

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
RESOLUTION 2022-30**

CALLING ON OHIO PERS TO DIVEST FROM AND AVOID ANY FINANCIAL EXPOSURE TO COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT AND JOIN THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Whereas, catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences have resulted from nuclear weapon detonations; and

Whereas, eliminating nuclear weapons remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances; and

Whereas, the suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as of those affected by the testing of nuclear weapons, is unacceptable; and

Whereas, the Village of Yellow Springs expresses solidarity with all victims and communities harmed by nuclear weapons use, testing and related activities; and

Whereas, On July 7, 2017, 122 countries voted in favor of adopting the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is a legally binding multilateral Treaty among the States Parties to the document, advanced by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which was subsequently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2017 for this work; and

Whereas, The Treaty was entered into force on January 22, 2021 following ratification by 86 countries, but not including the United States; and

Whereas, the United States, along with other nuclear armed nations, did not ratify or accede the treaty; and

Whereas, ICAN has established the Cities Appeal, a commitment to mobilize local government to support the Treaty with the aim of influencing the national government to sign, with New York City, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Berlin, Sydney, Paris, and Toronto among the major cities who have joined; and

Whereas, The Treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacture, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons among the member nations of the Treaty, as well as assisting, encouraging or inducing, in any way, anyone to engage in any such activity, with the eventual goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons; further, the Treaty obligates assistance to victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, remediation of contaminated environments and international cooperation and assistance to affected nations; and

Whereas, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) is the public pension system utilized by the Village of Yellow Springs employees and retirees, and may have significant investments in financial institutions and other companies involved in producing key components for and maintaining nuclear weapons through equity holdings, bond holdings and other assets; and

Whereas, the Village has a demonstrated history of opposing nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, Seventy-four years after the nuclear bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, which killed more than 200,000 people in 1945, and exposed hundreds of thousands of people in subsequent decades to radiation exposure resulting from nuclear weapons tests and related activities, the United States continues to have policies and procedures in place to facilitate the manufacturing, possession and use of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, Despite efforts towards disarmament in the last several decades, the global nuclear stockpile consists of approximately 14,000 warheads, more than 13,000 of which are owned by the United States and Russia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS THAT:

1. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to OPERS asking the State of Ohio to divest from and avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, calling on the United States Senate to support and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Brian K. Housh, President of Council

Passed: 5-2-2022

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL: Housh_Y__ MacQueen_Y_ Stokes_Y__
Kreeger_Y_ Brown_Y_