



# Livermore Conversion Project

*to safeguard the Earth and meet human needs*

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## **Berkeley City Council Adopts Resolution**

### **ON THE 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ATOMIC BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI; A CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR**

#### **Annual Livermore Lab Protest Goes Virtual**

**Berkeley, CA** – On July 28, 2020, the Berkeley City Council unanimously adopted a resolution *On the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; A Call to Prevent Nuclear War*. The resolution was introduced by Mayor Jesse Arreguín, and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Ben Bartlett, Susan Wengraf, and Sophie Hahn.

Recognizing that August 6 and 9, 2020 mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the resolution cautions that “today, more than 13,000 nuclear weapons, most an order of magnitude more powerful than the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki— 92% held by the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity” and that “the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone on the planet.”

The resolution goes on to warn that “over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 Trillion to replace its entire nuclear weapons infrastructure and upgrade its nuclear bombs and warheads and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them” and that “all the nuclear-armed nations are upgrading their nuclear arsenals.”

Noting that “the administration has requested over \$740 billion for the military in its FY 2021 budget proposal” and that “the biggest increase in the proposed FY 2021 budget is a nearly 20% increase in spending on nuclear weapons at \$45 billion,” the resolution points out that “every city in America is now facing severe budget challenges as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing them to lay off employees and make cuts to critical programs, including those for public safety.”

The resolution recalls that “the United States is obligated under the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps to eliminate its nuclear arsenal” and that “the City of Berkeley has been a Nuclear Free Zone since passage of ‘The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act’” in 1986 which states: “The people of Berkeley find that: A. The nuclear arms race poses an intolerable threat to humanity.”

The resolution resolves that “the City of Berkeley calls on the President and Congress to step back from the brink and to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. 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.”

In so doing, Berkeley joins a grassroots movement called “[Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War](#)”, that has been endorsed by 250 health, environmental, academic, peace, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions approved by the United States Conference of Mayors and 32 municipalities, including Los Angeles, Baltimore, Salt Lake City, and Washington DC, with more under consideration.

Berkeley is also a part of [Mayors for Peace](#), an organization consisting of over 7,900 cities worldwide that advocates for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Concluding its resolution, the City of Berkeley “calls on the President and Congress to reverse federal spending priorities and to redirect funds currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending to support safe and resilient cities and meet human needs, including by providing immediate funding for critical needs exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic such as health care accessible and affordable for all, more robust public health capacity at every level of government, programs to secure housing and food security, and measures to assure secure funding for municipalities and states throughout this and future disasters for which they are the first line of defense.”

[Click here to read the full text of the resolution.](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration and protest at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab will be virtual. This year’s Livermore rally, “[From Hiroshima to a Healthy Tomorrow: Embracing Our Common Humanity](#)”, will feature historian Gar Alperovitz, Pentagon planner and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, and Nagasaki A-bomb survivor Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka. There will be video footage from last year’s nonviolence direct action and an up to the minute report at the gates of the Livermore Lab, a sing along with Betsy Rose, and more.

The 2020 planning committee includes: Asian Americans for Peace & Justice, Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, Ecumenical Peace Institute, Livermore Conversion Project, No Nukes Action, Tri-Valley CAREs, Western States Legal Foundation, and Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom.

The Livermore program will kick off two days of virtual programming, all day August 6 and 9, organized by more than 160 organizations working together through the Hiroshima-Nagasaki 75 collaboration. Find out more and sign up for a live stream link at: [www.HiroshimaNagasaki75.org](http://www.HiroshimaNagasaki75.org)

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