COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS JOINTLY WITH
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON CIVIL
SERVICE AND LABOR

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January 28, 2020
Start: 1:09 p.m.
Recess: 5:29 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers – City Hall

BEFORE: Fernando Cabrera,
Chairperson for Committee on
Governmental Operations

I. Daneek Miller,
Chairperson for Committee on Civil
Service and Labor

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ben Kallos
Alan N. Maisel
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
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COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

A P P E A R A N C E S

Penny Abeywardena
Commissioner for International Affairs at the
Mayor’s Office for International Affairs

Paul Ochoa
First Deputy Director of City Legislative Affairs

Madida Kugema[SP?]
Advisor for Lenape Center

Principal Man Ian Zabarte
Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation

AL (SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF DWAIN PERRY)
Ramapough Lenape Nation

Mira Gotegachie[SP?]
Parents were survivors of the atomic bombing in
Nagasaki

Frida Berrigan
Kings Bay Plowshares

Elizabeth McAlister
Kings Bay Plowshares

Joanne Kennedy
Catholic Worker

Betty Reardon
Founder of the International Institute on Peace
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William Hartung
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Blaze Tepuis
Resident of New York

Mary Yelenick
Main Representative of the NGO Delegation to the
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A P P E A R A N C E S (C O N T .)

Brendan Fay
New York City Divest Campaign and St. Pats for all

Maura Keaney
Amalgamated Bank

Alice Slater
World Beyond War

Ray Acheson
Women’s International League from Peace and Freedom

Jacqueline Cabasso
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Seth Shelden
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Elaine Scarry
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Tom Goggin
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Robert Kruncrist [SP?]
Teacher at Jamaica in Queens for 20 years

Susan Schnall
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APPEARANCES (CONT.)

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Local Aid 14

Tom Dwyer
Retired Insurance Executive

Tarik Kalf(SP?)
Member of Veterans for Peace New York

Emilie McGlone
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Irena Chonch(SP?) on behalf of Linda Chapman

Jagela Conwell
Reading the testimony on behalf of Yasuaki Amasheta(SP?)

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Reading the testimony on behalf of Shigakosa Samorie(SP?)

Lena Gerow
Reading the testimony on behalf of Ms. Setsuko Thurlow

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Jon Lipsky
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A P P E A R A N C E S (C O N T .)

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Cynthia Nevanski
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Michele Peppers
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June Tano
Ribbon International UN NGO

Dr. Kathleen Sullivan
CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: [GAVEL] Good afternoon. I am Council Member Fernando Cabrera; Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations. Unfortunately, Council Member Daneek Miller; Chair of the Committee on Civil Services and Labor cannot be with us today but I am pleased to be joined by my colleague and good friend, Council Member Daniel Dromm who is the sponsor of today’s legislation. And I’ll just say off the notes, we wouldn’t have this hearing today if it wasn’t for you. Thank you for your leadership.

I would also like to acknowledge that we’ve been joined by Council Members, well, I’ll let you do that part. I’ll give you the honors.

Today, we will be hearing a bill and Resolution related to Nuclear Disarmament, both sponsored by Council Member Daniel Dromm. Nuclear Disarmament is the process of reducing and eradicating nuclear weapons while ensuring the countries without nuclear weapons are not equipped to develop them.

Introduction Number 1621 will create a nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapons free zone advisory committee to examine nuclear disarmament and issues related to reaffirming the city as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.
So, in the Council, we have a very unique way, if you approve on something just – thank you so much. And issues related to a reaffirming, it will require that the Advisory Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the city’s current stance on nuclear weapons, issue certain recommendations related to educating about Nuclear Weapons Free Zones and establish a working definition for nuclear weapons free zones means for the city.

The advisory committee will be required to post online and submit five annual reports to the Mayor and Speaker of the Council and would be dissolved after the submission of the fifth report.

Resolution 976, calls on the New York City Comptroller to instruct the pension funds of public employees in New York City to divest from and avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons, reaffirming New York City as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zoning, and join the ICAN Cities Appeal calling on the United States to support and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Before I turn to Council Member Dromm to speak further on his bill and resolution, I would like to
thank the Committee Staff who worked on this hearing. Emily Forgione, Elizabeth Kronk, Daniel Collins, Sebastian Bacchi, Nuzhat Chowdhury, Kevin Kotowski and Kendall Stephenson and my own Legislative Director Claire McLeveighn.

With that, I would like to turn it over to the champion here today to Council Member Dromm.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much Chair Cabrera and I want to really thank you for agreeing to have this hearing. This is of vital importance and I definitely appreciate you working with me on this. Thank you very, very much.

So, good afternoon everyone. I am Council Member Daniel Dromm and I will be Co-Chairing this hearing for the Committee on Civil Service and Labor in place of I. Daneek Miller, the regular Chair of the Committee.

I’d like to thank my Co-Chair Fernando Cabrera and welcome everyone to today’s hearings. We’ve been joined by Council Member Bill Perkins, Council Member, oh my gosh, Kalman Yeger, I’m so sorry Kalman for blanking my mind out. Council Member Farah Louis, Council Member Adrienne Adams.
Okay, and I’d also like to acknowledge and welcome my colleagues, which I just did.

Today’s hearing is on two pieces of legislation related to Nuclear Disarmament on which I am the Chief Sponsor. Intro. 1621 would create a nuclear disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Advisory Committee and Resolution Number 976 calls on the New York City Comptroller to instruct the pension funds of public employees in New York City to divest and avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. Reaffirms New York City as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, joins us in the ICAN Cities Appeal and calls on the United States to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

“Nuclear Disarmament” is the term that is for the process of reducing and eradicating nuclear weapons while ensuring that countries without nuclear weapons are not equipped to develop them. Interestingly, the scientists who were instrumental in the creation of the first atomic bomb from the Manhattan Project, were the first people to call for nuclear disarmament, as they saw the true potential of nuclear weapons and the devastating outcomes that
could result. In the waning days of the Second World War, 70 scientists, including Albert Einstein signed the Szilard Petition, which urged President Roosevelt to not use the bomb on Japan. However, this petition never reached the president, and on August 6 and 9th, 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, forever changing the world and sparking international support for nuclear disarmament.

Since then, the frightening prospects of nuclear annihilation hungover and continues to hang over the world. During much of the cold War, the problem was largely bilateral, the Soviets and the Americans were the two superpowers that possessed nuclear arms in large numbers. Over time, a limited number of other nations joined this contemptable club.

Now, the specter of nuclear weapons is even scarier. We have a world leader namely the very stable generous sitting in the White House whose erratic tweets seem to encourage a nuclear arms race. Moreover, there is the very real concern that non-state actors such as terrorists groups will gain access to this deadly technology.

New York City should be leading the way for its own sake as well as the rest of the world. The core
questions then become, what can we do to end the investment of City Pension Funds in the institutions that support the production and sale of nuclear arms. Resolution 976 answers this by calling for the divestment of such funds. The follow up question is, how can we move forward to ensure our city does all it can to address nuclear proliferation? Intro. 1621 answers this by establishing a committee to convene the sharpest minds to focus on the city’s role in one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Today’s hearing brings together some of the top advocates working in the field, including the Nobel Prize winning International Coalition to abolish nuclear weapons, to discuss the questions, why is New York City invested in its own destruction and what are we going to do about it? The city’s commitment to divest from private prisons and fossil fuels certainly helps point the way forward on this context.

I look forward to the day when the city will not only divest but also engage in proactive efforts to help tackle the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons. In addition to the Government Operations Committee staff, I would particularly like to thank
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the Civil Service and Labor Committee staff who
helped prepare for this hearing. Nuzhat Chowdhury,
Kevin Kotowski and Kendall Stephenson and thank you.

With that, I now want to read a statement from
Chair I. Daneek Miller, whose place I am taking
today. So, from I. Daneek Miller; while Council
Member Miller could not be here today, this statement
and Introduction 1621 and Resolution 976 expresses
his sentiments.

Last week we celebrated the life and
accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our
office held our annual celebration honoring his
legacy at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center and in
preparing my remarks, I was reminded of Dr. King’s
teaching on war and nuclear weapons.

For Dr. King, nuclear proliferation was deeply
problematic on two fronts. The funding of atomic
weapons he argued was a kin to robbing society of
resources that could be otherwise used to uplift
society. Dr. King warned that the catastrophic
consequences a nuclear war could bring. Speaking on
nuclear proliferation concerning the Freedom
Movement, he stated that the two issues are tied
together in many, many ways and noted that it would
be rather absurd to work to get schools and lunch counters integrated and not be concerned about the survival of a world in which to integrate.

Now more than ever, we remember Dr. King’s teachings as we face a world where nuclear weapons are still a looming treat and international relations are strained.

Introduction 1625 calls for the creation of a Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Advisory Committee. This committee would serve as a valuable resource in the overarching goal of ending nuclear proliferation and the possibility of nuclear war.

Similarly, Resolution 976 would send a powerful message towards the goal of peace and nonviolence by calling for the pension funds of city employees to divest from companies that are involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. While the city must ensure a fully funded pension and must also reflect the values of the dedicated men and women that make up our workforce and the communities they represent.

As with the Council’s past divestment programs relating to a partied and gun retailer stock. This
resolution makes a powerful statement that New York City stands on the side of peace.

In Dr. King’s sermon, loving your enemies, he said, it is an eternal reminder to a generation depending on nuclear and atomic energy, a generation depending on physical violence that love is the only creative redemptive transforming power in the universe. His words continue to ring true and we will continue to uplift his legacy in the Council.

I thank Council Member Dromm for his leadership and all my colleagues for the support of these two pieces of legislation.

And then finally, I would like to read a letter from Walter Naegle; the partner of Bayard Rustin.

Dear esteemed New York City Council. I am writing in memory of my late partner Bayard Rustin to urge the New York City Council to pass Resolution 0976 and Intro. 1621 in support of the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and divestment from the nuclear industry.

Bayard, a long time New Yorker, is mainly known as a civil rights activist and the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He had a long history of involvement with a variety of
social justice issues, including economic justice, immigrant and refugee affairs and LGBT rights.

During the Koch Administration, he testified twice before the New York City Council in support of laws protecting the LGBTQ community. His work against militarism and atomic nuclear weapons began in the 1940’s with the American Friends Service Committee. He traveled the country speaking out against militarism and the dangers of the arms race. Learning of the destruction of Hiroshima Nagasaki, he reflected on the threat that such awesome power posed to human survival.

In the late 1950’s, he was arrested not far from these chambers, when he refused to take shelter during an air raid drill. Joining Dorothy Day and other peace activists, he remained in City Hall Park during a time of mandatory evacuation to underground shelters.

Working with the British Committee for Non-violent Action, he helped organize a delegation to travel to the Algerian Sahara to protest French testing of an atomic bomb in 1959. He marched with the campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from London England after addressing a crowd at Trafalgar Square.
In 1964, he spoke here at an anti-Vietnam War Rally on the anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima. Were he here with us today, I know he would be urging the New York City Council to move forward on these initiatives. Walter Naegle New York, New York.

So, thank you Walter for that and we’re going to have that in the testimony obviously and with that, I’m going to ask Council to swear in the Administration.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please raise your right hand. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your testimony before the Committee and to respond honestly to Council Member questions?

PANEL: I do.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: You may begin.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Thank you. Well, good afternoon Chair Cabrera, Council Member Dromm and members of the Committees. I am Penny Abeywardena; Commissioner for International Affairs at the Mayor’s Office for International Affairs.

I would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify regarding Introduction 1621,
which would create a Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear
Weapons Free Zone Advisory Committee.

The New York City Mayor’s Office for
International Affairs is responsible for fostering
positive relations and encouraging collaborations
between the international community and New York City
agencies and local neighborhoods. Our work involves
sharing New York City policies and best practices
globally and maximizing the benefits that New Yorkers
get from having the United Nations and the largest
diplomatic corps in the world present within their
boroughs.

We created and continue to run the New York City
Junior Ambassadors program, bringing youth across the
five boroughs into the U.N. and the U.N. into their
neighborhoods. In 2018, we led the effort to make
New York City the first city in the world to report
directly to the United Nations on the sustainable
development goals.

In addition, my office works diligently to ensure
that our city remains a strong voice around the
world, showcasing the importance of subnational
leadership on issues that matter to the City of New
York and to New Yorkers.
Locally, we respond to requests from foreign
governments, the United Nations and the U.S.
Department of State. International Affairs also
advises city agencies on diplomatic and consular
matters and provides guidance to the diplomatic and
consular community on city related issues.

With the Department of Finance, International
Affairs administers the City of New York, U.S.
Department of State, Diplomatic and Consular parking
program.

I would now like to acknowledge our strong
support for nuclear disarmament and nuclear
nonproliferation. As I am sure you are aware in July
of 2017, the United Nations General Assembly passed
the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and
in that same year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee
awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the International
Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.

My office has not been involved with this work,
but they are certainly both important advancements
that we applaud. While we are supportive of the goal
of nuclear weapons free New York City, we have strong
concerns about the proposed bill as currently
constituted and our ability to meet the requirements.
As we understand it, the legislation proposes that I Chair an Advisory Committee whose function would be to examine nuclear disarmament and issues related to recognizing and reaffirming New York City as a nuclear weapons free zone.

This bill would also require the Advisory Committee to one; conduct a comprehensive review of New York City’s current stance on nuclear weapons and the process of recognizing and reaffirming the city as a nuclear weapons free zone. Two; establish a working definition for how a nuclear weapons free zone might be defined in New York City. Three; recommend mechanisms for encouraging and increasing community input with the regard to education related to the nuclear weapons free zone. And four; recommend or host discussions, public programs and other educational initiatives.

These activities are primarily focused on the specific context of New York City and its stance on, need for, and current status visa nuclear weapons. The presence of nuclear weapons in New York City is not an international issue. The use of nuclear weapons is generally thought of as a matter of
foreign policy and national security considered by
the federal government and foreign countries.

City’s where weapons might be located would not
have jurisdiction or involvement in this decision
making process. The presence of nuclear weapons in
New York City, is also not a matter of cooperation
between New York City and foreign governments. Where
and how such weapons are stored is instead an
intergovernmental question between local, state and
federal official.

International Affairs would not expect to be
involved in any decision as to whether nuclear
weapons are purchased or stored in New York City.
Further, we do not have staff members with nuclear
expertise or experience in the topic area. As such,
International Affairs is not best positioned to take
stock of New York City’s nuclear status as it
currently exists. Nor to make suggestions regarding
how best to interface with stakeholders to negotiate
a nuclear weapons free zone moving forward.

The mandate of this bill as currently stated,
would require strong interagency and public
coordination capacities that International Affairs
does not possess due to the scope of my offices
remit. While International Affairs is not best suited to effectuate the requirements of this bill, we continue to share the Council’s commitment to ensuring that New York City is a nuclear weapons free zone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on today’s topic. I’m happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much Commissioner. We’re debating who will go first, we just love to be courteous towards one another. Let me just begin talking about Council Member Dromm’s bill. In your estimation, what would be the cost of this Advisory Board if we were to put it into place?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The cost of this Advisory Board, unfortunately I do not know. I don’t have the expertise and we don’t have the expertise in our office to identify what the cost would be in terms of securing the appropriate people to be on this.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Can you hire someone with the expertise? A consultant that would help you put the advisory —

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, that’s a great question. This is not about, and my testimony is not just about resources. It’s about the fact
that this bill is an intercity domestic bill and does not fit within the remit or the scope of International Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, I want to go through, just briefly the arguments that you made. Why the Administration is not onboard with this bill and especially in relations to this Advisory Board.

Let me just jump at one of them, what I just heard you mention, basically that you don’t have the staff members with nuclear expertise or experience on this topic. I have to tell you; I was fortunate right here in the Council to be part of a task force. Myself and now Public Advocate Jumaane Williams for the Cure Violence. Though I have worked with gang members for many years, I do not consider myself an expert, neither did he. That was the whole point of having the task force. The point is, we don’t have the expertise but the expertise especially in New York City, we’re very fortunate to have the expertise right here onboard. We have accessibility to it to make it happen. The whole point is, is that we don’t have the expertise.

So, I don’t think that argument that you have right there holds a lot of float in terms of, we
don’t have the expertise and then, very easily we could hire somebody or you could have the task force just like we did. We had somebody to be the Chairman, the Vise Chair, we put it altogether, it took 18 months. This is a five year process and then come back with some suggestion – I just don’t see what it would hurt. It’s not a heavy lift.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, I appreciate what you’re saying. First, I want to be very clear, the Administration is very much on board with the non-nuclear New York City and we support the nature of this bill.

Again, it is about and again, I really want to reaffirm that we want to support on partner on this effort but the way the bill is currently constituted, International Affairs is not the appropriate agency to take the lead on this because this is fundamentally a domestic activity.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, then let’s switch it over to Governmental Operations. I mean, somebody in the city should be able to manage something that to be honest with you, doesn’t take a whole lot of leadership because we already have the leadership here. This is just all about coordinating setting a
time where they could get together. It’s not that complicated. I mean, it really isn’t and you made a really good point as to how the Administration is on board with all the Treaties that you mentioned but I just don’t see a congruency with the next step.

And to me, it would seem that the next step would be in light of the fact that we are concerned and we are at a target, New York City. I mean, how many of us have had nightmares? I know I have had nightmares of New York City going on fire. I mean, I’m sure, many, many people have. It’s just consciously it’s in our mind and having been and working in 9-1-1 and going through that whole trauma that we all went through, especially those of us that were first responders there. We’re very concerned about this piece.

So, this is why — honestly, I thought I was going to come in today and we’re going to say, Danny Dromm, Council Member five star, thank you for your leadership. We’re on board.

So, I hope that you can go back to the Deputy Mayor and to the Mayor and to have reconsideration and if it’s Government Operations, you know, I Chair Government Operations; I will be more than willing to
work with the wonderful staff that you have in Government Operations.

So, please, if we could have that dialogue. The other question I was going to mention and then I’m going to pass it on to Council Member Dromm, because I know he has quite a few questions is, in regards to prepared we are in case an unfortunate event; if we were to have for example, a dirty bomb right here in New York City. I am very concerned about that.

You know, I’ve been to Israel, I’ve been to about 30 countries and when you go to some other countries, you visit the hospitals which I had an opportunity to go there with the governmental staff. They have dedicated systems in their hospitals. For example, an independent way of non-connect the sources of water to decontaminate people in case that and the unfortunate, God for bid that we ever have that experience but they seem to be more prepared. I was talking to somebody earlier how we have less than one percent of our beds are able to handle burn traumas and during this critical incidents.

How can we prepare, the Administration, prepare themselves and you know, just like we have Corona virus. China was totally caught off guard by that.
How prepared are we in light of the facts that I just presented?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yeah, and Council Member it’s a great point that you make. I am not aware of the response to have that. I believe it’s NYPD’s counterterrorism or OCME would be better suited to respond to that question.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Well, I know the Chief, he was an inspector in my district, I definitely have that dialogue but we also have to talk to city hospitals.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: To be prepared and it’s not that difficult to have these water tanks to be installed to have the water ready and God forbid, if it is something localized. Something that will cover 20 blocks easily and will have detrimental effects in the city.

I have some other questions but I’ll come back later because I’m really, to be honest with you, very anxious to hear my Co-Chair for today, the questions that he has online. Thank you so much and thank you so much again Council Member Dromm for your leadership.
Thank you, Commissioner.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Chair Cabrera. I want to say we’ve been joined by Council Members Rodriguez, Moya and Powers and let me just start off by saying, I don’t think anyone could survive a nuclear attack in New York City.

So, I think that this is an issue of major importance here in the city. I would also disagree with you respectfully, that this legislation is about a domestic issue on an international issue, a domestic bill on an international issue. So, I’m surprised that the Administration is not supporting it. You know, last week, I think we passed legislation where there was an agreement minimally on fossil fuels. And prior to that, I think there was something on private prisons as well.

Fossil fuels would also require international work as well. Was your office involved in that at all?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: With the — repeat that.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: With the carbon fuels agreement that the Mayor announced last week?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: No, and I think that’s a perfect example. The lead on C40’s, the Divestment
Committee on Governmental Operations Jointly with Committee on Civil Service and Labor

Network, is our climate team. What International Affairs does is take that work and those partnerships they have with coalitions like C40 and then we amplify it to the global community through the United Nations.

So, again, the Administration is supportive of the nature of this bill but the way that it is currently constituted, it puts International Affairs as the lead and we just believe that this is an intercity bill that should be in another entity around the city.

Co-Chair Dromm: So, Commissioner, has this Mayor done any work on nuclear divestment?

Penny Abeywardena: On nuclear divestment? I do not know the response to that and I could get back to you on that.

Co-Chair Dromm: I would think coming into this hearing, the Administration would have prepared you on that to be honest and I would think that as the Commissioner for International Affairs, since this is such an important and vital issue, we would have information on that.

So, even if you argue that it shouldn’t be in your jurisdiction, you know, it makes one wonder
where the Administrations priorities really are. I mean, I’m really shocked at that actually but what does MOIA do then exactly?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Mayor’s Office of International Affairs?

CO-CHAIR DROMM: The Mayor’s Office of International Affairs, yeah.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: So, we really work on — New York City is host to the largest diplomatic corps in the world. We have the U.N., 193 permanent missions, 116 consulates of different arms of foreign governments that work with our immigrant communities and about 70 International Trade Commissioners.

And so, we work partly on the operational. We administer the parking program, handle diplomatic incidents, the security issues, the U.N. General Assembly, which is our Superbowl in September but we also ensure that we make sure that New Yorkers get value. Council Member you sat on the Selection Committee for New York City Junior Ambassadors. But we make sure we take some of our most disconnected youth and bring them to the U.N., let them know how they are part of the global movement around issues related to climate or gender equity and then we ask
them to go back into their neighborhoods and do something in that community.

So, one of my perfect examples is SD14, life under water. How are we cleaning up oceans from plastic, right. Our Junior Ambassadors in our neighborhoods, they are in the South Bronx, cleaning up the South Bronx river. That’s how we’re bringing New Yorkers to the global community and ensuring that the impact that’s it’s having, it’s having at home.

So, we both do the programmatic, but the operational with a staff of 12.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Commissioner, do you know how many countries have signed on to the International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons campaign for the implementation of the United Nations Nuclear Ban Treaty?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I do not know that number.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I mean, this is a big issue in the United Nations. Again, I’m surprised that you’ve come unprepared with that number. It’s over 100 countries and again, I have to say, I’m disappointed that the Administration doesn’t take this issue seriously.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It’s 122 sir.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yeah, well, okay. I mean, thank you staff but you know, it doesn’t seem to be a priority Commissioner, is what I’m trying to get at and I understand your concern as Chair Cabrera has said, that you know, a task force could be set up. It’s just a matter of a will and a matter of a budget perhaps. So, I want to ask a few questions around that issues as well.

So, what resources does the Mayor’s Office of International Affairs would they need to implement 1621?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: And sir, that’s a good question and it’s not a question of just resources. This really is about the fundamental nature of the scope and the purview of the International Affairs Office and the way that the bill is currently constituted, it does not fall within the remit of our office.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, what office would you suggest it would be in?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: And that’s a great question. I don’t know the capacity and the resources of the other entities around New York City and so, I
wouldn’t be able to give you a good recommendation right now.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, what would we have to do to make it within your purview?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Well, it’s not — the way that what you’re looking to do in terms of the purpose of the bill, which is to make this a nuclear weapons free New York City. It will be assessing what is happening in New York City, which if fundamentally an intercity purpose, an intercity bill.

So, I don’t know if there’s a way for you to reconstitute this in a way that it would become International Affairs, because what the heart of the bill is trying to do around a non-nuclear New York City, does not deal with foreign governments. New York City dealing with foreign governments and that’s fundamentally the purpose of my office.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Do you acknowledge that nuclear disarmament, nuclear divestment is an international issue?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It is an international issue, but it is also a domestic issue and this bill is specifically around the advisory committee, which we
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believe does not fall within the scope of International Affairs.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Again, Commissioner, it sounds very bureaucratic to me. Has your office convened any advisory committees in the past?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It has not.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Anti-nuclear weapon organizations have successfully appealed to multiple American cities to formally call on the American government to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons. Has MOIA looked at what steps those American cities have taken to see if New York would also join such an appeal?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We have not because we do not have the expertise within our office and again, that would be a domestic issue and we have not—

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, who makes the decision to send you? Was the decision to send you to today’s hearing made on the basis of the fact that the task force would be put into your agency?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yes, that is what I believe.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: And then the Administration didn’t make an effort to have other people here?
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PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I have my colleagues from the city with me.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Who is here?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: James from Intergovernmental Affairs and my team from International Affairs.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, James, why don’t you come up. So, who are the other two people? What do they do?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Deputy Commissioner.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Your Deputy Commissioner.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Sorry.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Your Deputy Commissioner.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yeah, they’re both in International Affairs sir.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: James, you got to do a better job preparing people for this type of a hearing.

This is amazing to me.

How does the work proposed by Intro. 1621 different from the work MOIA, your office and MOIA has done to commit the city to the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: So, that’s an excellent question. What we have done is work with our climate team, who has been implementing the policy, creating
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the policy around the Paris Climate Agreement. What
we do is take their efforts and amplify it but we are
not creating or implementing the policy in the way
that Dan Zarrilli and Mark Chambers team did.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, who did that work prior to
you being asked to disperse it or distribute it or
you know?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: To amplify it.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: To amplify it.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Paris Agreement happened
during the time of my tenure. I’ve been Commissioner
since 2014 and we committed, New York City committed
to the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017. So, it just
fell within the work that we do.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: But when you say, we committed
to it, you’re saying who?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: New York City did through the
leadership of the Mayor’s Office around response and
resiliency.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: When Mayor de Blasio was the
Mayor.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yes, he was.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, so then, how is that
different? If the Mayor wanted to make a commitment
to nuclear divestment, how might that work if it was — is it his decision? And then it could come down to you to amplify it.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: What ever the Administration does after it is centralized in a city agency, we would then work with them to ensure that that reaches the global audience.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, I think as a follow up to that, if Intro. 1621 would require the Advisory Committee to recommend or host discussions, public programs and other educational activities related to nuclear disarmament and the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons production, could your office, MOIA incorporate some of these initiatives into its current programming?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We would absolutely love to work and support any advisory committee that gets convened around this to ensure that that happens.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, I think that the New York City Junior Ambassadors program, is that under your jurisdiction?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: That is a program that International Affairs runs, yes.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, they work with you on connecting their local to global program for the diplomatic community. Can you describe that?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Junior Ambassador program?

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yes.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Junior Ambassador program takes, it’s a partnership between DOE, DYCD, The United Nations to ensure that seventh graders learn about the sustainable development goals, get a connection to the United Nations, understand how they’re part of a global movement and then they’re asked to do a commitment to action in their community.

Our students and our educators select the sustainable development goal they want to focus on. Whether it’s climate change or human trafficking, they select that topic, they learn more about it, connect to the global movement and then do something in our community.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can you confirm now whether or not there are currently any nuclear weapons or components in New York City?
PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Sir, I do not know. That does not fall within the scope of my work.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Is there another city agency besides yours that you think should be involved in advising. I asked that already on nuclear disarmament issues, but you can’t name any.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I just don’t know the capacity in terms of this bill, but for the question that you just asked about whether there are nuclear weapons, I would say an NYPD Counter terrorism or the office for OCME.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I’m going to stop here for a moment and then I’m going to let some colleagues ask questions. We’ve been joined by Council Member Kallos and Maisel and I’m going to turn to Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I think that if you look at the faces of everyone here in the audience, all you get to see a thousand more years of people advocating, organizing for peace.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: People that organize against nuclear weapons. People that organize when this country took us to fight unnecessary war you
know, the Persian Gulf, they work for oil and this
time around this guy who no doubt is crazy,
disseminating fear in the nation and the whole world
by declaring the war in Iran, they put the whole city
and the whole nation in danger.

So, I feel that we have a big responsibility.
This conversation is not happening in the Midwest,
it’s not happening in other places but in the City of
the New York that historically being led in the
movement for peace for nuclear weapons. And I think
the least this Administration could do and if we
didn’t do it when Mayor de Blasio was part of the
solidarity movement or the Sandinistas Nicaragua was
part of the movement against nuclear weapons. So,
who would do that?

And I think that creating this advisory and
Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone
Advisory Committee is a must. For my daughters 13
and 6, for our childrens and for the grandchildren.
We live in fear. How does New York take the trains.
When we take the trains, we want to move fast from
Time Square, from the water center.

We don’t want to be in a place with 100,000 more
people because we know that this is about when. We
know that we have created with affording a fair policy, that unfortunately has created enemy throughout the world.

What we have today is a lot of expertise. So, we had the Manhattan Project made here in our borough that unfortunately produced a bomb that killed millions of people. We have those institutions from Columbia School, NYU. With top scientists doing research, experts in this field. Yes, we have experts here in the City of New York and as a city, from the NYPD, create level of collaboration. We have the FBI, we have the CIA. We cannot wait for the crazy guy in this city to protect us and whoever is on his side.

Yes, we are a progressive city and we need to be a progressive city by action and we are not talking about taking away their resources, interfering with their foreign policy. We are saying let’s create an advisory board and I think there’s nothing on this legislation led by my colleague Council Member Dromm and of course, we also have the other legislation resolution for another hearing to move the money. You know, foreign weapons to social services and I hope that the Administration will be in our side.
So, I just want to encourage you know, the office, I know that we were there together last year, have to be more than putting an event together. Has to be more than yes, bringing the students together. It has to be more than meeting with celebrity, has to be more than meeting with the dignitary. That office, I hope in the next two years, is taking another approach with the resources that we need for you to have the necessary staff and the vision for the City of New York, we are in danger and we are not waiting for Washington DC to protect New York City. We need to take our own action and this action means creating this advisory board.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: I have one last quick question in light of the fact that there’s a great article that came out this week that the Doomsday Clock we’re down to first time. I believe to 17 seconds. So, I have toprob here a little bit. Did you have a discussion with the Deputy Mayor regarding this hearing today?

PENNY ABNEYWARDENA: I did not.
CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Did not, so, who did you have a conversation with regarding this hearing today?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: With IGA and with my staff.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: And your staff. Was there any moment where the discussion — did anybody come up with the question of, if it’s not appropriate in your estimation, not to come to your agency, which other agency should it go to?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We did not discuss that because the nature of this work, it is really about assessing where expertise, where resources, capacity exists and I do not know that and neither did the people that I spoke with. So, I am not prepared to answer that.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Do the agencies talk to one another?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: It’s kind of rhetorical question.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, I mean, I’m surprised nobody said hey, you know, this is a great idea.
that is congruent with our policy and vision for the city, maybe this should go to Government Operation, let’s give them a call.

Nobody come up with that question?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Unfortunately, no.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Would you be after today’s hearing, contacting – who will you be contacting after this hearing today?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I mean I will absolutely speak with my colleagues. Again, we are very supportive of the nature of this bill and I believe International Affairs wants to work and support. I hope we will be in touch with each other to figure out how we can support this after this hearing.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, your estimation, this bill makes sense, you just don’t seem it deemed appropriate to be under your watch?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Only because the way that this bill is written and the purpose of it is not within the remit of International Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: At what point, if it was rewritten, would it be under your supervision, watch?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I don’t think that the nature of what it is trying to achieve would fall within
International Affairs because it’s fundamentally about what is happening in New York City and I believe that another entity could take this on in International Affairs wants to collaborate and support that effort.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: But you do believe that it should go to for example, Government Operations?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I don’t have an opinion on that because again, I don’t know what they are able to do.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Okay, do you believe there should be an agency taking over it, correct?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: A city entity should be the appropriate place for this.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Okay, thank you so much. I’ll turn it back to my Co-Chair.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, we’re going to go to Council Member Kallos for an opening first statement. He has joined us now, but before that, I want to say. Coming into this hearing, this is why I’m disappointed with the Administration, we have a veto proof majority on both of these pieces of legislation. So, we intend in the Council to pass them. Whether the Mayor is on board or not and so,
to come in here and not have paid this as much as 
attention as I think they should have, especially 
when we have a veto proof majority is a very bad move 
on the part of the Administration, especially for one 
that considers itself to be progressive.

So, regardless of whether or not you feel it 
should be in your committee or it should be in your 
agency or another agency, because we have the veto 
proof majority, I can pretty much assure you, we’ll 
move forward on it.

Council Member Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to Governmental 
Operations Chair Cabrera and Finance Chair Dromm for 
leading this amazing hearing. I’m Council Member Ben 
Kallos; I would like to just thank my good friend and 
colleague Danny Dromm for calling on the Council and 
being the lead sponsor. That the City should take 
this bold action against the nuclear disarmament and 
nuclear divestment.

Just a few weeks ago, the bulletin of atomic 
scientist which take stock of the treats posed by 
nuclear war on climate change each year, moved the 
doomsday clock to 100 seconds before midnight. We 
are now measuring how close the world is to
catastrophe in seconds, not hours or even minutes. It is the closest to doomsday we have ever been since the clock was created in 1947. More than 13 Nobel laureates issued a statement that humanity is facing two simultaneous existential threats, those being climate change and nuclear war.

The current White House has made it a point to not only eviscerate current Treaties and regulations but to also ignore and undermine the international mechanisms for collaboration. With the United States exit from the Paris Agreement and the Iran Nuclear deal, it is clear that the current president does not care about the imminent threat to our future.

I am proud to be a coprime sponsor since introduction for Introduction 1621 and Reso. 976. Intro. 1621 creates an Advisory Committee to examine a nuclear disarmament and issue related to reaffirming the city as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The City declared this back in 1983 and I hope we can pass the bill quickly and reaffirm our declaration once again.

I’d like to again thank Danny for his leadership on this. I’d also like to thank the advocates who have been tireless in their efforts, including Nobel
Laureate Ray and the other members of the International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons, particularly for letting me hold their Nobel Prize. I think that is the closest I will ever get to holding a Nobel Prize.

So, I guess, my question to Commissioner Penny is, have you ever held a Nobel Prize?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I have not and I’m a little jealous that you have.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: That is good. So, my offer on behalf of my friends, the Nobel Laureates, and I can’t believe I get to say that is, if you can help us find a home and an agency to make this happen, we will let you hold and pose with a Nobel Prize.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Indeed, thank you Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: In all seriousness, I just look forward to working with you to find the right agency, whether it’s the Mayor’s Office of Operations, they call them selves OPS, I call them MOO, either way, I think that we can work together to find the right place to convene this and again, I
want to thank the Chairs for moving this forward and thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Would you like to speak?

PAUL OCHOA: Yeah, Council Member, this is Paul Ochoa, First Deputy Director of City Legislative Affairs.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: We going to swear you in. Just hold on one second.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please raise your right hand. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your testimony before this Committee and to respond honestly to Council Member questions?

PAUL OCHOA: I do. Council Member, thank you so much for holding this hearing. I just want to clarify for the record that this is not a controversial bill. We support it, if you want to move it next Monday on the Aging, we’re there. I think all we’re saying is we just have to find the right home. It is not uncommon for us to come in and support the intent of the bills and then negotiating the details after the hearing.

I figured that we could clarify that point.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, my disappointment is just that I don’t feel that the Administration was as prepared as they should have been to answer some of these questions and we look forward though to negotiating this as we move forward.

PAUL OCHOA: Absolutely, and we’ll do a better job at communicating with staff to bring the right agencies, I think. We can absolutely do that.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Paul, I you know, have great respect for you. What I advise is for next time that these discussions take place before we get here.

PAUL OCHOA: Of course.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Come with recommendations and say hey, we’ll transfer it to this agency or department. That way we can move rather quickly and expedite with this bill.

PAUL OCHOA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: We appreciate you coming and clarifying.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I hate to be too tough but I have to be sometimes, especially when a legislation is important to me, but I do thank you for coming in
and for giving testimony and we look forward to working with you as we move forward. Thank you very much.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, we’re going to call our next panel up. And the next panel will be and pardon if I mispronounce the name. Madida Kugema from the Lenape Center, Ian Zabarte Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians, Chief Dwaine Perry from the Ramapough Lenape Nation, is Mira Gotegachie[SP?] from Hebaca[SP?] Shaw Stories.

Okay, I just want to remind everyone that we are going to give all those presenting testimony today, two minutes to present testimony.

And if you have a written testimony, please give it to the Sergeant at Arms and then they will distribute it to us.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: You could begin, thank you.

MADIDA KUGEMA: Good afternoon, my name is Madida Kugema[SP?] and I am an Advisor for Lenape Center representing the federally recognized peoples indigenist New York City. I have been asked to deliver a land welcome and a message on behalf of the organization today.
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[SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGE 1:21:18-1:21:30]

We are glad because you people came to Lenape,
live well why you are here.

I quote, New York City sits at the heart of Lenapehoking. It has always been the home of the peace makers and the grandfathers, The Lenape. In continuing our responsibility towards our values of peace making, balance, respecting mother earth and respecting all life and all peoples, we do not want to witness the life sustaining energies of Lenapehoking to be utilized for the propagation of destructive weapons.

We, at the Lenape Center, led by Co-Directors from the federally recognized Lenape and Munsee Mohican Nations humbly ask the City Council to understand the depth of responsibility, which is owed to the life sustaining reality of mother earth and do everything in their power to prevent war on other peoples and on mother earth herself.

Lenapehoking has witnessed too much colonial genocide and violence upon our people which has yet to be recognized and acknowledged. This blindness to our history should first end so you can open your
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eyes to our people and see the true ramifications of
supporting weapons and war.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next
please.

IAN ZABARTE: I am Principal Man Ian Zabarte of
the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation. I am also
Secretary of the Native Community Action Council,
party withstanding in the atomic safety licensing
board on the proposed high level nuclear waste
repository at Yucca Mountain.

Our lands, the Western Shoshone Nation are
defined by treaty the most formal recognition between
one government and another in international law. The
1863 tree rooted valley that’s from the Consolidated
Treaty Series Volume 127, 1863. We a borne the
burden of the nuclear age without help from America.
One Thousand nuclear weapons test within our country
fall out across country and across the United States
and the world.

We’ve investigated our own adverse health
consequences known to be plausible from radiation
exposure that harms our land and harms our people and
based on lifestyle differences alone, our exposure is
significantly greater than that of the non-Native community. We need help. Everywhere in the world there are radiation monitoring surveillance and DNA testing and registry.

So, we don't have that here in the United States. We need that, we need help. This is the right thing to do and I don't have to tell you that, you know it's the right thing to do. It's a violation of the Treaty Ruby Valley, a violation of law to be killing Indians in secret with nuclear weapons and that is exactly what's happening. So, I urge you to support these two proposals to move this city to do the right thing.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

[SPEAKING IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGE 1:25:57-1:26:09]

AL: I'm Al and I'm here on behalf of the Lenape Ramapough Lenape Nation. We're the Munsee people, the descendants of the original people of Manhattan. So, I bring you a statement on behalf of and from our leader Chief Dwaine Perry.

Chief Dwaine Perry is [INAUDIBLE 1:26:42] of the Ramapough Lenape Nation, the Munsee people whose ancestral land this great city now sits.
I come not to belabor you with more facts, which you should already know but to share an ancient truce for which most have ignored since 1624. In the 1400’s, the Ojibway began their migration west because it was foretold that shiny people were coming and some would bring death. It has happened.

In the 1800’s, the western nations prophesied the coming of the Black snakes which would bring joy to many and in the end death. It has happened. You cannot drink oil. If one oil train derails, spills into New York State Watershed as it nearly did in 2018, hundreds of thousands of people in the city will die. You cannot drink oil, it is a current danger, it is a danger now.

