

Town of Atherton



Proclamation

BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

WHEREAS, nine nations collectively have approximately 14,500 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, the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone on the planet; 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 United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; 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: Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; End the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack; Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; Cancel the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and 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 Sept. 25, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the Town of Atherton, and on behalf of the Atherton City Council, join these other cities and the California State Assembly by endorsing the five steps of the Back From The Brink Call To Prevent Nuclear War.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Atherton to be affixed this 18TH day of November, 2020.

Rick DeGolia, Mayor
Town of Atherton