Resolution urging renunciation of nuclear weapons proliferation, actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, and embracing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

WHEREAS, Nine nuclear weapons states (NWS) collectively possess approximately 13,400 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, According to the Federation of American Scientists, “all the nuclear weapon states continue to modernize their remaining nuclear forces, adding new types, increasing the role they serve, and appear committed to retaining nuclear weapons for the indefinite future”; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, the U.S. plans to spend an estimated $1.2 trillion, approximately $4 million an hour, to upgrade and modernize its nuclear weapons and delivery systems over the next 30 years, with the expectation that modernization, maintenance, and storage of nuclear weapons will cost $494 billion over the next decade, a cost rising each year; and

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2020, the population of San Francisco County will spend an estimated $261,294,805 in tax contributions towards the full cost of all U.S. nuclear weapons programs; 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 detonation of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet; and

WHEREAS, The United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia and all nuclear weapons states, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, In July 2017, The United Nations overwhelmingly adopted the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), for which the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) garnered the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize; to date there are 84 signatories and 50 ratified states, whereby the TPNW is slated to enter-into-force in January 2021; this new UN treaty, represents our best opportunity in generations to achieve a global consensus to abolish nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, In 2018 a new grassroots movement "Back from the Brink," initiated by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility, identified five concrete steps (referred to as “The Call”) that will reduce the risk of nuclear war by calling on the U.S. federal government to: 1) Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; 2) End the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack; 3) Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; 4) Cancel the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and 5) Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, The five steps in The Call have been endorsed by 250 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations, and have been incorporated in resolutions approved by fifty municipalities, including nine California cities (Arcata, Berkeley, Carlsbad, Eureka, Los Angeles, Menlo Park, Ojai, Santa Barbara and Santa
Monica,) as well as by the California State Assembly in Joint Resolution 33 passed on September 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, In October 2020, the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, adopted a resolution “Towards a Nuclear-Free World,” embracing the five steps in the Call, as well as calling on the U.S. President and Senate and the other nuclear-weapons states to sign and ratify the TPNW; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls upon its federal delegation and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; canceling 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; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco urges our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy.
Resolution urging renunciation of nuclear weapons proliferation, actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, and embracing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

December 08, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/8/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board