In the 90’s, the City in the Himalayas with elders from over 200 countries, it was foretold “that the hollow people were coming and some would hold the sons of death.” It has happened. In the western world’s freedoms, as the western world’s Freedom wilt under the knowledge in knowing guys and misdirecting syntax, the hollow people have risen. They now carry their sons of death, worn openly as badges of bravado. It is happening now.
I implore each and every one of you to arise to stand for humanity and to support the legislation to divest from nuclear profiteering and proliferation. I’m asking New York to join Paris, Berlin, Sydney, Los Angeles and Washington DC to become a part of the ICAN, City’s Campaign in support of the nuclear ban treaty, for now is the time, you cannot drink death. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

MIRA GOTAGACHIE: My name is Mira Gotegachie[SP?]. My parents were survivors of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki. I have been working for nuclear abolition more than ten years as a peace correspondent and a member of the Hibakusha Stories that tells survivors the true story to students in the New York area.

We stay, we value peace, we invest to that deadly weapons due to our ignorance or our so-called security and protection. That is an imagination, that area destroyed by the first nuclear bombing in Hiroshima is almost that same strides over New York City. Imagine 140,000 dead bodies as there were in Hiroshima covered New York City. Imagine your parents, spouses, children and friends who you deeply
love were among them. It was inhuman and savage. Melting skins hanging from the arms and the mothers carrying the dead infants. These were normal scenes in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945.

My teenage parents were there. When I imagine that pain, hunger and the devastation they went through I feel how precious and fragile our lives are. Even if people survive a nuclear bomb, the radiation destroys their bodies, their system and they are poisoning that next generation. I have lived in New York City for more than 20 years. One of the great things about being here is knowing people who passionately believe in peace. With that we care, we act, we speak out for peace. I hope New York City will set the standard for nuclear abolition. Except my project started here, we as residents of New York City should take action to end that deadly weapon.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. You get an A for staying in your timeframe, which is great and we really deeply appreciate all of you coming in and providing us with this testimony. Thank you very, very much.
Okay, Frida Berrigan from Kings Bay, I can’t make out the last I’m sorry. Elizabeth McAlister from Kings Bay also, Amanda Daloisio the Catholic Worker and Joanne Kennedy representing Martha Hennessey. And by the way, if you have written testimony, you want to give it to the Sergeant at Arms, they’ll pass it out to us here. If you have written testimony but didn’t make copies, you can always submit them to us at the Council as well. We’re going to get you the email address as well.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good afternoon everybody —

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Hold on, somebody is missing.

UNIDENTIFIED: Joanne Kennedy is speaking on behalf of Amanda.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, but there was one other, I thought.

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, Carmen Trotta is also not able to be here today.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, alright, so we just want to make sure we have the right cards for the right people.

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh yeah.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, so, begin please.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, great.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: We’ll do one more, I’m sorry.

Barry Reardon.

UNIDENTIFIED: Betty.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Betty, I’m sorry. International Institute on Peace and Education. Okay, we’re all set.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Go ahead.

FRIDA BERRIGAN: Yes, hi, my name is Frida Berrigan and I’ve come to speak briefly about the importance of this resolution. As one more tool in the critical work for nuclear abolition and I thank the City Council and all of the activists who have worked on the forum. So, thank you so much.

As the daughter of anti-nuclear activists, Phil Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister, who is here next to me, I was chastised as a teenager for wanting to go to the movies when the doomsday clock was at three minutes to nuclear midnight and as others have said here today, we know that that clock has moved and it’s now just 100 seconds to nuclear midnight. Shorter than the length of time that I’ll be speaking before all of you.
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And so, in the face of this imminent and existential threat, we need every effort, every gong, every alarm and every tool in our toolbox and my mother Elizabeth McAlister is here. She along with six friends are awaiting sentencing for their part in the Kings Bay Plowshares. A non-violent disarmament action of Trident submarines in the State of Georgia. This is also an attempt to sound the alarm, to take responsibility for nuclear weapons, to say, not in our name. As this resolution says, not with New York dollars.

At 100 seconds to midnight, my own children, 13, 7 and 5 are in the crosshairs of these nuclear nightmares. My mother here is looking at two years in prison at the age of 80. At the age of 80, she’s risking the rest of her life for nuclear disarmament and if that’s not an alarm that we need to heed, I don’t know what is.

So, thank you.

ELIZABETH MCALISTER: So, along with friends, I went to Kings Bay in Georgia and we hammered on a nuclear submarine and we were arrested. I did about a year and a half in the local jail in Kings Bay
Georgia before one day they said, pack it up and I was released, but only to face trial.

One of the six of us who did this action, a Jesuit priest by the name of Steve Kelly, remains in jail in Georgia because he will not cooperate with release conditions. The rest of us, along with him are all awaiting sentencing. So, we’re looking at something like six to ten years, which is a possibility.

Mostly, I want to come here and ask for your prayer and your concern for Steve because I spent a year and a half in that jail before they released me on personal recognizance. They will not release Steve Kelly on personal recognizance because he will not agree to their conditions.

So, I don’t know if you’ve heard about this, but I think it’s important that people know that there are folks who are in prison and in jail and looking at years in jail for the sake of a disarmed country, a disarmed world and there are and I’m glad and I’m proud to be part of it.

JOANNE KENNEDY: Thanks, so much Liz. So, my name is Joanne Kennedy, I’m going to be reading a
letter from Martha Hennessey, who is one of Liz’s Co-Defendants who couldn’t be here today.

So, here is what Martha says, I only fixed her grammar a tiny bit, so don’t tell her but I’m the Editor of the Catholic Worker. I can’t help myself and a big thanks to Danny Dromm for all this work, we really appreciate it.

Alright, she says, Dear esteemed New York City Council. Thank you very much for your critical work for nuclear abolition. I send my apologies for not being able to attend this event in person.

I am Martha Hennessey; I am part of the New York Catholic Worker movement and the Kings Bay Plowshares communities and I am currently awaiting sentencing for our conviction in the non-violent disarming action that took place on April 4, 2018 at the Naval Station in Kings Bay Georgia.

I understand the sacrifice that each of us must make in our work for nuclear disarmament and I send my gratitude to all of you who are involved in this effort as we drift ever closer to nuclear annihilation. We need resolutions, actions, divestments, boycotts, people in the streets,
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economic shutdowns and all of the rest to make our voices heard.

The governmental/corporate profiteers will not let go of their schemes unless we make them. And it can begin with initiatives such as this public hearing and resolutions put forth by local governments.

We can no longer bear the risks and unsustainable costs of our nuclear arsenal which is both immoral and illegal. Let’s take back our money and resources and apply them to the needs that cry out around the country and the world. We no longer consent to a vision of a future that could bring horror on the heads of all humanity, no thank you.

BETTY REARDON: My name is Betty Reardon, Founder of the International Institute on Peace Education. First, I want to thank the City Council for this hearing because it’s a clear demonstration that at least some elements in our government still listen to the electorate and pay attention to the concerns of the citizens.

It’s the younger citizens that I’m most concerned about and why I want to see you pass this legislation and this proposition. I’m speaking as a teacher, a
teacher who learned the skills of the profession, being challenged every day by 13 to 16 year old’s who wanted me to help them to become responsible citizens. Just as the young people today are asking adults now, to be responsible citizens. All of us have a responsibility to meet that challenge and to do everything in our power to assure their futures and to listen to the demands they are making.

The demands for our future held hostage by the great impower of future blind leadership that pretends to turn a deaf ear to their rightful demands, refusing to acknowledge the truth about nuclear weapons that these youngsters know.

They are homicidal, they are illegal and they are immoral. I want to speak to the immorality. Particularly the moral context in which we now raise the young. The demoralizing social and emotional climate and the lessons in social ethics arising from the possession and potential use of the weapons. The young, whom we hope to educate to construct an alternative to the present nuclear arm security system are enveloped in cynicism and fear that prevails and sustains this system. We see it in their attitudes and their behaviors. They are coming
of age with few political constraints on behaviors.
Do you have to stop?

CO-CHAIR DROMM: No, you can continue.

BETTY REARDON: Thank you.

They are coming of age with few social and political constraints on behaviors that place self interest over any commitment to the welfare of the larger community, in which the use of the weapons becomes ever more possible. Many blatantly resist and reject authority. Some question the kind of a national security system and its weapons — the kind of security this national security system and its weapons of mass destruction provide for their generation.

Why not live only for self? How can they care for and respect others when their country is prepared to wipe millions off the face of the earth in the name of a national security that it manifests little care for their future or their daily wellbeing. Why delay any available immediate satisfaction to prepare for a future so uncertain? Please think of these despairing questions as you deliberate on the proposition and the bill but think also of the youth who challenge rather than reject authority.
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Demonstrating by the thousands, they know the risks
that knowledge dictates to conscience. They speak
truth to power. Let us all manifest similar courage
to face truth and act accordingly.

During in early 1980’s, when nuclear weapons and
their consequences were part of popular discords,
teachers were obtained to keep children from the
destructive fear that had produced nightmares and
some.

It is recounted that one little boy sought to
assure his classmates that it would be okay, because
his parents were doing something about it. May there
be a day when the children of this city’s schools can
say, it will be okay, our City Council did something
about it.

Thank you very much for your efforts.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this
panel and just before you leave, I just want to say
how impressed I am and how grateful I am and how
lucky I felt to be able to stand on the steps with
you today at the Press Conference. And of course, to
Ms. Reardon and to Ms. Kennedy, thank you very much
and to Phillips Berrigan’s daughter as well. Thank
you so much for being here and how much I admire the
work that your father did, it was just absolutely incredible. Of course, throughout the whole Vietnam War in the 60’s, as well as Elizabeth McAlister. I’m very, very pleased and grateful that you came in today. It’s been 50, 60 years of activism, so this is not just a one time thing. You have been fighting for peace and justice in this world for many, many years.

Thank you for coming today.

Okay, our next panel is William Hartung, Blaze Tepuis [SP?], Mary Yelenick and Brendan Fay. Okay, we’re ready when you are. Do you want to start over here?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Yes, I’ll be brief because we have no choice. My name is William Hartung, I work at the Center for International Policy. I’m an expert on nuclear weapons, the arms trade and pentagon spending. I’m a Manhattan resident, a constituent of Council Member Helen Rosenthal.

I think what we’re doing today is one of the most important things we can do to build a grassroots movement to put an end to nuclear weapons. Short of having hiding the nuclear button from Donald Trump.
I can’t think of anything more important that we could be doing today.

Passing the resolutions before you will put New York City in the leadership role and reducing the danger of nuclear war, also freeing up funds for desperately needed programs for housing, education and environmental protection and we’ll be joining a growing international consensus for eliminating nuclear weapons before they eliminate us.

This is an issue for everyone. A full scale nuclear exchange would end life on this planet even a so-called limited nuclear war could put two billion people at risk of famine. So, we don’t leave it to experts to decide or one level of government to decide, it’s up to all of us. Particularly, when you think that some of the experts are funded by the nuclear weapons industry.

So, not only lives are at stake but huge amounts of money. The Pentagon wants to spend $1.5 Trillion on nuclear weapons over the next decade. A waste of money that will make the world a far more dangerous place and there’s a long honorable history of states taking the lead on issues like ending the apartheid regime in South Africa on issues like promoting the
nuclear freeze campaign in the 1980’s and I think in the case of New York City, we are a leader of the world. I think people look to us for guidance on many issues, so I think are we to pass these, end with the cooperation of the Administration, carry forward faithfully of these resolutions. I think there will a ripple effect all over the country and all over the world that would make a huge difference. 

So, I thank you for taking your leadership on this issue.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next please.

BLAZE TEPUIS: Hi, my name is Blaze Tepuis[SP?], I’m here today as a lifetime New York resident and asking the Council to support the resolution 976 and Introduction 1621. My hero, Dr. Martin Luther King spoke about the fierce urgency of now and there are no better words to describe where we find ourselves today regarding the threats of nuclear war and the survival of our planet. While our federal government is in complete crisis with the Executive branch starting a new arms race, it is our city on the front line of any potential conflict that has to step up and show
leadership, have vision and moral clarity of who we are and where we need to go. And I applaud the City Council for showing the leadership in this legislation that is before us today.

I was born in New York City and grew up on 22nd Street and Chelsea in the 70’s and 80’s and I was shocked to learn only recently, that on 20th Street, over 300,000 pounds of uranium was stored during the 40’s for the Manhattan project. And that site was not remediated until the early 1990’s. Over 50 years it sat radioactive. The Intro. 161 gives us an opportunity to create curriculum for our schools, so that children can learn about our history and we can make sure that the remediation was complete and that all the other sites that have radio activity have been cleaned up.

With the passing of the adoption of the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we finally have a law that puts the reality that these weapons are immoral, instruments of omnicide that have no legitimate use and threaten the survival of life on earth every minute of every day. While we continue to work for that goal and we work to get a federal government that recognizes this reality and signs and
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ratifies the treaty, we cannot wait for that
eventuality. We must put pressure on the
corporations that profit from the manufacturer of
these weapons and make it untenable for them to
continue business as usual.

By divesting the City Pension fund from these
corporations, we send a powerful message to the
country and the world that New York will not stand
idly by. We will not have our money invested in our
own destruction.

Please pass these vital pieces of legislation and
show that New York City has the moral leadership to
overcome the blind militarism that has taken us to
this brink.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you, next please.

MARY YELENICK: Good afternoon, my name is Mary
Yelenick; I’m a New Yorker, an attorney and the main
representative of the NGO Delegation to the United
Nations of Pax Christi International. A global
Catholic Peace Movement active in more than 60
countries around the world and with a very strong and
active presence here in New York City.
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It has been 75 years since the United States plunged the world into the unspeakable horrors of nuclear weapons. We at Pax Christi to were found at 75 years ago and have worked tirelessly since that time including as a long time member of ICAN, to abolish those horrific weapons.

Symbolically and in solidarity with the Hibakusha. Pax Christi will be holding our own 75th Anniversary world assembly this May in Hiroshima.

Pax Christi solutes and strongly supports and thanks the New York City Council for your pending initiatives regarding the prohibition of nuclear weapons in New York and in the pension holdings of New York City public employees. It’s very fitting that New York take a lead in this for reasons that other people have articulated. By hosting the United Nations, New York has already played a key role in the evolution and adoption of the landmark treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

And we New Yorkers who lived here on 9-11 will never forget the mass deaths and destruction at the site of the World Trade Centers caused by a relatively low tech assault.
New Yorkers understand how incapable we would be of responding to a nuclear explosion. The magnitude of devastation of life and infrastructure with beyond any capacity to address.

You on the New York City Council recognize this horrific reality and thank you for that. These two important legislative initiatives are necessary and we support you. You are taking a critical step toward ensuring that the unthinkable remains just that.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Brendon.

BRENDAN FAY: My name is Brendan Fay and I am with the New York City Divest Campaign and St. Pats for all.

I urge all members of the New York City Council to support and pass the legislation to divest New York City pensions from nuclear weapons production and support the global movement for nuclear disarmament.

I was a teenager in Ireland when I first learned about the horrors of August 1945 bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. From the women of [INAUDIBLE 2:04:43] and leaders of the Irish Campaign for nuclear
disarmament. This awakening in me as a teenager to
the horror and presence of nuclear bombs and their
threat to the human family has never left me since
that early awakening.

Indeed, I was only left with a sense of the human
responsibility not to be indifferent. To become
aware that in minutes, our beautiful and evolved
world could be destroyed by nuclear war as
governments were investing millions of hard earned
workers wages and human resources, challenged me and
others to become active in the movements for nuclear
disarmament. So, it’s with gratitude I am present
with you members of the New York City Council and my
friends in the New York advocacy movement and leaders
of the global movement. I’m proud to be with you
today.

Today, we speak with our human hearts for peace
and call upon and support our political leaders to
divest New York City pensions from these weapons of
death. Indeed, let us invest instead in the hard
work of peace making and human development. Invest
in our childrens future, all children. Have they not
got a right to a future of peace; a world free of
nuclear weapons? Every dollar invested in nuclear
weapons is taken from resources desperately needed for healthcare. For the child with Sickle cell, with cancer, schools, housing, food for the hungry. Echoing leading New Yorkers who before us spoke out from [INAUDIBLE 2:06:59], Bayard Rosen, Dorothy Day and right here in this Chamber Paula Dwar[SP?], may future generations say of all of us, we too spoke up.

This afternoon let the message go from us in this City Hall be loud and clear. No more investing in weapons of mass destruction. And because we care for life in our city and our world, we love our earth and our children, we unite as citizens, with you political leaders and take this stand to preserve peace for future generations.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Thank you to this panel. Thank you to Brendan in particular for the introduction to Kathleen Sullivan, I really appreciate that and for getting me onboard of this and making me aware of everything that’s going on.

Thank you, thank you very much and by the way, we’ve had over 35 or so tweets, so if you tweet and you want to tweet about the hearing today, that would
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be great. Keep it going, let everybody know what we
are doing here today.

Our next panel is Maura Keaney from Amalgamated
Bank. I haven’t seen Maura in a long time. Alice
Slater World Beyond War, Ray Acheson Women’s
International League from Peace and Justice, I think.
Freedom, I’m sorry, for Peace and Freedom and
Jacqueline Cabasso from Mayors for Peace.

MAURA KEANEY: Good afternoon, thank you Council
Members for your interest in this important issue.
I’m Maura Keaney; I’m a First Vice President with
Amalgamated Bank.

Amalgamated is a nearly 100 year old financial
institution formed here in New York City in 1923 by
the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

At the time, workers were unable to bank at big
commercial banks. Not like it was a bad experience
and they didn’t feel that they were getting
appropriate service, which is important but actually
they couldn’t open accounts.

So, the union formed a bank giving its members
and their family members a way to save, to build
credit, to send money home to their families at that
time in Eastern Europe and to borrow when they were
able to build their own small businesses. As the labor movement grew and those union member families grew, so did the bank. We’re still headquartered in New York City. We’re chartered by New York State but we’re national in our client profile. We have clients in 48 states. We bank for Progressive individuals, many of the people here today. We offer consumer savings and checking accounts and home mortgages but on the commercial side, we specialize in banking for lending to and investing for socially responsible businesses and nonprofit organizations like Planned Parenthood, Color of Change, The Sierra Club, SEIU, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund and hundreds of others. We also bank for much of the democratic party and many New York City candidates and elected officials.

The union that formed us, is still our largest single shareholder and we are committed through that relationship to continuing our progressive stance on issues. We’re the first bank to pay our employees then $15.00 an hour, now $20.00 an hour. We were the first bank to accept NYC ID as a form of, a primary means of opening an account and we are the first bank
to endorse the U.N. Principles for Responsible Banking.

We, as a financial institution are also committed to ending financial support for companies involved in firearms and weapons production and distribution. We don’t bank for or lend to firearms manufacturers or weapons production companies.

On the investment front, we don’t invest any of the bank’s money in weapons manufacturers and we offer our investment management clients, whether they’re individual consumers or commercial businesses or organizations, the opportunity to ensure their money is not invested in defense companies or gun sellers.

When New York City pension funds are being invested, without consideration to weapons, you’re supporting with those dollars, the operations of these businesses. As a city resident, as a former city employee with a city managed 401K and hopefully some day a city pension, if I come back and work for the city. I don’t want my money backing up those destructive businesses but beyond my personal interest, New York City has an abiding interest and responsibility to ending violence and war. It’s not
good for our citizens, for our economy, or our environment.

We have a history in New York as many have referenced to pursuing what’s right for shareholder action. The McBride Principle, South Africa Investment, divestment. We’ve used our pension power to make change before.

We can continue to be a leader by pushing other governments to do the same and I can say from the banks perspective and from a purely fiduciary perspective, investing in this industry is not lucrative, nor is it low risk. In fact, similar to carbon divestment, we see portfolios with weapons screened out performing as well or better than those without the screening.

New York’s fiduciary responsibility to its employees current, future and retired, can continue to be met without investing in companies involved in weapons production or maintenance.

Amalgamated Bank thanks you Council Member for your leadership on this issue and encourage you to pass the Resolution and Introduction.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Maura and I know you have to run, so if you want to run, run but we
appreciate your efforts on this piece of legislation and also, I am very grateful to you for what you do with IDNYC. That was my legislation as well, so thank you to Amalgamated Bank. Thank you very much.

