

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

February 14, 2019

### A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO "PULL BACK FROM THE BRINK" AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

**WHEREAS**, Experts at the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* say the world has never been closer to an accidental or intentional nuclear war than in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, The use of even a tiny fraction of the world's 14,500 nuclear weapons would cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; and

**WHEREAS**, A large-scale nuclear war would kill the vast majority of the human race, cause unimaginable environmental damage, bring about a planetary cooling not seen since the last Ice Age, and possibly lead to the extinction of mankind as a species; and

**WHEREAS**, Nuclear-armed states have repeatedly moved to use these weapons, only to have a nuclear war averted at the last minute, essentially by luck; and

**WHEREAS**, The planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will fuel a global arms race and divert resources from more socially and medically valuable activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Massachusetts in general, and the Massachusetts medical community in particular, has historically played a key leadership role advocating for policies to reduce the danger of nuclear war; and many Towns across the State have already endorsed similar resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, There is an alternative to this march to nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby calls upon our Federal leaders and our nation to make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of United States national security policy and to work toward the goal of signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of launching an unprovoked nuclear weapons "first strike";
- ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off "hair-trigger" alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Clerk shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be sent to New Bedford Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell, U.S. Congressional representative William Keating, Governor Charlie Baker, U.S. Senator Elizabeth A. Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, and President Donald J. Trump.