



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

KATHERINE W. LEWIS
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

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Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

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JOCELYN E. LEIGHTON

District Two
KATHERINE W. LEWIS

District Three
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
DEQA DHALAC

At Large
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

At Large
NATALIE E. WEST

IN COUNCIL
AMENDED
RESOLVE #25-22/23

Calling Upon the United States Government to Lead a Global Effort to Prevent the Use of Nuclear Weapons

WHEREAS, current global instability brings an increased risk of nuclear weapons use with catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences would gravely impact all people in the world, including those in South Portland;

WHEREAS, global nuclear arsenals have over 12,500 weapons, with most being far more destructive than those used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945;

WHEREAS, the detonation of even a small number of these weapons anywhere in the world could have catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences that could affect all people, including those in South Portland;

WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war could kill many millions and perhaps billions of people and cause vast environmental damage, producing conditions wherein many more would die from starvation or disease;

WHEREAS, the United States maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert launch status, significantly increasing the risk of an accidental or unauthorized launch;

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Department of Defense and Department of Energy spent over \$53 billion dollars producing, deploying, and maintaining nuclear weapons, with South Portland taxpayers paying a collective \$4,950,667 in federal taxes on nuclear weapons, diverting crucial resources needed to assure the health and well-being of South Portland citizens;

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2023, Samantha Smith Way was dedicated in South Portland, in memory of Samantha Smith and her efforts in support of world peace;

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, the Veterans for Peace sailing vessel Golden Rule will be in South Portland, bringing its message of hope for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful sustainable future. and;

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2021, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force, making it illegal for signatory countries under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Portland City Council calls on the United States government 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 first-use of nuclear weapons;
- Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off of their hair-trigger launch status; and
- Canceling plans to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to send a copy of this resolution to the President and each member of Maine's Congressional Delegation.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Dated: June 20, 2023