MAURA KEANEY: We love it and happy to do more and you should make the city only invest city dollars in banks that use IDNYC.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: I am working on that. I am working on that.

MAURA KEANEY: I know you are.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yes, we all are. And I just want to remind everybody, please keep it to the two minutes because we have so many people who want to give testimony.

Thank you.

ALICE SLATER: Oh, my name is Alice Slater; I just want to thank you for this wonderful initiative and proceeding. I’m on the Board of World Beyond War and a U.N. Rep for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and I’m just so grateful to the Council for stepping up the plate and taking historic action to finally ban the bomb.

I was born in the Bronx and went to Queens College when tuition was only $5.00 a semester. In
the 1950’s during the terrible red scare of the
McCarthy era. At the height of the war we had 70,000
nuclear bombs on the planet. There are now 14,000
with about 13,000 in the U.S. and Russia. The other
seven nuclear armed counties have only 1,000 among
them.

So, it’s really up to us and Russia to move first
to negotiate for the abolition as outlined in the new
Treaty. At this time, none of the nuclear weapons
states and our U.S. partners in NATO, Japan,
Australia or in South Korea, are supporting the new
Treaty.

It may really surprise you to know that Russia
has generally been the eager proposer of treaties for
verified nuclear missile disarmament and sadly, it is
our country in the grip of the military industrial
complex that Eisenhower warned against, that provokes
the nuclear arms race with Russia from the time
Truman rejected Stalin’s request to put the bomb
under U.N. control. To Reagan, Bush, Clinton and
Obama rejecting Obama Putin proposals. That is
documented in my submitted testimony to Trump,
walking out of the INF Treaty just recently.
Walt Kelly, the cartoonist of the Pogo comic strip during the 1950’s red scare, as Pogo saying, we met the enemy and he is us.

We now have a breakthrough opportunity for global grassroots actions in cities and states to reverse course from plummeting our earth into catastrophic nuclear disaster. At this moment, there are 2,500 nuclear tip missiles in the U.S. and Russia targeting all of our major cities. As for New York City as the song goes, if we can make it here, we’ll make it anywhere and it’s wonderful and inspiring and the majority of this City Council is willing to add its voice for a nuclear free world.

Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you, next please.

RAY ACHESON: Hello, thank you very much. My name is Ray Acheson and I’m with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, as well as the International campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.

It’s unfortunate that the folks from the Mayor’s Office left, because I do indeed have the Noble Peace Prize that we could have shown to them. But anybody
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Who wants to support the legislation could absolutely have your photo taken with this later on.

But I also wanted to comment on some of what the Mayor’s Office was saying this morning, because I think it’s important for our discussion. This is really both in international and a domestic issue. I think that is irrefutable and when the federal government won’t stand up for our safety and security, we need to do it at all other levels of government that we possibly can.

The idea that we don’t have the appropriate interagency or public coordination or expertise, capacity within our offices, can’t be an excuse for not doing anything. To say that we don’t have capacities, to say that things have to just stay the same and this is the exact same mentality of why we have nuclear weapons all these years later, knowing exactly what they do to human bodies and to the environment.

It’s this idea that we still have to have them. We’re told, this is just the way the world is. This is how things work and that we need them for our security and we’re told all of this by the people and the companies that profit from these weapons.
The rest of the world, well, not all of the rest of the world, but a lot of the rest of the world, 122 countries at least, have rejected this kind of mentality by voting for the adoption of the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in 2017 and this Treaty is really a rejection of this idea that might makes right or that we can only achieve our security through massive radioactive violence.

This is really not the way things are and it’s not something we should accept and it’s not something that New York City should accept ever. And as Council Member Rodriguez said, we need to reject nuclear weapons, not just in word but in action. That New York City needs to be a progressive city in everything that it does and it can do that by endorsing the nuclear ban treaty, divesting from nuclear weapons and setting up the advisory committee.

Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

JACQUELINE CABASSO: Thank you, my name is Jackie Cabasso and I serve as North American coordinator of Mayors for Peace.
I speak today in support of Intro. 1621 and Resolution 976 on behalf of Mayors for Peace and it is my honor to convey warm greetings from Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima; the President of Mayors for Peace.

Mayors for Peace was launched in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has grown to nearly 8,000 member cities in 163 countries including 218 U.S. members. The U.S. Conference of Mayors or USCM, the nonpartisan association of 1,400 American cities with populations over 30,000, has unanimously adopted ever stronger Mayors for Peace sponsored nuclear disarmament resolutions for 14 consecutive years.

Directly relevant to Res. 976, is its 2016 Resolution, in which the USCM commends Mayor Denise Simmons in the Cambridge City Council for demonstrating bold leadership at the municipal level by unanimously deciding on April 2, 2016 to divest their $1 billion city pension fund from all companies involved in production of nuclear weapons system and in entities investing in such companies.

Relevant to both bills, the USCM calls on member cities to take action at the municipal level to raise
public awareness of the humanitarian impacts and financial costs of nuclear weapons. The growing dangers of wars among nuclear arm states and the urgent need for good faith U.S. participation in negotiating the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

One example among many is planting seedlings of a bomb tree and I note that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, though not a member of Mayors for Peace was a Co-Sponsor of this resolution.

In its 2018 Resolution, the USCM urges the United States government to embrace the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons as a welcome step towards negotiation of a comprehensive agreement on the achievement and permanent maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Intro., I’m sorry, just a couple of sentences.

Intro. 1621 would establish an advisory committee to examine nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapons free zone. The Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office on International Affairs would serve as Chair and I wish the city was here to hear me say that. Mexico City, a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace, the
International Affairs Department handles matters of nuclear disarmament.

In any case, three members of the Advisory Committee would be appointed by the Mayor. This makes it all the more natural for Mayor de Blasio to join Mayors for Peace. He has been personally invited by the Mayors of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki and I would publicly like to invite him again to join. Hiroshima is prepared to welcome New York City to Mayors for Peace by offering to plant an A-bomb sapling at a mutually agreed location in New York. And I invite you to read my written testimony for more in depth information analysis.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you and I’d like to see the Mayor sign on to that as well. Thank you.

Next, Seth Shelden from ICAN, Raymond Black from ICAN, Elaine Scarry and Jamie Bower. Seth, do you want to start?

SETH SHELDEN: Sure, my name is Seth Shelden and I am the United Nation liaison for ICAN. Winners of that Nobel Peace Prize that Ray Acheson has just displayed for you but before and above any of that, I
am a New Yorkers. I was born and raised in Canarsie. I went to PS279, IS239 in Brooklyn and Stuyvesant. Today, I am a law professor at CUNY School of Law. My whole family, since my grandparents immigrated here have been artists and public school teachers in this city. I know about New York; I care about New York. In my written submission, I’m detailing the merits of Reso. 976 and Intro. 1621. I was planning to focus on just one aspect of those bills, but even if it cuts short on my time, I want to start by saying that I am disappointed to hear what MOIA had to open with. Their demureness on 1621 based on capacity and scope. Their excuse is not commensurate with the dire threat of this issue and you know, it is so obvious that these bills are intended to address issues, both domestic and international that I suppose it’s fine, I only have two minutes to say that because it is really that obvious. And this will be even more true as international law continues to develop, including with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons. But I wanted to focus with the remaining time on the ICAN city’s appeal component of Resolution 976, because ICAN’s U.N. Liaison, I work
closely with governments that are evaluating their countries plans regarding the TPNW.

And so, I can testify firsthand how by declaring its support for the Treaty, New York City can advance adherence while also advancing global disarmament norms in general. The ICAN city’s appeal counters a frequent argument we hear from nuclear armed governments that their citizens are protected by nuclear weapons and that they want them.

There’s only a few countries that argue this but the U.S. is one of them and in fact, the day the treaty was adopted by a solid majority of the world, the U.S. even asserted that we do not intend to ever become a party to it ever. All New Yorkers should be offended by this anti-democratic argument that the Trump Administration speaks for generations not even yet born.

The ICAN city’s appeal provides a powerful rebuttal. New York is going to join other American cities from DC to LA together with hundreds of cities around the world that have already endorsed the Treaty in this manner. This encourages countries to sign and ratify as it moves toward entering the force and it makes sense for cities to speak up because
after all, nuclear weapons don’t target soldiers on battlefields. They target civilians and cities like this one.

Local governments have a big role to play, especially hours given New York’s legacy. Nuclear weapons are a New York problem and these bills offer a New York solution.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Seth. Next please.

RAYMOND BLACK: Good afternoon, my name is Raymond Black. I am an attorney, an activist, a member of ICAN and a representative of the activist group, Rise and Resist which has co-endorsed and sponsored this legislation in today’s press conference. I’ve also been a proud New Yorker for 30 years and I ask you, I implore you to pass both these bills.

New York has a unique responsibility as others have said since the Manhattan project began here, but if a nuclear weapon explodes over our city, instantaneously, eight million women, men and children are extinguished. All the vegetation, all the animals, all the art in our museums, all of our architecture, all of it is gone. It’s gone forever.
Human beings have continuously inhabited the island that we are gathered on today for 3,000 years. If a nuclear weapon explodes over New York City, it is as if those 3,000 years never happened and the carcinogens and the nuclear fall out that will hang over this city will exist for far more than the 3,000 years that human beings have made their lives on the island of Manhattan.

The only issue more crucial than combating climate change for the survival of human beings on our dear and fragile planet earth is the abolition of all nuclear weapons. As a member of the activist community here in New York City, I promise you that we will be back on this issue and do whatever it takes to get these bills passed and I thank you so much for the leadership you are taking today.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

ELAINE SCARRY: My name is Elaine Scarry; I’m a Professor at Harvard and the author of a book called Thermonuclear Monarchy, which shows that nuclear weapons and governance are mutually exclusive. I’m not a citizen of New York or I’m a sole mate of New York as I think everyone in the United States is.
Nuclear architecture has two extreme features. The first is the level of injury. We know from the most recent work on nuclear winter that if you live in a tiny percentage of the current arsenals used, not one percent but three one hundredths of one percent, forty four million people will be casualties and one billion people will die within the first month. Nuclear weapons have eliminated the capacity for self-defense, the right of self-defense, which underlies all our other rights. It’s also eliminated the capacity for mutual aid. The International Red Cross has said that if even a single city is hit, their worldwide resources can’t help.

But there’s a second feature of nuclear weapons and that is that this level of injury is brought about by a single person. The nuclear architecture arranges for a single person to bring about the genocide level of injury.

In our own country, that’s the president acting alone with no consultation or breaking power provided by the citizenry or congress or the courts or even by his cabinet and as we know from formal missile launch office Bruce Blair, that presidential launch order is only the length of a single tweet.
Both of these features are wildly illegal. International law completely outlaws the level of suffering I’ve described. National law, the constitution completely outlaws having an arrangement for war that lets a single person with no testing by the population of the congress injure a foreign population. We need to honor both our national laws and our international laws by eliminating these weapons as quickly as possible.

And the Resolution 976 and Bill 1621 are a strong step in that direction.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next please.

JAMIE BOWER: Yeah, thank you for this opportunity to speak before you and I’d also like to thank the other panelist for providing their eloquent testimony. I’m Jaimie Bower; I’m a Native New Yorker and I retired from New York City Transit in 2014 after 33 years of service.

I’m a civil engineer and an urban planner. I purposefully picked a socially responsible career that allowed me to serve the public and the city that I love. There is nothing that makes a retiree happier than getting that check the first of every
I live on my pension and when inflation eats away at it, I will supplement it with the saving from my 401K and 457 New York City Transit provides a really good standard of living.

But unlike my 401K and 457 which are invested in socially responsible funds, I have no control over the money in the pension system. Money that I contributed. There is no way that I would invest my money in nuclear weapons production and I implore you to pass Res. 976, so that New York City will divest public employee pension funds from companies involved in nuclear weapons production and maintenance.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: I have a quick question and if you could make it real quick, because we have a lot of people. You know the other side will ask the question, well if we get rid of all of the atomic bombs that we own here in the United States that we possess, then that will give a military edge to the enemies. How would you answer that?

ELAINE SCARRY: I would answer it by saying that we should see that most other countries are way in advance of the United States in stepping forward. Even North Korea testified in 1995 at the
International Court of Justice that nuclear weapons should be designated illegal. At that time North Korea and India didn’t have nuclear weapons but they said if the United States doesn’t get rid of them, we have to.

Also, with this new treaty going through the U.N., the single nuclear state that stepped forward to support it was North Korea and they didn’t sustain that support but they at least initially saw the wisdom of it. So, we need to wake up to the fact that most other countries and certainly the citizenry of other countries are at least as eager as the citizenry of this country to eliminate nuclear weapons.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you.

JAMIE BOWER: I can add too, that you know, as a New Yorker, when I hear something like that, it reminds me a lot of the argument that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. And we’ve had a lot to say about that type of argument in New York. It doesn’t make sense to us.

We’ve internationally had an easy time saying that other weapons of mass destruction aren’t something we should build to maintain a competitive
advantage. We’ve gotten rid of chemical weapons and biological weapons by similar treaties. There’s no reason that we should hold all weapons of mass destruction illegal, other than the most destructive ones.

It boggles the mind that anyone would make that argument and succeed.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, our next panel is Johnathan Granoff, sorry Johnathan. Michael Lent, Tom Goggin and Robert Kruncrist.

Alright, let’s start over here.

JOHNATHAN GRAOIFF: Thank you very much, my name is Johnathan Granoff and I’m the Senior Advisor to the Committee on National Security of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association.

I am also the United Nations Representative of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. I’m here on behalf of Move the Nuclear Money initiative and I’m the President of the Global Security Institute and I wanted to say that I had a speech prepared and I’ve given my remarks to you in writing but the Commissioner’s comments particularly her shocking
ignorance of the very fact that the first resolution of the general assembly of the United Nations was to get rid of weapons of mass destruction naming atomic weapons. That there is an existing international legal obligation under the nuclear nonproliferation treaty to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons and the prohibition treaty is a step to fulfill that obligation. Her ignorance that the sustainable development goals that she’s committed to advancing number 16 of those sustainable development goals specifically calls for fulfillment of the rule of law and accountability at all levels of government, including the City of New York, including the government of the United States and including all governments in the world.

All of those reasons are exactly why we need an advisory committee to advise her on going forward in an effective way. She made the case for us and therefore, and then the only other hurdle that she laid out was economic and administrative and I can see in this very room, we have experts of international law, we have experts in science, we have experts in geopolitics, we have experts in gender equity and women’s rights, children’s rights,
education, everyone of those issues that she says is in her mandate, we could get for free and to say that there aren’t resources, the only resource standing in the way of getting rid of nuclear weapons is a emotional, spiritual and political will. And that’s why these two resolutions are so important because they express the will of the conscience of humanity and if the people of New York, the first duty of this Committee, the Commission, I believe is to educate the people of New York on the truth that we sit here under threat with this cloud and this sword over our heads for no good reason number one.

Number two, $1.7 trillion is a theft from the people, from schools, hospitals, roads and real security. If the people knew their conscience would act and this, the first mandate of this initiative is to use the amazing resources of New York as a place of communication.

The City of Geneva did this in 1985 and out of that came a nuclear war can never be won and therefore must never be fought. Geneva became a beacon for the world, New York, New York should be a beacon for the world.

God bless you and thank you.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

MICHAEL LENT: My name is Michael Lent; I’m the Chief Investment Officer and founding partner of Veris Wealth Partners. I want to thank the Council for inviting me to speak and providing testimony regarding Resolution 976 and Bill 1621.

Veris is an independent national wealth management firm providing impact investing solutions for endowments, foundations and families. I’ve been a wealth manager providing positive social and environmental portfolios for my clients since 1993. For the past 26 years, a significant number of my clients have been excluding the largest nuclear weapons components and systems manufacturers from their portfolios, often in combination with other exclusion screens. It has made little or no difference in the returns they received versus traditional portfolios that include manufactures of nuclear weapons.

The reason for this is that the number of securities excluded is small and their impact in portfolio returns is insignificant. One measure of the impact of exclusions on portfolio risk and as we are speaking now because a lot of the arguments
against this are specifically with regards to how it would negatively impact the portfolio, is an impact called tracking error on removing nuclear weapons manufacturers. When you evaluate this in regards to a large global index and we use one called the MSEL County World Index, which includes over 2,800 stocks. What the research shows is that the tracking error created by excluding military weapons manufacturers which is a larger cohort of holdings, causes less than a 0.3 tracking error or variance from the index. Since nuclear weapons manufacturers are a smaller group, the tracking error created would be much smaller. From the standpoint of risk and return, this is a very small portfolio performance impact but a very important social and environmental and peace impact.

Another issue that I would like to address, which I’m out of time is what impact does an investment have. I would argue that the level impact is a function of the ability of institutional investors, such as the New York City Pension Fund to be a part of broadening the effort example to other investors and the New York City Pension Fund would not be the first to divest. Two of the top five global pension
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funds have divested as of 21 other institutional
investors.

And we know from several experiences with other
divestment movements, that they can be powerful and
create reputational business risks for companies that
do not change their business strategies.

I urge New York City to adopt this resolution and
contribute to a nuclear free zone.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next
please.

TOM GOGGIN: Good afternoon. This is a wonderful
opportunity to speak to you and thank you both Chair
Dromm and Chair Cabrera for supporting this
legislation and helping to put this forward. It is a
wonderful opportunity for New York City to reinforce
its long time commitment as a nuclear free city and
to model an important resolution for the rest of the
world.

My name is Tom Goggin; I’m the Interim Chair of
the U.S. Labor Against the War in New York City.
Chapter included in some of our union affiliates are
professional staff congress, public sector union
1199, SCIU private sector principally.
We’ve long opposed massive U.S. spending on wars and on nuclear weapons. My written testimony goes into the horrors of the wars in the middle east and the impact on our soldiers and frankly on all of us with $3 Trillion already spent for those wars, $6 Trillion likely to be the long term outcome in terms of caring for our veterans, for example.

As the wars rage on, planetary nuclear disaster looms greater than ever. It’s already been mentioned a couple of times. The doomsday clock reset to 100 seconds before midnight. We are in an incredibly dangerous moment in the history of the entire human race and of our planet.

USA holds by far the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons, the biggest nuclear cudgel. Therefore, it is up to us Americans to lead the world out of this nuclear morass. Yet we do the opposite. While scores of countries have voted to ban the bomb, our country leads the other major nuclear weapons holders by refusing to sign on. We simply must reverse course.

It’s been 50 years since our leaders signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. I will skip way ahead and conclude.
Globally and locally, we need to build up, not tear down. Peace in nuclear disarmament starts at home, city by city, county by country. Let’s begin right here in New York City, a strategic withdrawal from this deadly enterprise.

Thank you.


ROBERT KRUNCRRIST: My name is Robert Kruncrist[SP?]; I initially wanted to speak on the fiduciary responsibility to divest from nuclear weapons. Matthew Bolton in the paper, that is part of your portfolio of information is written beautifully in a paper called, Risky Business, about how investing in nuclear weapons is not sound fiduciary responsibility.

Instead, I’d really like to speak on how much I love this city and my love for the city. I taught at Jamaica High School in Queens for 20 years. I taught global literature and culture in advanced placement English. I taught students of all faiths and from all religions of the globe. Students who cultures have at one time or another been at war. Throughout we found a common thread, a respect for life, for the
mystery of creation and for all that we care and share for the earth and one another.

Among those students were two girls who crossed the Khyber Pass in Afghanistan on boroughs and came to become doctors without borders. One was a girl whose mother sorted body parts from September 11th. Those girls at the end of the year thought that they would be enemies because it was Afghanistan who caused that and by the end, they were friends and they loved one another.

When we were advocating here on the steps of City Hall for this legislation, I came into Council Chambers at a stated meeting and all of the Council Members of color came in with shirts that said, Black Lives Matter and I Can’t Breath and they said, I speak for someone who has lost their life to gun violence.

Then, the woman who gave the dress lay on the floor and said, I can’t breath eleven times before she walked out. This is the New York City I love. These are the people that I’m doing this for. 20,000 students, 100,000 students, I don’t know, I think it was 60,000 students marched around this City Hall in
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the student climate strike. It’s for those students
that I’m here.

I know you’re about to do the right thing. I
know you are about to do what is responsible for me
as a pension holder and for me as a teacher who loves
my students and who loves this city.

I thank you very much for being here and
listening to us.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this
panel. We appreciate you coming in. Thank you very,
very much.

Okay, Susan Schnall New York City Veterans for
Peace, Thomas Dwyer, John Marigliano and Tarik Kalf.

SUSAN SCHNALL: Good afternoon. My name is Susan
Schnall; I am currently President of New York City
Veterans for Peace. I’m also an Adjunct Professor at
New York University and a member of the New York City
Pension Fund. For I worked for the New York City
public hospitals for over 31 years.

50 years ago, I served this country as a nurse in
the United States Navy, carrying for the wounded who
came home from war in Southeast Asia. I also
protested United States involvement in that war and
was court marshaled for my peace activities.
Like many of us in Veterans for Peace, I’ve witnessed the pain, the horror of war, the
destruction, the use of bombs, the use of chemical
defoliants, the harm caused by our military and our
government.

Today, I am testifying in support of Resolution
976 and Intro. 1621. Veterans for Peace is a member
of the international campaign to abolish nuclear
weapons. These represent organizations in 100
countries promoting adherence to an implementation of

As a member of this coalition, Veterans for Peace
is dedicated to pressuring the United States
government to sign the Treaty. For over three weeks
in October 2019, I was on a peace trip to Japan.
Speaking to civil society organizations, academics,
United States Navy, Japan Self Defense Forces and
school children, to apologize for my government
having dropped nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and
Nagasaki.

Today, I come before the New York City Council
and thank you for sponsoring these resolutions and
Introduction. I come in support to make New York
City a nuclear free city as well as in support of
Intro. 1621 Divestment of New York City Pension Funds currently invested in companies involved in nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons production and maintenance. For as I said, I am also a member of the Pension Fund in New York City.

The corporations manufacturing nuclear weapons are fueling the nuclear arms race for their own financial gain. They actively lobby their governments and their parliaments to continue allocating funds for nuclear weapons and they support their think tanks and other public initiatives to promote the “need for nuclear weapons maintenance modernization or expansion.”

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can you just wrap up?

SUSAN SCHNALL: I am.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay.

SUSAN SCHNALL: We must become a life affirming society instead of a death enhancing culture. It is our responsibility, all of us as citizens of the world who reside in New York City to make our voices heard, to make our city and continue it as a nuclear free zone.

We thank you our elected representatives for hearing us to attempt to divest from those nuclear
companies that make their profits on death and
destruction. We thank you for listening to the
people of New York City, to listening to us veterans
who have served this country and request that we
divest from nuclear production industries.

Thank you all for hearing us.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

JOHN MARIGLIANO: Hi there, my name is John
Marigliano, they call me Johnny Brooklyn or Johnny
Skates. I’m a lifelong teamster member and I work
for Local Aid 14. I’m a foreman with Globe Sargent
Moving and I overheard that this meeting was
happening at a party and was compelled to come
because something has been bothering me for 30 years.
I worked in the Baker and Williams Warehouse for
Globe. We leased that space for probably about 15
years in the late 80’s and early 90’s until they
forced us out of our lease.

How many times I was on the floors of the
building. At some floors, you could actually see the
train tracks where the highline now exits and there
were barrels everywhere and we always wondered what
was in those barrels and the floor was made up of
asphalt like it was on the street and wherever the
barrels sit, there was a big ring. There was warmth radiating from these barrels and it was actually melted around, the asphalt was actually melted around the barrels.

My boss was given a bonus to get us out of that building, if we could get out six months early. Something was wrong and we knew something was wrong for them to force us out that quickly. I have always wondered about the cancers that some of our members got. About what happened, what the future is, what those people walk on the highline now, what the people that are in the galleries that are there now, how that neighborhood has changed so much but still, there are people that live there. There are human beings in this city that are exposed to things that they shouldn’t be exposed to and I hope that you will pass this. That nobody is put in danger again like that.

I didn’t work there enough to be exposed in that way, or at least, I don’t thing so. I don’t know that yet but I’ll never know what happened to some of those men and if that was a part of it.

So, thank you for listening.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you for that. Thank you very much. Next please.

THOMAS DWYER: Hi, my name is Tom Dwyer; I’m a retired Insurance Executive. I worked in the Wallstreet Financial or the Financial District in Manhattan in all my working years and I just love New York and I’m delighted to be at this hearing.

I owe my presence here really to Anthony Donovan who is here tonight and is connected with the Catholic Workers movement and it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be here.

He was aware of the fact that during my time in the army during the 1950’s, I was posted to atomic energy commissions testing site in Mercury Nevada and where I witnessed the explosion of the atomic bombs and so, we felt that it would be of interest to the people coming to this hearing to hear from somebody who actually has seen an atomic bomb explode.

So, before I start, I’m just wondering, is there anyone else who has seen one of these things actually blow up? Because I’d be very interested whether I have any of my cohort’s here.

Okay, well, it’s an astounding, awesome, scary site to see. I saw eleven of them in the spring of
1953. The background to is that after I graduated from college in 1952, I was drafted into the army and the Korean War was on at the time and sent to the Signal Corp Photography School in Fort Monmouth New Jersey where I was given an extensive course in photography, particularly in processing films and then was sent to the AEC’s test site and my assignment was to develop what were known as film badges.

Film badges were essentially dental x-ray films, many of you may have seen or used when they were using them. I don’t think dentists use them anymore, but they used to put them in your mouth and the x-ray machine was put up here and after the x-rays went through, the doctor or the dentist could and when it was developed. The film is developed inside this and he could tell what was wrong with your tooth. Well, those same gadgets were also used to tell how much radiation those working at the test site received and I processed them.

To just wind this thing us, as a result of being there, I saw these eleven atomic bombs explode and it is horrifying to see. The blast is enormous, the
light would blind you if you weren’t watching it through goggles.

So, I wholly endorse the bills that are before the City Council here of New York to do everything we can to eliminate these horrible weapons.

Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

TARIK KALF: Thank you, my name is Tarik Kalf[SP?]; I’m a member of Veterans for Peace New York. Veterans for Peace is an international organization with many sister and brother chapters across the globe. I’m also a member of Veterans for Peace Ireland.

I was born in New York, I spend most of my time here but the last year, I spent mostly in Ireland including some time in Limerick Prison. The reason I was in Ireland was similar to why I’m here today. Ireland is supposed to be a neutral country. 82 percent of the people in Ireland believe in neutrality and want to see neutrality.

The U.S. has been violating that neutrality at Shannon Airport since 2001 and actually before that. So, I was invited with some of my fellow veterans to come to Ireland to stand with the Irish people and to
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expose this hypocrisy that is going on by the Irish
government allowing the U.S. to do that.

Now, there was a connection; we have two things
hanging over our head. We have the threat of nuclear
war as had been stated and also the environmental
destruction climate change that’s going on. Both of
these things are intimately connected and one of the
things I spoke about in Ireland when I wasn’t in
Limerick Prison and actually, I spoke about it in
Limerick Prison to because they were interested, was
the connection between these two factors. These two
horrible factors hanging over our head threatening
and you know, destruction to all life on earth.

I’m talking about all life on earth. One of
these bomb goes off and that’s it. Okay, so, I so
applaud what you’re doing and like I said, 82 percent
of the Irish people are in favor of neutrality and I
will bet you that 82 percent at least of New Yorkers
would be in favor of the initiatives that you have
courageously put forward. It is so important and I
thank you so much for doing this and as far as the
not type of obstruction put forward before by the
International Affairs Committee.
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You know, we got to go past that. This has to be done, this is urgent.

Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. You must have known I was Chair of the Irish Caucus here in the City Council.

TARIK KALF: Wonderful.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this panel. We appreciate you coming.

TARIK KALF: Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, Emilie McGlone, Irena Chonch. I hope I said it right, I apologize if I didn’t. I think it’s Jagela Conwell[SP?] and Chin Why Wong[SP?].

Okay, so, we’re calling four at a time.

Everybody is good though. Would you like to start here.

EMILIE MCGLONE: Dear Council and Committee Members, my name is Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US. An organization working in collaboration with the United Nations and Civil Society towards peace and sustainability with a strong commitment to disarmament education.
I am honored to speak to you today and share my support for these proposals. To divest from and avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. Reaffirming New York City as a nuclear weapon free zone and supporting the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

As an International NGO, we fully support Resolution 0976 and Introduction 1621. For it is not only a citywide declaration but can also serve as an example for a nuclear free world. With our office located in Manhattan, we are in favor of this nuclear disarmament legislation to let our home, New York City shine as a role model for other major cities around the globe.

Peace Boat is also a member of the International Steering Group of ICAN, the international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons, which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize as we saw today.

We work together with the Hibakusha, atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki onboard our global voyages to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
As we know the atomic bombings in Japan killed more than 200,000 people in 1945. Even today, the survivors continue to suffer diseases and health issues associated with exposure to Ionizing radiation nearly 75 years later.

Given that New York City started the nuclear age as a keynote in the Manhattan project, which developed the atomic bombs, we have a responsibility to work towards the total elimination of these weapons and to maintain our status as a nuclear weapon free zone.

Together with our partners here today, we support our Council Members and request that you align our cities financial power with our progressive values.

Thank you very much for your consideration and the opportunity to support these historic resolutions today.

IRENA CHONCH: Dear Committee, my name is Irena Chonch and I am reading this testimony on behalf of Linda Chapman, the Associate Artistic Director of New York Theater Workshop and the Founding President of Youth Arts New York.

I grew up in Spokane Washington. From the hand for the nuclear plan on the Columbian River. I’m a
two time cancer survivor and I’ve always suspected that \([\text{INAUDIBLE 3:22:38}]\) long suppressed from public discussion may have had something to do with my disease.

I’m writing on behalf of passing the legislation Resolution 976 on Nuclear Disarmament and Intro. 621, a bill to create a Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Advisory Committee.

New York City played a major role in developing the nuclear bomb. \([\text{INAUDIBLE 3:23:11}]\) and now, possible immediate attack for nuclear attack, we have a special responsibility in putting a stop to the use of nuclear weapons.

I came to New York City to pursue a career in the theatre. New York City is the best of cultural and US society. It is for this love and stewardship of human life itself that I want to rid the world of nuclear weapons. We must protect ourselves, nurture our theatre, our music and our art since one nuclear bomb over New York will destroy everything and everyone we love.

I would like to thank City Council Members for being real leaders and taking responsibility where the federal government fails. By confronting the lie
and reality of nuclear weapons, one local initiative at a time.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you and next please.

JAGELA CONWELL: Hello, I’m Jagela Conwell and I’m reading the testimony on behalf of Yasuaki Amasheta[SP?], a survivor of Nagasaki atomic bomb.

Over the course of twelve years, I have an initiative called Hibakusha Stories, a program of Youth Arts New York.

I personally interacted with the tens of thousands of New York City high school students, sharing my story so that they will take leadership in ridding the work of nuclear weapons.

I, Yasuaki Amasheta, was a six year old boy in Nagasaki when the atomic bomb fell. Normally, on a hot summer day, I would go out to the mountains with my friends of my age to catch dragon flies. However, on this day, I was playing at home nearby my mother who was preparing the midday meal. Suddenly precisely at 11:02, we were blinded with an intense light like thousands of simultaneous flashes of lightening.
My mother pushed me to the ground and covered me with her body. We heard that roar of great wind and flying debris off the house collapsed on top of us. Then there was silence. The atomic bomb had turned the Center of Nagasaki into an inferno of death and devastation.

Communications and transportation, we destructed. There was no food in the city and we were starving. One week after the explosion, we walked through the rubble of the City Center where fires still burned on our way to the countryside. Relatives would share what little food they had.

Later, I learn about the dangers of radiation that caused my fathers death and I witnessed the effects and the work in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital. It was very painful to see the survivors still suffering from the effects of burns and radiations.

In 1968, I moved to Mexico. I have excepted many invitations to speak about my atomic bomb experience. I feel that it is important to keep alive the memory of the suffering, devastation and death that nuclear weapons can cause. In the hope that no one will ever use them again. I worry because each year there are
fewer and fewer people still alive who can speak about this memory from personal experience.

Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much also. Next please.

CHIN WHY WONG: Hello, my name is Chin Why Wong, I’m reading the testimony on behalf of Shigakosa Samorie, an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima.

Over the course of twelve years, I have participated in Hibakusha Stories and interacted with thousands of New York City high school students. Sharing my story so that they would take leadership in ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

I was a 13 year old student in Hiroshima Japan when the United States dropped the atomic bombs on my city. Hearing the sound of a plane, I looked up to see a B29 flying overhead. Seconds later, I was knocked unconscious by the blast. When I came to, I was so badly burned that I was unrecognizable. I repeated my name and address over and over until I was finally found days later by my father. My friend, who was at my side when we looked into the sky and many classmates who were there died.
Some of course survived like me. One third of my body was burned, all my face, neck, back, half of my chest, shoulders, arms and both hands. It’s a miracle to me. Years later, I traveled to the United States in 1955 as part of a group of young women known as the Hiroshima Maidens. While in New York, I underwent numerous plastic surgery operations and met my adopted father, Dr. Norman Cousins. I have dedicated my life to making certain no one ever experience what I experienced and have traveled around the world telling my story and sharing my love.

I have met thousands of New York City students who hugged me and gave me their love after my testimony. I love these children and it breaks my heart that anything bad would ever happen to them. New York has always been a home to me and I’m proud that the New York City Council is providing world leadership in ridding the world of nuclear weapons. No more war, no more Hiroshima’s, no more Nagasaki’s. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can I just ask; how did you get the testimony of those two victims of the atomic bombing?
EMILIE MCGLONE: From Peace Boat US, we are in partnership with Hibakusha Stories and Youth Arts New York and we work directly with, actually, I know these survivors personally who have traveled with us and spoken with us at many schools here in New York City. They sent us the testimonies personally.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: You met them?

EMILIE MCGLONE: These are our interns and they are reading on behalf of the survivors.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Have you met them?

EMILIE MCGLONE: I know them personally, yes.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: That’s really amazing. It’s really important to hear that to. Thank you.

EMILIE MCGLONE: Yes, thank you. We have one last.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yeah, I know. Is that Lena Gerow[SP:].

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, Lena.

LENA GEROW: Good afternoon everybody. I am Lena Gerow and I’m reading this testimony on behalf of Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, who is a survivor of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize
Dear Council and Committee Members, as a 13 year old schoolgirl, I witnessed by beloved city of Hiroshima burn in the heat of 4,000 degrees Celsius, turning into a place of desolation with heaps of rubbles, skeletons and blackened corpses everywhere.

Of a population of 360,000, largely noncombatant women, children and elderly. Most became victims of the indiscriminate massacre of the atomic bombing. Even today, nearly 75 years later, people are still dying from the delayed effects of one atomic bomb. Considered crude by the contemporary standards for mass destruction.

Through months and years of struggle for survival, rebuilding lives out of the ashes, we survivors or Hibakusha became convinced that no human being should ever have to repeat our experience and that our mission is to warn the world about the reality of the nuclear threat and to help people understand the ultimate evil of nuclear weapons. When I accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons, I recall the words I heard when I was
rescued from the rubble of a collapsed building in the ruins of Hiroshima, “Don’t give up, keep pushing. See the light, crawl towards it.” This legislation Resolution 976 and Intro. 1621 is part of that light. The light for abolition.

On behalf of the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all in the New York City Council who support this effort. I urge you to vote in favor of nuclear disarmament bills, to invest in New York City’s future and send a message to Washington DC and the world to do the same.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you so much. Thank you to the whole panel, thank you.

Alright, we’re going to go to six, so Sergeant, we’re going to need two extra seats, if you can get that for us.

Mitchie Takeuchi, Rosemarie Pace, Anthony Donovan, Michael I think Gorbachev, Sally Jones, and the Reverend T.K. Nakagaki, who was here with us last week, giving the invocation to the City Council. So, welcome back to the City Council. Okay, let’s start over here.
MITCHIE TAKEUCHI: Okay. Good afternoon New York City Council Members and fellow New Yorkers. My name is Mitchie Takeuchi, New York City has been my home for the past 40 years. This creative and energetic city has given me so much. I feel I owe it to this city; I owe it to share my story about my family who survived the atomic bombing in Hiroshima.

My grandfather, Dr. Ken Takeuchi was the Founding President of the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima. On August 6, 1945, the first war time use of an atomic bomb leveled my hometown, which had a mostly civilian population of 300,000. Although, close to Ground Zero, the Red Cross hospital withstood total destruction. The enormous blast caused a heavy door to fly off its hinges and knocked my grandfather unconscious. When he came to, he was unable to move due to broken bones all over his body but far worst was what he saw. Unimaginable suffering, dead bodies everywhere. It was complete chaos.

The A Bomb indiscriminately destroyed everyone and everything in Hiroshima. Severely burned and injured people, streaming into the hospital desperately looking for help. The surviving doctors and nurses did the best they could with no
electricity and few medical supplies. That day, it is estimated that more than 72,000 people died.

By the end of 1945, the deaths totaled over 140,000. The nuclear weapons we have today are 3,000 times more powerful than the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If one of these model weapons was used on New York City, with 8.5 million people, it could cause a disaster of unprecedented scale and thrust the globe into an immediate climate crisis killing millions more people worldwide.

We cannot allow the same catastrophic fate of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be fall this city that we love so much.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very, very much. Next please.

ROSEMARIE PACE: My name is Rosemarie Pace; I’m Director of Pax Christi Metro New York, a region of the International Catholic Peace Movement. I thank you very much for this opportunity to speak in support of Intro. 1621 and Resolution 976.

Since I represent the Catholic Peace Movement, my testimony is rooted in Catholic social teaching.

Pretty much since the development of nuclear weapons,
the Catholic church has opposed them, recognizing
them to be weapons of mass destruction, capable of
destroying all life, all of God's creation.

Just this past November, Pope Francis visited
Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Japan where in August 1945, the
United States of America dropped the only nuclear
weapons ever used in war. Much of my testimony will
be the words of Pope Francis, that he delivered on
his historic trip. In Hiroshima, he said in part,
with deep conviction I wish once more to declare the
use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today
more than ever a crime, not only against dignity of
human beings but against any possible future for our
common home.

The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is
immoral just at the possessing of nuclear weapons is
immoral. We will be judged on this. How can we
speak of peace, even as we build terrifying new
weapons of war. How can we speak about peace, even
as we justify illegitimate actions by speeches filled
with discrimination and hate.

Indeed, if we really want to build a more just
and secure society, we must let the weapons fall from
our hands, a true piece can only be an unarmed piece.
In Nagasaki, Pope Francis was even more specific. We must never grow weary of working to support the principle international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He went on to address political leaders directly.

Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot protect us from current threats to national and international security.

We need to ponder the catastrophic impact of their deployment, especially from a humanitarian and environmental standpoint and reject heightening the climate of fear, mistrust and hostility fermented by nuclear weapons.

Pax Christi has made nuclear weapons abolition a cornerstone of its work since its beginning 75 years ago. In that context, I call on the New York City Council to pass Intro. 1621 and Resolution 976. There is no time to lose.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

SALLY JONES: Dear members of the New York City Council, my name is Sally Jones; I’m the Chair of
Peace Action Fund of New York State and I submit this testimony on behalf of Peace Action. An organization that began 57 years ago here in New York City, as the Committee for a sane nuclear policy.

We have an office just a few blocks from here, Peace Action New York State and my local chapter, Peace Action of Staten Island is a short Ferry ride across the harbor. Through my involvement with Peace Action over the last 18 years, I’ve learned about how present the danger is of nuclear war and nuclear accident and how much damage just the building of nuclear weapons is doing around the globe. This damage extends to my hometown of Staten Island where tons of uranium were stored under the Bayonne Bridge during World War II in a site which has still not been properly remediated.

