CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-80

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

A RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE RESTRICTING FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ACT OF 2017; IN OPPOSITION TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGENDA OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION; AND CALLING ON OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CONDEMN THE RHETORIC AND AGENDA.

WHEREAS, there are over 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an estimated 6800 nuclear weapons and Russia has an estimated 7000 nuclear weapons, all more destructive than those that killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians and devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, the United States spends over $2,000,000 per hour (over $48,000,000 per day and $336,000,000 per week) on nuclear weapons and their development; and

WHEREAS, an entire new generation of nuclear weapons is under development at a projected cost of over $1,000,000,000,000 ($1 trillion) over a thirty-year period; and

WHEREAS, use and detonation of even a small number of nuclear weapons would have unimaginable global human, environmental and economic consequences – affecting everyone on
the planet, and

WHEREAS, all cities and communities, including Santa Fe, remain at great, imminent risk as potential targets in a nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, a single nuclear strike in Santa Fe would cause upwards of 40,000 fatalities and 40,000 injuries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe’s proximity to Los Alamos National Laboratory, a primary designer and producer of the nation’s nuclear stockpile and plutonium pits, puts all of the city’s residents, and those of northern New Mexico, at risk; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons testing has caused irreparable harm to communities and the natural environment, and

WHEREAS, all of humanity and every citizen has the right to live a life and pursue a future free from the fear and worry of nuclear devastation, and

WHEREAS, the current administration has stated their intention to greatly expand the country’s nuclear capabilities for the first time since 1968, and called for a new nuclear arms race; and

WHEREAS, the administration has refused to take nuclear war off the table for future conflicts, has questioned why the United States can’t use the nuclear weapons it currently holds, and is open to supporting new countries developing their own nuclear weapons program to protect themselves; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s Congress ceded authority over nuclear weapons to the present on the basis that it would be impossible for the legislative body to approve a decision on the use of nuclear weapons if the Soviet Union had launched its own weapons that could hit the United States in 30 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing dogma at the time was one of “mutually assured destruction” based on the belief that two rational actors would not risk the destruction of their country in order
to achieve a small geopolitical gain; and

WHEREAS, the behavior and reaction of the President to news of North Korean missile
testing raises the question of whether or not the theory of mutually assured destruction still holds
true in the current administration; and

WHEREAS, the President currently has the authority to launch a nuclear strike within
minutes on any target without consent from any other administration official or another branch of
government; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Ted Lieu (CA-33) has introduced H.R. 669 – Restricting First Use of
Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017, along with 65 cosponsors, and Sen. Edward Markey (MA) has
introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 200, along with 11 cosponsors, that would prohibit
the President from conducting a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to
a congressional declaration of war expressly authorizing such a strike; and

WHEREAS, over 300 former heads of state, experts, and military leaders have endorsed
a vision of a world without nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, every President since Ronald Reagan has worked to reduce the size of
global nuclear stockpiles bilaterally with Russia in an effort to eventually eliminate them; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has adopted resolutions in the past that weigh in on
national nuclear security issues; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 1986-16 that urged the
President to join the Soviet Union in a mutual and verifiable suspension of nuclear testing; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 1995-62 supporting a
programmatic review of the future nuclear weapons complex; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 2005-39 supporting United
States compliance with the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
OF SANTA FE that the Governing Body supports the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017 (H.R. 669 and S. 200) which would prevent the President from launching a nuclear first strike without Congressional authorization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body stands against the Administration’s misguided agenda in regards to nuclear weapons, including greatly expanding the nuclear weapons arsenal of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe adds its name to a growing list of cities and college campuses that refuse to be complicit in the administration’s domestic proliferation of nuclear weapons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governing Body calls on Senator Tom Udall, Senator Martin Heinrich and Congressman Ben Ray Lujan to publicly reject the current nuclear agenda and demand they take action to address the growing threat, and that they support the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body stands for the protection of our families and community because a world without nuclear weapons is a freer, safer, more just world.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of November, 2017.

JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kelley A. Brennan

KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY