

# The Council

1999

Res. No. 878

## **Resolution declaring the City of New York a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and support the further development of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones throughout the world.**

By Council Members Foster and Eldridge

**Whereas**, Nuclear weapons pose a continuing threat to civilization, the human species, and the structure and stability of life itself; and

**Whereas**, Cities have been primary targets of nuclear weapons throughout the Nuclear Age and remain vulnerable to the massive destructive effects of nuclear weapons; and

**Whereas**, The development and maintenance of nuclear arsenals are extraordinarily costly, costing tens of billions of dollars per year, and such resources could be far better utilized for rebuilding the infrastructure of our cities, supporting the health and welfare of our citizens, and protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment; and

**Whereas**, The five declared nuclear weapons states (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China) promised at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference in May 1995 to pursue "systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating these weapons"; and

**Whereas**, The International Court of Justice ruled unanimously in July 1996, "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament on all its aspects under strict and effective international control"; and

**Whereas**, Retired U.S. General Lee Butler, once responsible for all US strategic nuclear forces, has called nuclear weapons "inherently dangerous, hugely expensive, militarily inefficient and morally indefensible"; and

**Whereas**, The end of the Cold War has provided an unparalleled opportunity to end the nuclear weapons era, which would be a gift to children everywhere and to all future generations; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Council of the City of New York calls for all nuclear weapons to be taken off alert status, for all nuclear warheads to be separated from their delivery vehicles, and for the nuclear weapon states to agree to unconditional no first use of these weapons; and, be it further

**Resolved**, The Council of the City of New York calls upon the governments of all nuclear weapons states to begin negotiations immediately on a Nuclear Weapons Convention to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons early in the next century, and to complete these negotiations by the year 2000; and, be it further

**Resolved**, That the Council of the City of New York declares that the city be a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and support the further development of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones throughout the world.