We are thankful to the organizers who work so hard to bring this legislation to you, the City Council Members and made these hearings possible. I have a special thank you. She’s not here, to my own representative, Council Member Debbie Rose of Staten Island who is a co-sponsor.

In three months, on April 24th and 25th, 800 Japanese, at least 800 Japanese including survivors
of August 6th and 9th of the atomic bomb attacks will be here in New York City along with hundreds of international activists and people all around and they’ll be at Riverside Church. I want to welcome you Council Members to come to these events and I think it would be a wonderful symbolic gesture for us to welcome the Japanese and the survivors with this legislation passed.

Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Please, get me the details. Thank you.

ANTHONY DONOVAN: Yeah, so thank you very much. My name is Anthony Donovan. I love sitting here and I’m looking at a great painting of George Washington and how he was fought against Empire and how these nuclear weapons represent exactly that, putting this gun to people heads.

So, God bless you. We’re going to do our best —

CO-CHAIR DROMM: I got to tell you something about that painting.

ANTHONY DONOVAN: Yes.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Notice where the horses behind is. That will tell you what the painter thought of George Washington.
ANTHONY DONOVAN: Okay, alright. Well, and thank you so much Council Member Dromm and Chairman Cabrera for this precious moment and for everyone sticking it out today.

It’s very rare in our life that we get to do something that can save the world. I’d say it’s pretty rare, right. You’re doing it. You’re doing it by this legislation.

I want to share an experience that I had four years ago when I visited, I spent a week going to the offices of our representatives of our United States. Every member of the Arms Service Committee, every member of our Appropriations Committee. These are the people responsible for our nuclear weapons and I found out some really disturbing things. And this is after I did this documentary, which is unfortunate, but I found out they did not have an idea of what one bomb actually does. They hadn’t thought about it.

So, I’m really proud to be with people who think about this. I’m a hospice nurse, I know what it takes to care for your mother, your child whose got cancer. I know how much energy it takes for one person. You can’t even consider what this is. So, they didn’t know what one bomb does. The other
thing, these are the people responsible. They had no idea what the cost was. They didn’t know, they couldn’t give me a figure. Oh, it’s about — so, wow, okay and Council Member Dromm, you know that you have to be accountable and you need some transparency. You’re a Finance Chair; imagine our government not knowing the cost.

And just quickly, what else I found out with them, is they had no idea that 155 countries at that time were gathering to talk about this because they knew the nuclear states were just going along with the status quo and later I found out the myth that they also kick back with, well, our allies depend on us. Our allies really need us with these nuclear weapons. They don’t and I’ve been to Scotland where 57 our of 59 Scottish members of parliament say we want these weapons out and I’ve been to Germany where 70 to 93 percent of the citizens want our 20 nuclear bombs out of Germany.

So, the people are really behind you. Thank you so much. God bless you for doing this, you’re a great light.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much.
Hi everybody. My name is Michael Gorbachev; I am a Production Designer right here in Soho and you probably guessed, I am related to this former Soviet Union Leader Mikhail Gorbachev. And so, my father is Sergey Gorbachev, he’s a world famous Russian Artist, Cousin of Mikhail Gorbachev. He was good friends with Mikhail’s wife Raisa Gorbachev. In 1988 Raisa invited my father to showcase his artwork in the Soviet Cultural Foundation as she frequently exhibited passionate artists who were against war and nuclear weapons. Raisa also was the one who encouraged my father to take his family and migrate to New York City because she knew Russia would be going through difficult times.

We migrated from Ukraine in 1991, in 1996 the United Nations Commission, my father to create original work into redesign the United Nations Stamp. His green and red flower painting is currently housed in their collection.

Mikhail Gorbachev has been very proactive in downsizing the volume and availability of nuclear weapons on an international level. He holds a strong position against further development, maintenance and
expansion of all nuclear arsenals. He is convinced that is just a matter of time before nuclear weapons fall into their own hands and create a scenario of attack and instant retaliation.

Sharing the same beliefs on this important matter, I too believe the world will greatly benefit from season production and elimination of all nuclear weapons. The two prominent leading nuclear countries are still Russia and the United States. Diplomatic tensions continue to aspire between the two nations.

While some of the reasons are due to irrational phobias and televised propaganda, they have recently become more similar socially, economically and politically. I strongly believe trustworthy diplomatic relations are important and necessary to deescalate the production existence of nuclear war capabilities. There is much more to collectively benefit from having stronger relations versus being in opposition. Together, the two nations can stand together and encourage the rest of the world to denuclearize.

I strongly supported TPNW and a nuclear weapons divestment. New York is one of the greatest and most
influential cities on earth and it should stand firmly against any cooperation or ties to nuclear weapons manufacturing. Every one of us can play a small part in this brave contribution and set a positive example for future generations.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Very interesting, thank you. Reverend.

REVEREND T.K. NAKAGAKI: Yes, good afternoon and I’m sorry, you must be so tired, no time to go to the bathroom even maybe.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: I’m energized by this. I’m ready to go, let’s fight, you know.

REVEREND T.K. NAKAGAKI: So, my name is T.K. Nakagaki; I’m the President and Founder of Peace and Reconsideration Foundation of New York and also the former President of the Buddhist Council New York. Current also as Vice President of Buddhist Council of New York as well and also, I was recognized as a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador as well as a Nagasaki Peace Correspondent.

So, I’ll be organizing actually the Hiroshima, Nagasaki memorial in Manhattan since I came to New York 1994, so actually 26 years, I’ve been every year
annually hosting the interface peace gathering to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

So, that’s kind of my background and also, in this case I would like to also share why I’m doing – I’m not familiar with everything that everybody is talking about already, so I don’t have to say those things. Instead, my intention is simple. You know, life is very important for everyone. Why do we need to have weapons even, like kill anybody and especially this nuclear weapons, it’s too much really.

So, that’s one of the reasons and two countries should be responsible for these things ever happen. One is Japan, because it was a country somehow, somehow actually of course is a reason there to but the atomic bomb was dropped. So, that’s one country, so my response for having this memorial service every time. So, I try to bring the awareness of the people, the importance of the peace and importance of all lives.

And then, but the second part, then the other country is the United States who use the weapons and especially New York, you know, the Manhattan Project that many people are talking about. The Manhattan
Project for these weapons but yet, now, we are actually you know, I’m hoping always to see Manhattan or New York or United States become a responsible country which really maintain the peace and respect in your life.

So, instead of Manhattan Project for war or you know, nuclear weapons, I hope that this Manhattan Project, this is Manhattan Project for Peace and I hope you will move forward with this and make the U.S. as a more responsible country [INAUDIBLE 4:00:36] you did or we did to probably. One of the comments I just wanted to share, there’s one thing that stuck in my mind was you know if U.S. didn’t drop the bomb, maybe at that time, if Japan has the quality to, maybe they would drop to.

So, everybody was you know, kind of competing each other to try to win the game but then that is the result here. So, we need to really think of the peace as the most important things that we need to do and that we respect each other. We try to live together and that is the message that I would like to share with you today and I fully support this bill. Thank you.
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS JOINTLY WITH
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much and thank you for coming last week to give us a little peace before our Stated Meeting. Thank you, thank you to this panel.

Okay, so, I’m being told that we only have this room until 4:30, so that’s why I’m rushing a little bit with the panels, but if we still have people who want to speak at 4:30, we’ll go next door to hear the rest of the panels. Everybody who signed up will get an opportunity to speak.

Alright, Yuni Chang, Christian Ciobanu, Bill Ofinawk, Jon Lipsky, Donna Stein, Leslie Cagan. My constituent, where is Leslie? Good to see you.

And by the way, after this hearing, there is a Lunar New Year celebration in this room. So, if you want to stick around for the Lunar New Year celebration, you are all welcome. Although, I know many of you have been here since early this morning.

Alright, would you like to start?

CHRISTIAN CIOBANU: Dear Council Members and esteemed colleagues. My name is Christian Ciobanu; I’m a representative of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. I’m also registered in District 4 which covers the United Nations.
I held degrees in nonproliferation and terrorism studies as well as political science. I have been a nuclear disarmament activist since 2009. I have also been on government delegations to settle high level nuclear disarmament negotiations.

As an American, a Native New Yorker, I grew up with limited knowledge about our city’s involvement and the creation of nuclear weapons, which devastated the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ravaged the pacific region.

The devastating impact of nuclear testing in the pacific region propelled me to act by helping the government of the Marshal Islands during the negotiations on the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, TPNW as an advisor.

We negotiated the articles related to victim assistance, environmental remediation, also known as the positive obligations of the TPNW. To educate the New Yorkers about the devasting impact of nuclear weapons, I have organized seminars at universities throughout our city. High level experts and diplomats to inform the students about the horrific impact of nuclear weapons. These young New Yorkers
were able to pose questions and engage in meaningful dialogue about nuclear weapons and the TPNW experts.

Significantly, in December of 2018, I served as the official Co-Chair of the Global Youth Forum on the TPNW, which was held at Auckland New Zealand. Several young New Yorkers attend the conference and engage in dialogue with youth from both New Zealand and the Pacific region. These dialogues focus on the impact of U.S. nuclear testing in the region and the dome in the Marshal Islands where the U.S. has stored its nuclear waste from the tests.

The American participants were shocked about the U.S. decision to test on the Pacific Islands and the environmental and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. As a result of this conference, many of them, especially the New York participants remain in the field of nuclear disarmament and interact with policy makers about the importance of the treaty.

One of them even inspired his friend to become an activist in the field. This young person was able to convey her own views about nuclear weapons to diplomats by drafting the Youth Statement for an International U.N. conference in October of 2019.
Her views resonated with many policy makers who began to understand the importance of youth engagement. We need to continue to have these cross cultural dialogues and engage with all young New Yorkers about the impact of nuclear weapons.

To continue this process of educating New Yorkers, it is imperative for all Council Members to support these measures, Introduction 1621 and Resolution 976. These measures will help establish an advisory committee, reaffirm New York City status as a nuclear weapon free zone, underscore its support for both ICAN cities appeal as well as the TPNW and divest the pension fund.

Together, we can establish a new peaceful period in New York and send a clear message to the entire world that New York City is committed to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your time.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you to. Thank you, next please.

JON LIPSKY: Jon Lipsky; FBI retired Longmont Colorado. Honorable New York City Council Members, staff and visitors, I thank you for the opportunity to address Introduction and Resolution. Your
legislation promotes world peace and I urge you to pass it.

Nuclear weapons inherently produce nuclear waste but is not protective of human health and the environment. The United States is comprised of nuclear state created dangers and coverups of weapons grade plutonium 239 manufacturing waste and unfulfilled remediation. Plutonium 239 among many other nuclear weapon chemicals is primarily anthropogenic with a half life of over 24,000 years and capable of aberrations of human cells. One such nuclear super fund site is the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, Golden Colorado.

I was a principal FBI agent who investigated crimes at Rocky Flats where plutonium pit productions ceased that resulted in federal criminal convictions. In 1989, the Rocky Flats Contract Operator sued the federal government in part because “compliance with the land disposal restrictions is current impossible.”

Thirty years after Rocky Flats, proliferation of nuclear weapons is frightfully increasing. Despite the lack of nuclear repository facilities in the United States, the National Nuclear Safety
Seems like there's a slight issue with the formatting. Below is the document in plain text:

 Administration or Security Administration NNSA is forcing its plan to produce 80 weapons grade plutonium 239 pits per year by 2030 and have cost of exceeding $1 Trillion and that’s going to be at Los Alamos New Mexico in the Savannah River site South Carolina. The NNSA plan unfortunately is more nuclear super fund sites instead of infrastructure projects completed. Misguided temporary nuclear waste storage sites instead of affordable housing and more citizens forced to live with radiation instead of affordable healthcare plans.

Health and safety will be pretermitted as it has in the past. I know because I investigated it. With nuclear weapons and its vail of secrecy, as President Obama remarked in 2009, “the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” Nuclear waste is not your friend.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Imagine what we could do with a trillion dollars.

JON LIPSKY: It would be fun.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Right. Next please.

DONNA STEIN: Thank you, Council. My name is Donna Stein, a member of the Board of Directors of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and President of New
York City Friends of Clearwater. Both founded by Pete Seeger 50 years ago to clean up the environmental disaster that was the Hudson River. There was much success, but the river still needs our attention.

Clearwater has long opposed and exposed the risks of nuclear power. Focus has been on the dangers of nuclear plants and the use of nuclear energy but make no mistake, there is a direct connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear energy and its result in nuclear waste.

Nuclear is not just about the plant, the bomb, there are so many things up to that point. Uranium mining, milling and weapons testing impacts communities around this country and the world including first nation communities with proposed waste storage on their lands.

Pete Seeger, back in 1963, sang a song, Never Again the A-Bomb. Look it up. He said, we must forbid it. Take care that the third atom bomb never falls. Sadly, testing continues even past the times we were told that it stopped and nuclear weapons, arsenals in several countries remain deeply troubling. History demonstrates that plants were
mainly for the purpose to create material for nuclear bombs. There are much better, safer ways to boil water.

Bob Elpern an anti-nuclear activist and fellow Clearwater Board Director, often calls Indian Point a pre-positioned nuclear weapon. So many things could go wrong. It sits too close to a high pressured gas pipeline, managed by a company who has pipeline accidents. It also sits on a seismic fault line, which was unknown to the builders when it was originally sited. Terrorists have included Indian Point as a possible target.

Please put a halt to this madness and don’t make public employees have to be a party to this horror. I urge you to divest from nuclear weapons, make history, attend to your legacy and pass this Resolution. It’s a start.

Thank you for your understanding on this important issue.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

BILL OFINAWK: My name is Bill Ofinawk and I’m here to read a statement on behalf of Father Steve Kelly, whom you heard about earlier.
He’s been in prison now almost two years in Georgia for a plowshares action and has served over ten years in prison for similar actions.

He writes, I write regarding these resolutions worthy of your agenda and effecting New York City citizens and millions of other vulnerable people. I am currently a prisoner of conscience in Brunswick Georgia as a consequence of a witness, an embodiment of the vision of economic, political and moral conversion giving us an Isaiah sorts into plowshares.

This nonviolent exposure of the Omnissiah of the trident offense system underlines your concerns of the danger of nuclear possession, threat and God forbid use. But more importantly, and several Catholic workers and others will speak to this. It is trillions of dollars in theft from the needs of our society as outlined by Eisenhower in his presidential departure declaration.

I’m encouraged that you consider divestment and advocacy of the ICAN Treaty. Nuclear weapons will not go away by themselves.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next please.
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

YUNI CHANG: Hello, my name is Yuni Chang and I’m the Field Organizer with the War Resisters League and we are the oldest secular anti-war organization in the U.S.

I was born on August 13, 1996 in Seoul South Korea and I’ve lived on the east coast for 22 years. This country has been at war for 80 percent of my life. The war my grandparents lived through and that my parents were born in, the one that killed 3 million Koreans, separated my family and remains one of the bloodiest wars in history is still not over. This year is the 70th Anniversary of that war.

Nuclear weapons are tools of endless war. They were designed to wipe out human life and to destroy the world many times over. Therefore, War Resisters League supports these proposals and we commend you for standing up to the grave threat of nuclear warfare.

However, in our 96 years of organizing against war, we know that the only way to truly eliminate the threats posed by nuclear weapons is to end all wars and the only way to end all wars is to address their root causes which include racism, sexism and all forms of exploitation. These root causes threaten
humanities common desire to live well and without fear and we see them at play in the daily lives of all New Yorkers. We see the root causes of war thriving in the city that chooses to spend billions on building new jails and are cracking down fair evasion instead of on NYCHA, harm reduction programs and poverty benefits.

The systems that wage war across the world and the systems that police harass, surveil and detain people in our city are the same. If you support divesting from nuclear weapons and reaffirming New York City as a nuclear free zone, for the wellbeing and future of humanity, then you cannot simultaneously fund and advocate for projects that criminalize people for being Black, Brown, Queer and Trans and poor. You have to fight for peoples lives in every arena.

As the City Council, it is your responsibility to vote consistently for the safety and dignity of New Yorkers and those with whom we share this earth. We celebrate that veto proof majority supports this powerful and needed legislation and we urge you to be brave and take a stand against violence and all its force.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Leslie.

LESLIE CAGAN: Hi, first of all, thank you to the Council Members who, I’m sorry, I’m having trouble with my voice today but thank you to the Council Members who are taking your role on City Council seriously and giving us all the leadership on this issue.

My name is Leslie Cagan; I am a decades long organizer in the Peace and Justice movements and in fact, 38 years ago, I was the Lead Organizer of the Historic Nuclear Disarmament Protest on June 12, 1982, here in New York City.

A few hours ago, I sat here as I think many in the room in disbelieve, horrified and outrage by the comments from the Mayor’s Office. I urge you and your comrades on the City Council to respond to those comments by quickly, very quickly passing 976 and 1621. For decades the people of this city have petitioned, lobbied, marched, rallied and engaged in civil disobedience as part of the global movement to rid the world of the most horrific weapons ever produced, nuclear weapons.

We should be proud of this history but our work is far from over. Today, the world faces two great
existential threats. The nightmare of a global climate crisis unfolding faster and more intensely than previously predicted and the ever present threat of the use of nuclear weapons, either by accident or design. Nine nations have nuclear weapons; some of the best nations in the world.

So, one might ask, what is the point of New York City passing 976 and 1621. The point is this, each of us as citizens of the world must find and use every single tool available to bring us, that is the planet, back from the edge of disaster. There is no time to waste. Our opinions matter but our opinions matter but most critically our actions are what is most important. The City of New York has the opportunity to help strengthen the global movement to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

We urge you to use the power of your office to take the concrete steps by enacting 976 and 1621 and to do so without further delay. Quite literally, the clock is ticking.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you so much. Very powerful, thank you to this panel and we’re going to
call up one more panel and see if we can then move
over to the next room.

But let me get this panel up here now. From
Nuclear Ban US, I’m sorry, I can’t read the name.
Vicki Elson, Nuclear Ban also US, Lilly Adams Union
of Concern Scientists, Heidi Hutner, Alfred Meyer
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Charles K.
Johnson International Physicians for the Prevention
of Nuclear War.

Alright, would you like to start?

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you for this opportunity to
speak Council people. I’m very honored to be here
and I am going to speak very quickly because I know
we don’t have much time.

I come as a representative of a group called,
Women’s Strike for Peace. This is a group of women
who in the 1960’s, the early 60’s fought on behalf of
their children and the children of United States
because fall out from nuclear bomb testing in the
Nevada desert had spread across the U.S. and
scientists found the Strontium-90 from this fall out
in baby teeth gathered from all over the United
States.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Did you say your name?
HEIDI HUTNER: My name is Heidi Hutner; I’m a Professor at Stonebrook University. I’m a writer and I’m actually making a documentary film right now about women and nuclear disasters.

So, these women, my mother was one of them and this group was founded by Bella Abzug and Dagmar Wilson. These women, 50,000 of them organized; it was the largest group at the time that was organized in the United States and they protested and they convinced President Kennedy to sign the limited Test Ban Treaty and they stopped atmosphere of bomb testing or at least they greatly influenced this Treaty.

So, I’m here on behalf of those women and on behalf of the women, indigenous people across the world who actually are most harmed by nuclear disasters, by radiation waste. One of the facts in the preamble to the treaty that we spoke about today, that these wonderful people won a Nobel Peace Prize for, speaks to the gender issues. Women are twice as likely to get cancer from the same exposure to radiation as adult men and they are nearly twice as likely to die from that exposure. Children many, many times more so and little girls most of all are
harmed, seven times more so than adult White males. But radiation standards, safety standards are based on an adult male body.

So, this is the important fact, indigenous people we know are most exposed because they are in communities where uranium mining takes place and we also know that their communities have been very much effected by nuclear bombs.

