into force; and

WHEREAS, as a Nuclear-Free Zone for almost 35 years and signatory to the Mayors for Peace covenant, the City of Takoma Park is compliant with the Treaty; and

WHEREAS, the recent nuclear weapons and missile tests conducted by the Republic of North Korea and the rhetoric from the White House encouraging a nuclear military response from the United States are further evidence of the need for the Treaty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND endorses the efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to promote adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council affirms its support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urges other cities to become nuclear-free zones.

Adopted by the Takoma Park City Council this 14th day of March, 2018.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk