



Peace and Justice  
Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 15, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Peace and Justice Commission  
Submitted by: Ezekiel Gorrocino, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission  
Subject: Resolution for the City of Berkeley to Declare itself Strongly Supportive of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution for the City of Berkeley to declare itself strongly supportive of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At its regular meeting on April 2, 2018, the Peace and Justice Commission unanimously adopted the following recommendation: that the City Council declare itself strongly supportive of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

M/S/C: Bohn/Meola  
Ayes: Bohn, Gorrocino, Hariri, Lippman, Meola, Rodríguez, Watson  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Maran  
Absent: Pancoast, Agrawal

BACKGROUND

See below.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Resolution for the City of Berkeley to declare itself strongly supportive of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council "...on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to the issues of ending the arms race, abolishing nuclear weapons, support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world, and the reallocation of our national resources so that money now spent on war and preparation of war is spent on fulfilling human needs and the promotion of peace."

The City of Berkeley declared itself in 1986 to be a Nuclear Free Zone and prohibited, under the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act, any work on nuclear weapons, contracts with companies working on nuclear weapons, and investments with those companies from taking place within the City of Berkeley. As of 7 July, 2017, all such activities relating to nuclear weapons are now considered illegal by the majority of the world's nations that adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and opened it for signing and ratification on 20 September, 2017 to the treaty.

As the national Administration has refused to pursue nuclear disarmament or positive international relations in general, cities and states across the country have the opportunity to give moral leadership by committing to compliance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the extent possible at their respective levels of authority.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Ezekiel Gorrocino, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission (415) 298-7120  
Shallon Allen, Peace and Justice Commission Secretary (510) 981-7071

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DECLARE ITSELF STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE UN TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council "...on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to the issues of ending the arms race, abolishing nuclear weapons, support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world, and the reallocation of our national resources so that money now spent on war and preparation of war is spent on fulfilling human needs and the promotion of peace;"<sup>i</sup> and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley declared itself in 1986 to be a Nuclear Free Zone and prohibited, under the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act, any work on nuclear weapons, contracts with companies working on nuclear weapons, and investments with those companies from taking place within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, as of 7 July, 2017, all such activities relating to nuclear weapons are now considered illegal by the majority of the world's nations who adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and opened it for signing and ratification on 20 September, 2017;<sup>ii</sup> and

WHEREAS, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize "for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition" of nuclear weapons;<sup>iii</sup> and

WHEREAS, it has been noted by people of all nations that all of the world's nine nuclear-armed countries including the United States are so far refusing to sign the treaty;<sup>iv</sup> and

WHEREAS, when President Trump declared early in 2017 his intention to pull the US out of the Paris Climate Accord of December 2016, states and cities across the U.S. that lack legal standing to adopt an international treaty announced they would commit to complying with the terms of the Paris Climate Accord to the extent possible at their respective levels of authority;<sup>v</sup> and

WHEREAS, with reference to the action described in the previous paragraph as an example, cities, states, businesses, universities, faith communities and other organizations across the U.S. have the opportunity to similarly announce that they are committed to complying with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the extent possible at their respective levels of authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council congratulates the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for winning the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017, for its efforts leading to the creation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley proclaims itself in compliance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by virtue of its being a “Nuclear Free Zone”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley calls on the U.S. government, together with the other eight nuclear-armed nations, to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to create and implement a legally binding, time-bound plan for the verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons, as required by the Treaty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley request the City Clerk to send this resolution to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as depository of the Treaty, together with a request to have its declaration of compliance with the treaty accepted alongside the declarations of states parties to the treaty.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Berkeley/?Berkeley03/Berkeley0368/Berkeley0368.html3.68.070> Function A (of Functions A through M)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/.../565582-treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons-opens-signature-un>, <http://www.icanw.org/the-treaty/>

<sup>iii</sup> [UN votes to outlaw nuclear weapons in 2017 | ICAN](http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/un-votes-to-outlaw-nuclear-weapons-in-2017/)

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Oct 27, 2016 - The United Nations adopted a landmark resolution on 27 October to launch negotiations in 2017 on a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons. ...

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.un.org/disarmament/list-of-countries-which-signed-tpnw-on-opening-day-20-september-2017/>,

[https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html](https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2017/press.html)

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/climate/american-cities-climate-standards.html>

Bucking Trump, These Cities, States and Companies Commit to Paris Accord, By [HIROKO TABUCHI](#) and [HENRY FOUNTAIN](#), JUNE 1, 2017. ” The unnamed group — which, so far, includes 30 mayors, three governors, more than 80 university presidents and more than 100 businesses — is negotiating with the United Nations to have its submission accepted alongside contributions to the Paris climate deal by other nations.”