These facts are often ignored and these communities and these people are most harmed. So, I speak on behalf of them and on behalf of the children and I ask that you humbly pass this Resolution and work hard and I thank you so much for your work.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

LILLY ADAMS: Hello, my name is Lilly Adams; I work with the Union of Concerned Scientist or UCS. A nonprofit organization dedicated to using rigorous independent science to solve our planets most pressing problems including the threat of nuclear weapons. I would like to thank the New York City Council Members today for considering this urgent and important issue.

As an organization of scientists, UCS must reckon with the fact that scientists help bring about the
development of nuclear weapons. Yet, after the
creation of the bomb and its tragic use in New Mexico
and Japan, the very same scientists were some of the
most ardent advocates for disarmament and the
prevention of their use ever again.

UCS works to continue that legacy of science
advocacy. As others have said, last week, the
bulletin of the atomic scientists set their doomsday
clock to just 100 seconds to midnight, citing
unprecedented nuclear threats and calling on the
world to take immediate action.

Despite these dire warnings, our federal
government is neglecting its responsibility to act
and, in some cases, is actively making the world less
safe by promoting dangerous nuclear weapons policies.

This is why UCS believes it is crucial for local
governments to take a stand. We urgently need local
elected officials and concerned advocates to raise
their voices and denounce these terrible inhumane
weapons. This action is especially powerful coming
from New York City, the birthplace of the Manhattan
Project and home to many former nuclear weapon sites.

New York City has a stake in this fight and as a
New York City resident myself, I am proud to be here
today as part of this historic effort and to support the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The Union of Concerned Scientist wholeheartedly supports New York City in divesting from the companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons and we urge New York City Council to support Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 to help create a safer world.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

TIMMON WALLIS: Hello, my name is Timmon Wallis; I’m Representing Nuclear Ban US and the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy and I’ve given you two background documents. One is called Warheads to Windmills, which is a report about the links between climate change and nuclear weapons and demonstrates not only the links between these two but the fact that we can’t address climate change without addressing nuclear weapons and we need the money, we need the scientists and the engineers and we need the international good will that is being squandered by these weapons.
So, New York is already in the lead on the fossil fuels and so, that’s why I hope we can add that to the nuclear issue.

The other document that I’ve given you is just a very brief summary of research I did back in the 1990’s about the peace movement in the 80’s that led to the INF Treaty and to the largest disarmament process that we’ve seen so far. Including as many people here were part of, the nuclear freeze movement, that million people marching in the streets of New York and so on and my research was looking at what ultimately effect ed the Reagan Administration to reverse course from calling the Soviet, you know the Evil Empire, into being willing to sign the most comprehensive treaty that was ever signed up to that point and it was about pressure on these companies. It was about divestment campaigns and boycotts. It was about cities like Chicago and Oakland California refusing to have contracts with these companies as one is divesting.

And so, I think we need remember this legacy when you’re looking at divestment and how important it is. It was important in many other issues as well as in the nuclear issue back in the 1980’s. So, thank you.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you. Next please.

VICKI ELSON: My name is Vicki Elson; Executive Director of the Treaty Awareness Campaign. Like many of the people in this room, part of work as members of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is to visit the UN Missions here in New York City.

So, I want to tell you a little story. One day, as we were visiting the UN Mission of Antigua Barbuda, we were talking about the 122 countries that adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We were talking about the countries that have already signed and ratified it. We were talking about ICAN’s Nobel Peace Prize. We are asking how we can support Antigua Barbuda to get going and sign this treaty sooner rather than later. And they were saying yes, we’re going to sign the treaty but it’s going to take a while, lots of red tape and then we started telling them about what’s happening here in the U.S., what the people in this room are doing all over the country working with faith organizations, schools, universities, banks, hospitals, cities, counties, states and the US Congress to bring an end to the 75 year nightmare of nuclear weapons.
So, I was talking about what we’re doing here in this country and I watched this person’s face change and she said, you know what, I’m going to light some fires under some people today. And I’m happy to report that Antigua Barbuda has since signed and ratified the treaty. I don’t take personal credit for it.

What we do here in the U.S. and what happens in New York City has an impact. It tells the rest of the world that there are strong currents here in solidarity on this issue. We look forward to the day sooner or later when U.S. policy will change to reflect the fact that nuclear weapons of mass extinction are obsolete and indescribably dangerous. Sucking trillions of dollars and our best scientists away from the green technologies we need to survive the climate emergency.

Here in the big apple, you have an opportunity to accelerate the transformation of Warheads to Windmills. You’ve already voted to divest from fossil fuels, a magnificent step toward being on the right side of history, survival and sanity. Thank you so much for your beautiful efforts to do the same with nuclear weapons.
I have to tell you; this work is tiring. Anybody know what I mean. Like, it’s hard, it’s like pushing a big radioactive rock up a hill or something you know and today, I feel so encouraged, the stuff with the Mayor’s Office notwithstanding. I feel so delighted and refreshed to be here. Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Thank you very much. Yes sir.

ALFRED MEYER: My name is Alfred Meyer and I’m a Board Member of Physicians for Social Responsibility. An organization which has worked on nuclear issues since 1963 and the issue of atmospheric nuclear testing. It’s a great pleasure to be here and I appreciate this opportunity.

Dear Council and Committee Members, nuclear weapons threaten in an instant to vaporize all that we love in New York City. We must act to end this grave danger to our survival. Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 are two important steps that New York City can take to protect and promote public health and safety.

Thank you for moving these two items, which show strong support for City Council action on such an
important topic. Cities are the targets of nuclear weapons and cities are the first responders to an attack. From a medical perspective, there is no response possible given that the medical providers, medical facilities and medical supplies are destroyed by a nuclear blast.

Prevention is the only medical response to this threat. Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 are two good methods of prevention, which will benefit New York City residents. New York City can play an important part in the growing cities, states, national and international movement to get countries to sign and ratify the 2017 United Nations Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Divestment of New York City investments from nuclear weapons related corporations and banks is a strong statement of the seriousness of this topic and a moral statement that we don’t want our pensioners benefits to come from nuclear weapons which could destroy us.

When a nation possess nuclear weapons, it harms its own population. Yet, many steps of the nuclear fuel and weapons chain a complex and very large industry has noted in the treaty for the Prohibition
of Nuclear Weapons women and children are most impacted by exposure to radiation.

So, this matter is urgent for us to address, although it will take time to make the changes needed to achieve a nuclear weapons free world. The wise leadership and support for Resolution 976 and Introduction 162 to date is most appreciated. I trust the ongoing and attentive engagement by the City Council will support achievement of these important missions which in turn, benefit us all.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you.

CHARLES JOHNSON: Good afternoon, I’m Chuck Johnson, Charles K. Johnson; Program Director of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Thank you, Co-Chairs and Council Members for having us. I’m honored to have the opportunity to speak to you today and wish to thank the New York City Council for having the foresight to consider these two measures which taken together, would be the strongest statement yet by a U.S. Municipality in favor of global sanity in the face of the continued
and renewed threat to global survival posed by nuclear weapons and war.

It’s our proposal that the International City of New York would lead the way toward reconsidering our nations reliance on the judgement and actions of a few flawed and fragile individuals to prevent a nuclear catastrophe or as our president put it, fire and fury like the world has never seen.

International Physicians for the prevention of nuclear war, is a federation consisting of 63 national affiliates worldwide that have studied the effects of a single atomic bomb and of nuclear war at various levels of severity.

In all cases, we find there is no adequate medical response to the use of nuclear weapons, which destroys medical and other infrastructure as Alfred just said and wounds and kills the professionals who would ordinarily provide aid to the sick and wounded.

Consequently, we concluded as our founding organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility in the U.S. originally said, that prevention is the only cure and the only responsible medical position to take on this subject.
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You’ve received in your packets, three statements
from physicians representing IPPNW, our Co-President
Tilman Ruff on the faculty of the University of
Melbourne on Australia and a cofounder of ICAN. Co-
President Ira Helfand; Practicing Physician in North
Hampton Mass and IPPNW Germany Representative Inga
Bloom, a physician in Hamburg Germany.

In addition, I’m attaching to the end of my
testimony the statement of IPPNW, the World Medical
Association, the International Council of Nurses and
the World Federation of Public Health Associations in
strong support of the 2017 U.N. Treaty on the
Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Working together with the International Committee
for the Red Cross, we are actively encouraging all
levels of government to support the nuclear ban
treaty in any way they can and we thank you for your
time.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much for your
time and thank you for coming in and giving
testimony. We appreciate that and what I think we’re
going to do now is move next door. Are you ready for
us there? Okay, so, those of you who want to come
in, come in please and we’ll continue the hearing in that room.

[GAVEL] Okay, we are back in business. I did promise that I would make the announcement that those of you who would like, you may submit your written testimony within 48 hours to be included on the official record by emailing it to hearings@council.nyc.gov and it has to be done within 48 hours. So, if you’re here in the room or if you listening on the livestreaming as well, please make sure that you do that within 48 hours.

And I think we have two panels coming up, so, I’m going to call up the first panel. Marie Noel, Jasmine McKay, Paul Millie, Miller I’m sorry Paul. Rebecca with Peace Institute. Okay, good and Emily Rubino and Molly Magenti[SP?].

Alright, let’s start here.

MOLLY MAGENTI: Dear Committee Members, my name is Molly Magenti and I am the Nuclear Program Assistant for the International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. I am honored to be here today as a youth representative but I want you to know that my beliefs do not represent the majority of
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my former classmates, friends and other
acquaintances.

This is not because they hope for a world in
which the proliferation of nuclear weapons continues,
but rather they are not aware that we are closer to
nuclear war now as we were at the height of the cold
war.

As we all know by now, the recent report by the
Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, reports that the
doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight, which
is the closest to nuclear warfare that they have ever
estimated. This is a way to warn world leaders and
civilians alike.

Youth are taught that the use of nuclear weapons
ended with World War II. The former Soviet Union and
U.S. had a nuclear arms race and with the fall of the
Berlin Wall, all of that is behind us. Prior to
starting my position at IPPNW, I was not aware of the
bleak future that we are currently facing. I too
believe the pretense that this is an issue of the
past. It is my job along with many others in the
room to educate youth on the reality of nuclear
weapons in this year of 2020. We deserve the right
to know that a “limited” nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan will create worldwide famine. We deserve the right to know that our cities, universities and banks are investing in these weapons that inevitably change our world as we currently know it. With that being said, I am not alone. The next generation is becoming more and more aware of the “hidden dangers” that nuclear weapons pose and we deserve the right to have faith in our local, state, and federal leaders to do everything in their power to put an end to these weapons of mass destruction.

I am doing my part to educate all people and specifically the rising generation on the current dangers of nuclear weapons. As a young person and Nuclear Disarmament Professional, I urge you to do your part and to pass Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 to ensure a necessary step forward to shifting the world toward being nuclear free.

It is imperative that youth be aware of the imminent danger that nuclear weapons pose to our future and just as importantly, that they know we still have the opportunity and power to shift this future. By passing these pieces of legislation you are showing me and countless other youth, whether or
not they know it, that you are actively invested in our future. We are prepared to bring progress into this world, but we are going to need to ensure that there is a liberal world to bring progress to.

On behalf of young people throughout New York and beyond, we thank you in advance for using your platform to take action for our survival. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Molly, what’s your last name?
MOLLY MAGENTI: Magenti.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Did you submit written testimony?
MOLLY MAGENTI: I just emailed it.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Oh, okay, fine. I just wanted to be sure.
MOLLY MAGENTI: Great, thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.
JASMINE MCKAY: Hello, my name is Jasmine McKay; I’m a DJ Producer and Musical Artist and former student of Kathleen. I’ll be reading the testimony of Anohni Hegarty. Here we go.

I’m an English born singer composer and visual artist who moved to Manhattan in 1990 to study at NYU. All these years later, New York is still my home.
In 2016, I became the second openly transgender person nominated for an academy award for best original song from Manta Ray. In the film Racing Extinction. A film about the mass extinction of species we are now undergoing. I say these things to state the obvious.

New York is a city of artists. I am one of thousands of artists who call this city home. I am one of thousands who say with our work, stop extinction, stop war. Stating the obvious in a post true society is becoming a noble task and so too this legislation, stating the obvious that we must act to rid ourselves of the threat of nuclear war and radioactive violence.

I’m grateful to all our City Council Members who have supported this legislation which gives me the opportunity to share how my life and my work have been touched personally by the nuclear age. A few years ago, I was asked to write a song for a film about The Great Barrier Reef called Coral Rekindling Venus by the artist Lynette Wallworth. Lynette was making a new film in collaboration with a group of aboriginal Martu, women, elders.
She asked me to accompany her to the Western Australian Desert to meet this community and see if I could be in some way a part of the work she envisaged. I had the honor to spend some time witnessing and befriending and group of Martu elders who taught me to see things from a much bigger point of view. Visiting them was a heart opening and life changing experience for me. To be with these women was deeply inspiring and it left me with the sense that I would do whatever I could to help them.

There was something familiar about the Martu. They had a tremendous presence that reminded me of my own family and of the women from the hills of Donegal Ireland that I descend from. There’s a sense of inseparableness of body, spirit and landscape that I recognize from my own grandmother and aunties. I found myself as a student of the Martu people in a blessed moment of circumstance. As time went on, I began to understand the nature of the struggle that they were in the grips of. Two multinational companies had worked with the government and managed to acquire a large parcel of Martu territory with the goal of creating a uranium mine there.
The elders Martu women banded together and launched a years long offensive to halt the mining threat. They began working on giant paintings of their land and sharing them with museums across Australia to bring attention to their plight. I wanted to help in any way I could.

I performed a concert in Tasmania, the Dark Mofo Festival and donated the proceeds to create a fund to support the Martu and their brave work confronting the mining giants, Camico and Mitsubishi. We appeared on the Q&A, a national talk program to discuss the crisis with leading politicians.

The Martu staged a ten day walk across country. CO-CHAIR DROMM: You may continue.

JASMINE MCKAY: Okay. From their remote community to the site of the proposed uranium mine. I joined them on that track, which culminated in the ceremony between the structures left by the mining expiration crew in the middle of a pristine and majestic desert that was bursting with life.

What I found most impressive about this circle of women was their sense of presence and integrity and patience. I found dignity and perseverance and intense intuitive wisdom. They are one of the few
indigenous groups that has an almost unbroken connection to the land. They weren’t radically disrupted until after World War II when the Australian government sought to clear them from their land, so they could begin nuclear testing. Elders in the community recount that as children, they saw a giant cloud in the sky and being told, it must be a sign from God and then the kangaroos dying around them and thinking God was offering them a feast and giving praise for their good fortune.

Sometimes it seems that corporations have little regard for those who live in proximity to their projects. The fight to halt the proposed uranium mine at Kintyre has been fought since the 1980’s and still there is no assurance that the fight is over. If built and operating uranium mine will irreversibly contaminate the environment with radioactive waste and mill tailings and threaten water security as vital modern resources are located near the proposed mine.

The health of the people and some 28 threatened species that live in the precious bioregion will be forever compromised. People have asked me, why this mine, why these people. While the sequence of events
led me to this particular place and people, this one place represents the global operation of uranium mining, which very often adversely effects indigenous people across the planet. Why this story from Australia for New York City Council told by an English born artist of Irish descent who calls her home Manhattan. There that is it, Manhattan, the Manhattan Project because nuclear weapons were born here. Every uranium mine that has opened since owes its legacy and some part to New York City and although the thousands of tons of uranium stored in Manhattan and Staten Island and elsewhere, primarily came from the brutality racist Belgian Kongo. The Manhattan project paved the way for every uranium mine ever exploited.

The mine at Kintyre in western Australia threatens not just the local environment but offers the potential to unleash havoc across our planet. Some of the Martu grief that as guardians of their land, any uranium taken is Martu responsibility. Any pain inflicted on the world using that uranium would be spiritually tied to a failure of the Martu to keep the poison in the ground. It’s heart breaking.
Mining the raw material for nuclear bombs and/or a nuclear energy, a fuel source that cannot change the course of climate chaos must stop forever. As a New Yorker, I expect that clarion call from my City Council, especially our city, which has so much to lose in the event of any kind of nuclear disaster, whether it be by war, facility, collapse or terrorism.

New York City has cultural and political capital to spend. If we aren’t spending that now as we lurch towards and away from the cliff of further war in the middle east, the cliff of climate chaos, the cliff of social injustice, when would we deem best to act? If not now, when? What further madness must we witness? What will it take?

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next please.

REBECCA IRBY: Hello Council Members and honored guests. My name is Rebecca Irby and I am long supporter of a nuclear free NYC. I am the Founder and Executive Director of PEAC Institute, an international peace education nonprofit and NGO which
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS JOINTLY WITH
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR holds special consultative status with the economic and social council at the United Nations.

I founded PEAC Institute in 2016 in response to the five years I lived in Japan. Specifically, after visiting Hiroshima on a long weekend. I was so taken back by what I learned from Hibakusha, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. The American narrative of Japan bombed us, we bombed them back and won the war. It was completely turned on its head when seeing the true impact of these inhumane weapons.

The humanitarian effect of nuclear weapons can no longer be ignored. For 75 years since the bombing, the survivors, their children and their children's children have struggled to live on. Afflicted by delayed effects and the anxiety about possible effects of radiation.

How have we prohibited the use development production and possession of biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster ammunitions but yet, nuclear weapons, the most destructive of all are still not only legal, they are touted as necessary to keep us all safe.

How can a weapons which can destroy the entire planet be seen as safe? As said before, on January
23, 2020, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the
doomsday clock to 100 seconds before midnight. We’re
now not measuring how close the world is to
catastrophe in minutes or hours. We’re down to
seconds.

It’s the closest the doomsday clock has ever been
since the clock was created in 1947. Now is the time
to take action. We have done enough talking for the
last 75 years. It’s shameful it’s taken us this long
to get to this point.

As an educator, I know that it is vitally
important to stand with the youth of today. Indeed,
it is the young people worldwide who are standing up
and demanding action. How many more generations will
be held hostage by the imminent danger of weapons
whose sole purpose is the destruction of all life.

How can this not be an international issue? Nuclear
war is not limited to the countries involved; it is a
human issue. The entire planet is affected.

New York City has the opportunity to be at the
forefront of this international movement. The
fastest and most effective way to take action is by
voting yes on Resolution 976 and Bill 1621. It is
time to stop investing in our mutual destruction and
start investing in and supporting our future.

Thank you very much for your time.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

PAUL MILLER: Hello, good afternoon. It’s an
absolute pleasure to be here and I am a New Yorker
who lives in New York, Tribeca area, District one.
So, I’m going to have to nudge my Council Member
Margaret Chin to kind of chime in with you guys a
little more.

My name is Paul Miller; AKA DJ Spooky and I’m a
writer, artist and musician. My books are generally
within MIT Press and I work extensively in a global
electronic music community.

I think we’re here today to kind of look at the
merits of how common sense things can affect us in an
everyday life. The 20th Century was essentially
haunted by, what I like to call the law of unexpected
effects; Teflon, asbestos and so on. If you start to
think about how those affect consumer life and then
everyday context, the unintended consequences of
those will linger for generations, yet the scale of
human kind of construction of materials, like uranium
and plutonium will actually linger far longer than
our entire civilization or as our species has been on this planet.

So, as an artist whose worked with universities like Columbia University, who is shown with galleries, in the gallery districts and you know, on 20th street, you can actually remember that most of the plutonium and other kind of radioactive materials that were stored there, lingers over the highline, lingers over the westside highway where I go jogging. And above all, it actually creates a serious tension with how we think about the future.

So, it’s with the great sort of joy that I’m seeing that the panel has a bullet proof veto over the idea of disinvesting in these kinds of materials.

So, I want to just kind of and to respect every one’s time and kind of just go from the viewpoint of common sense and making money and investing money. They’re not mutually exclusive and it’s a real pleasure to see a commonsense approach to saying that we can actually have our money be put to better use than it’s currently being done and I solute you.

Thank you. Oh, by the way, I’ll submit my written statement later.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you very much. Within 48 hours, okay. Thank you.

MARIE NOEL: Hi, my name is Marie Noel; I’m a lawyer, I’m an activist and mother in Jackson Heights. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I’d like to pass on the message of peace from Hibakusha’s who have appealed to the world to realize the world without nuclear weapons. Mr. Tsutomu Yamaguchi who was only 14 at the time of the Nagasaki bombing appealed at the U.N. in 1982 for the sake of the people of the world, those get to be born, the children and atomic bomb survivors like us, we cannot forgive the suffering or death of even one person in atomic bombing.

Mr. Tsutomu Yamaguchi who suffered from various health issues from the bombing said, in this city in 2015 that nuclear arms are weapons of the devil which will not allow humans to live nor die as humans.

Mr. Terumi Tanaka, a hibakusha from Nagasaki emphasizing New York City in 2015 that the policy of nuclear deterrence is against humanity. He made a point that no state will be spared and its existence will be threatened by the use of a nuclear weapon,
even if the use of such weapon is to protect the
survival of the state.

Now, the escalation of the arms race promoted by
the current administration and developing nuclear
weapons present a considerable expense for our nation
and it is important for us, New York City to deliver
a firm message to the world that we need to set our
priorities right instead of investing in nuclear
weapons production and maintenance, the real priority
should be to fight against poverty. To promote
peace, to provide at education, healthcare systems
and to fight against the climate crisis. Let’s stop
investing for the destructive false sense of security
but instead, let’s invest for hope that our children
live in, which is a nuclear free world.

Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you.

EMILY RUBINO: Hi, good afternoon everyone.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Oh, it’s good evening now.

EMILY RUBINO: Good evening now, yes. When I
wrote it, I thought it would still be afternoon. My
name is Emily Rubino; I’m the Director of Policy and
Outreach and Peace Action New York State.
As Sally mentioned before Peace Actions roots date back to 1957, long before I was born, out of the national committee for the same nuclear policy and the nuclear freeze movement. Sixty-three years later, we’re still part of the antinuclear struggle and working to bring it to the next generation.

We currently have 25 campus chapters across the state with about 7 of those just right here in New York City. Like me, our students were born in a post-cold war era, not knowing a world in which nuclear weapons have not existed.

We will, however, continue to fight for a nuclear free future. Our students are greatly concerned by nuclear issues and understand both the economic impact the environmental impact and the humanitarian impact that these weapons have. As the semester is just getting started, our students weren’t able to join us today, but I’m here to represent them and their voices and experiences as well as my own.

When I was in fifth grade, I remember reading the story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Years later, while in college with a passion for social justice and a strong desire to change U.S. foreign policy, I began interning at Peace Action New York
I’d also just like to share a personal testimony.

As a witness to Japan’s nuclear testings, as well as the victims of those who suffered in the bombings as well as the memories of those who have even considered possessing and utilizing these weapons is an insult to the memory of those who suffered in these bombings as well as the victims of our nuclear tests.

As citizens of the only country that we even consider possessing and utilizing these weapons in combat, we have a unique responsibility to ensure they will never be used again.

I’ve had the incredible opportunity to twice visit Hiroshima for the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and to walk through the Peace Memorial Museum, where some of the crane that Sadako folded while in the hospital receiving treatment for leukemia are memorialized next to other mementos documenting the horrific bombings and the day and years that followed.

I have had the incredible opportunity to share a personal testimony from one of our students, Carlie Brownell, who is a State. Through what went from a semester long internship to a full time organizing position, I have had the opportunity to hear testimonies from Japanese and Korean Hibakusha, including on sharing their stories and seeing an end to nuclear weapons in their lifetime.
student organizer at Manhattan College up in the Bronx.

She wrote, nuclear disarmament is an issue that is very close to my heart because as a child I lived on the Navaho reservation in Shiprock New Mexico. My mom was a doctor in the public health service and she was stationed there at a local hospital. Where I lived in Shiprock is directly downwind from the Nevada test site, where the United States government tested hundreds of nuclear weapons during the 1940’s and 50’s and the radiation still affects people to this day.

As a kid, I knew a lot of people who suffered health defects from the radiation from these tests and as I got older and learned more about the issue, I realized that I, myself, also carry this harmful radiation in my body. I’ve been passionate about this issue for years because I never want anyone else to be in the same situation that I am and so, I’ve done countless class presentations on the subject and will talk to anyone about it who will listen. However, it has always felt so personal, but I never thought to get actively involved in campaigns against nuclear weapons. This changed this past fall when I
learned about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I urge the City Council to adopt these resolutions.

This semester Carlie and the Manhattan Chapter are organizing anti-nuclear weapons week on campus to continue to raise awareness on the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing and are also working to divest the Manhattan college pensions from weapons manufacturers. The bills before the City Council today set a powerful precedent for not just other cities and countries across the world but for universities as well.

If we ever want to see an end to these horrific weapons, we must stop investing in the companies responsible for manufacturing and modernizing them and commit to the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Thank you to this panel. We deeply appreciate you coming in to give testimony today.

So, if there's anybody in the room who has not filled out a form, but wants to speak, now is your last chance to do so. Otherwise, this will be our
last panel. Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, Michele Peppers and June Tano, John Burroughs and Molly Nolan.

Would you like to start? I don’t think the mic is on.

JOHN BURROUGHS: My name is John Burroughs; I am Executive Director of the New York City Based lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and a resident of this City.

At the outset, I want to affirm that the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy supports the adoption of the proposed resolution and bill and offers our assistance in implementation of the measures. Furthermore, we are prepared to work to engage the New York City Legal Community in implementation and in related activities to make New York City visible in reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide.

Board members of my group and I have in the past worked through the New York City Bar Association on nuclear arms control and disarmament. Personally, in the 1990’s, I worked as an attorney to defend and support Oakland California’s nuclear weapon free ordinance.
This City Council in its 1983 Resolution Number 364, proclaiming New York City a nuclear weapon free zone. This council observed that “common discourse treats nuclear weapons and nuclear war as wagering chips for international politics. Instead of as the instruments of the most horrible death.”

Over the decade since then, nuclear arms have gone from being a phenomenon thought of as somehow outside the realm of law to a military technology that like others is considered subject to the requirements of law.

Details can be found in my longer written statement submitted by email. But just let me note quickly a couple of points. In 1996, the International Court of Justice concluded that threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal.

Then, in 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons considers in its preamble that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to international humanitarian law. Just the next year, the U.N. Human Rights Committee, released a general comment stating that the threat or use of weapons of mass destruction in particular, nuclear weapons, which are indiscriminate in effect and of a nature to
cause destruction of human life on a catastrophic scale is incompatible with respect for the right to life and may amount to a crime under international law.

As I say, see my written submission for more about all of this. The measures under consideration for adoption by the Council would be a major step to advance the understanding that nuclear arms are morally and legally indefensible.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. I see we have been joined by Cynthia Nevanski, Cynthia, would you like to go next? Okay.

CYNTHIA NEVANSKI: Hi, thank you very much for this session. It’s so important that it’s happening and thank you to the organizers of it. I am a film maker and I’m working on a very extensive film right now called, North American Apologue, the moral tale of the effects of the nuclear industry in all 50 states, visiting nuclear powerplants and sites of contamination, down winders, every part of the nuclear field cycle, so that there will be also oral histories about this incredible catastrophe that has been created and is sustained.
So, this is a very important work that you’re doing right now in New York and New York of course, should be one of the leaders in America.

So, I wanted to read a quote by Arundhati Roy, a writer that I respect. It is such a supreme folly to believe that nuclear weapons are deadly only if they are used. The fact that they exist at all, their presence in our lives will wreak more havoc than we can begin to fathom. Nuclear weapons pervade our thinking, control our behavior, administer our societies, inform our dreams.

They bury themselves like meat hooks deep in the base of our brains. They are purveyors of madness.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much and let’s go here.

MOLLY NOLAN: My name is Molly Nolan, I’m a recently retired professor of Cold War History at NYU and a longtime activist with Brooklyn for Peace, a 36 year old peace in social justice organization from the other side of the river.

There are I think, three main reasons the City Council should support these very important measures. First, nuclear weapons are infinitely more powerful and numerous now than they were when they were used
for the first and only time by the United States 75 years ago. Then they caused horrific death and destruction in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The potential cause of a nuclear war now are much greater and yet, we still have the same madness we had during the cold war when government officials and some military ones claimed that nuclear war was thinkable and winnable.

Second, as long as nuclear weapons are not banned and such a ban is not observed by all powers, both those who have weapons and those who don’t, the number of nuclear power in weapons will increase.

During the Cold War, we learned that efforts to limit the number and types of such weapons would and were passed now and again, but such limits were repeatedly violated. We’re learning that sad lesson again now as the U.S. and Russia both move to modernize and expand their nuclear weapons of all sorts, claiming that the other state has violated treaties limiting them from so doing. And as long as states want new and ostensibly ever better nuclear weapons, businesses will continue to produce them for profits are to be made.

In the long run, only total nuclear disarmament will end this vicious cycle. In the short run, maybe
at least some corporations can be dissuaded from producing such weapons. If governments like that of New York divest their pension funds from them.

Third, nuclear weapons are very, very expensive. Both the past and present nuclear arms race cost the U.S. billions of dollars and contributed significantly to making military spending account for 60 percent of discretionary government spending. If we continue to spend this money on nukes and wars, we can’t have the things that we desperately need, more housing, better schools, improved healthcare, rebuilt infrastructure and a green new deal.

So, I urge the Council to support these very important measures and make New York an example for other cities.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, next please.

MICHELE PEPPERS: Okay, hi, I’m Michele Peppers with the Ribbon International UN NGO. First, I want to acknowledge Councilman Perkins, he worked with us in 2004 with Mayor’s for Peace during a UN nuclear weapons conference and the New York City Council and they proclaimed April 8, 2004 as Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day.
The Ribbon is a Peace project started in 1982 by Justine Merit from the US. She had been to the Memorial Park in Hiroshima on pilgrimage. When arriving home, it came to her to create an embroidered cloth panel, calling it a Ribbon, which would represent the people she loved and cared about. The theme of the Ribbon, what I cannot bear to think of as lost forever in a nuclear war.

On August 4, 1985, the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, over 15 miles, 15 miles of ribbons were joined together at the Pentagon and ribbons surrounded the A-bomb memorial in Hiroshima as well. Plus, there were tables and tables of ribbons that were not even used.

Ribbon panels came from all over the US and many countries around the world with the hope and prayers that nuclear weapons would never be used again. It is the same hope and prayers today. And I’m taking from your Intro. of your Resolution. As New Yorkers devote their careers to making life better for their fellow New Yorkers, how in good conscience, can anyone “assist in underwriting the catastrophic loss of life an environmental ruin that would result from nuclear conflict.”
People creating ribbons find common ground with each other and they’re joined together in interfaith prayer services, schools, organizations, places of worship have created the ribbons.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

Okay, thank you. My name is June Tano, I’m also from the Ribbon International and if New York City becomes no nuke city, it will be the first major event. We are planning to have another event because this year is 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are planning to start quite march from 42nd and to the [INAUDIBLE 57:10] Plaza. We sing to no nuke walk.

And after all our statements, if Mayor and Council Members still doubt, do we really need nuclear for this city? I strongly recommend them to visit one of the museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

If they see it and ask themselves, do we really want to have this tragedy to New York City? Do we want this tragedy for our children, grandchildren, grand grandchildren? I’m sure their answer is only one, no. We don’t need no nuclear.

Thank you.
CO-CHAIR DROMM: Dr. Sullivan.

Dr. KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Well, that was a wonderful Segway for me because I just want to start by saying that with Robert Croonquist and other volunteers with the Hibakusha’s Stories project here in New York, we’ve brought more than 100 atomic bomb survivors to more than 40,000 New York City high school students and those testimonies that you heard from [INAUDIBLE 59:30], are real live people that have had effects on real live young New Yorkers such as my former student and spiritual daughter Jasmine Infinity who was just speaking before us.

I have to say, there have been many times today that I’ve been moved to tears. When Johnny Brooklyn sat and said, that he was around uranium barrels that were hot and that that had been left in Chelsea where my husband was a child growing up. That there was radiation from the Manhattan project in residential areas in New York City that we weren’t handling and then that the Mayor’s Offices dares to come to this Committee and say that they don’t have the expertise for an advisory committee. Look at this room, this city is filled with experts that would love to be a part of such a committee.
Would be cost, would it be jurisdiction, would it be, you know, this is an international issue.

Obviously, the central theme in the brilliant moving testimony that we have heard today is this, we need to act before it is too late. We need to act because it is our responsibility. We need to act because nuclear weapons were born in this city. We need to act because right at this moment, everything that we love and everyone that we love is threatened by the existence of nuclear weapons. And I like to challenge Mayor de Blasio because just last week, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music where Dr. King was honored, Mayor de Blasio said, the thing that people forget about Dr. Kings legacy is that he was against militarism and Mayor de Blasio talked about Dr. Kings triple evils. The evil of racism, the evils of poverty, the evils of militarism, all that are intricately connected. And so, it’s very rich to hear from the Mayor’s Office that they can’t support this in the same week that he spoke very clearly about Dr. Kings work against militarism, racism and poverty.

So, I would say to Mr. Mayor, it’s 100 seconds to midnight, where is your critique of militarism a week
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later? If you believe in what you say, you admire of
Dr. King's Legacy, you should be working with all of
us to use your power to proudly support the
disarmament legislation that is before us.

When Dr. King was questioned about peace and
civil rights and I’ll finish with this. You know,
this is one of many profound things that that sage
man said. He said, for those us who were telling me
to keep my mouth shut, I can’t do that. I’m against
segregation at lunch counters and I’m not going to
segregate my moral concerns and we must know on some
positions, cowards ask the question, is it safe?
Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity
asks the question, is it popular but conscience asks
the question, is it right? And there are times when
you must take a stand that is neither safe nor
politic nor popular but you must do it because it is
right and this legislation is the right thing to do.

There can be no doubt in this chamber that now,
the urgent now, as Dr. King implored to us, is the
time to do the right thing to vote in favor of
Resolution 976 and Bill 1621 and not to have this
buried in committee. And you know, I just want to
close by really acknowledging the leadership of
Council Member Dromm. Your enlightened leadership, your bringing us forward from writing a letter to the Comptroller requesting that we divest our pension funds and shepherding this through to the committees. It’s just been such a job and I learned so much today from everybody who has been here with us and I have to say, I am a proud New Yorker. This city is my home, we all love this city and to have this kind of legislation emanating from the cultural capital that is New York is outstanding and I do believe that we are going to get this done through all of your commitment and leadership.

Danny, thank you so very much.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Indeed, we do thank you Danny, because Danny really pushed for this hearing to take place and I have to tell you, I have two more questions but I have to truly tell you that I’ve been in the Council for ten years and I have to be hard pressed to think about a hearing that we had where we had so many people from so many fears of life, with so much expertise as you just mentioned. We did hear from you today. So, I want to thank you and give yourself a round of applause and you can really clap now. You can really clap now.
But I do have two questions and I know Council Member Dromm is going to be happy to announce, don’t mention who it was but, we have a good announcement for you.

I do want to ask you Professor, and I was very intrigued that your specialties during the Cold War, what’s the impetus for us to wanting to create bigger bombs? I mean, we’re going to create a bomb that does 3,000 times more than what we saw during World War II. What are we going to do next, five thousand more? I mean, like we’re beyond, I just don’t get it and then it’s so expensive. I don’t believe history repeats itself, people repeat history. What is it about — there has to be a mentality that we have and what is that? What is the argument that we have in our minds?

MOLLY NOLAN: Well, I think the argument changed. Sometimes during the Cold War, it was that you know, the Soviet Union was going to develop bigger bombs, so we had to do it first. Sometime it was that if we only had enough weapons, it would deter the other side from ever using theirs. Sometimes it was the hope that if we built bigger bombs, we would make the
Soviets spend themselves into self-destruction, which in part, the US did.

So, there’s always a new excuse but there’s a kind of, if you have them then the military and the arms producers think you know, we need more, we need bigger for the business associates, incredibly popular for the military its status and prestige.

So, there’s this perverse logic, you always have to have more even if you never use them.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, what’s the excuse now?

MOLLY NOLAN: I wouldn’t claim to speak for what Trump has in his mind with this expansion.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Gotcha.

MOLLY NOLAN: We certainly hope he will never use them but it’s really terrifying.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: And then my last question was regarding to broken arrows and by that I mean, missiles that had gone wrong and I know we have a few out there, what are the changes that that would happen again and to your knowledge what is being done about this nuclear warheads that are still out there you know, jet plane was malfunction. I know we have nuclear warheads under the sea. Do you know anything about —
MOLLY NOLAN: There have been serious nuclear accidents. There have been plane crashes, there’s been no you know, major contamination or explosion as a result but these certainly have happened. There is a danger that they will happen. That’s why I think you know only total nuclear disarmament. If you can’t get everybody to stop then those who have them will want more. New powers will do it or will come very close. There are several countries that have what is called the Japanese option. They have essentially the technology and some enrichment and they could build a bomb pretty quickly.

Most of them have not so far but until you really get the nuclear powers to abolish nuclear weapons, we’re in a very dangerous situation. Most of the other countries in the globe around the world are in favor of abolishing nuclear weapons. It’s only those who have them that want to keep them.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, before I turn it to the Co-Chair to close today. I want to thank all the staff. They really put a lot of work, they debriefed us, they prepared us. Come on you can give it up for them to, they did a fabulous job. And I want to say that we’re going to get this bill to the finish line
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and the fact that the Administration came in and basically, we just got to say, you know, it’s going to happen. We’re going to get in the right agency. So, do be expecting that but with that, to my Co-Chair, thank you. Thank you for your leadership, thank you and I mean it from the bottom of my heart, for being a champion. This is not a fad for you, this is a point of conviction in your heart. You’re a man of principle and for the next generation of young people, I remember being a little kid living in LA and they used to do those drills which when I was a little kid, I would say, we’ll wait a second you know, being under the desk when an atomic bomb explodes here, we will be dead. This ain’t going to help me but we did live under that fear. That constant fear and that was part of our discussion as a little kid. May we live one of these days in a generation where kids won’t have to speak of the potential dangers that could occur as a result of nuclear warheads.

So, thank you and with that, I will turn it over to the Co-Chair.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. I remember finding myself underneath the desk one time too and
that was when a plane broke, like the sound barrier or something and Sister Kathleen told us, hurry up and get under that desk. Think of it, just think you know, how mad it was actually you know, to actually be under that desk and thinking we’re going to be under nuclear attack or whatever.

But anyway, I do want to thank you Chair Cabrera as well for your time, for your patience, for your wisdom, for your questions, for your support. You know, Council Member Cabrera is also a pastor and I think he takes these issues to heart as well. As a man of the cloth, as a man who believes deeply in God and I thank you very much for all of your support here today.

He really, really is a really good friend and I thank you for that. I also want to thank staff as well for the time that they put into this for the preparation that they did for us. I want to thank my staff, Sebastian McGuire who has been wonderful on this. Thank you, Sebastian, for doing everything. Michael Mallon whose over there. Thank you, Michael Mallon and Robin Forst, whose over there as well. I want to thank Bill Perkins because Bill Perkins, he’s been a leader on so many progressive issues. You
know, from voting rights for our immigrant communities to nuclear proliferation and disarmament. He has been a champion. Bill, thank you for being with us all afternoon. Thank you.

I also want to thank Kathleen and ICAN and all of the advocates who came in here today and gave testimony. It was really moving and we had almost 60 people who came in to give testimony today. I think that’s almost a record for a hearing like this and because of that, we now have a 35th Sponsor on the Legislation. So, we have even more than a veto proof majority and we’re going to work to get even more people. I have a feeling you might know who he is, our 35th sponsor.

So, everybody, thank you so much for coming and giving us your time today. This meeting is now adjourned at 5:29 in the afternoon. [GAVEL]
CERTIFICATE

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.

Date April 1, 2018