



Divestment from Weapons Manufacturers: Model City Council Resolution

About This Model Resolution

Developing municipal resolutions that reflect our values is an important first step in divesting from war and weapons. The Divest from the War Machine coalition has created this sample city council resolution to give citizens and municipal officials a roadmap in considering how their municipal policies can drive a new conversation around priorities that do not include supporting institutions that profit from war.

How War & Weapons Are Profiting at the Expense of Local Communities

In 2017, the U.S. spent more than \$700 billion on the Pentagon and its programs. More than \$300 billion of that went to weapons manufacturers and war profiteers. That's \$300 billion of our tax dollars going to line the pockets of CEOs who are profiting from war around the world and at home. In 2017, the CEOs of the top five weapons manufacturers in the U.S. collected salaries that totaled \$96 million, while American communities continue to struggle to provide basic services as federal support is slashed.

For perspective: \$1 billion in military spending creates approximately 11,200 jobs. That same \$1 billion would create 26,700 jobs in education, 16,800 in clean energy, and 17,200 in health care. So why are we using public dollars to subsidize these corporations, at the expense of what our local communities need?

The military and its contractors are also some of the worst polluters in the world. Standard controls, such as bans on open-air burning and compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act, are routinely circumvented or categorically ignored. These actions jeopardize the health and economy of local waterways, and poison local air.

Our communities can take back the power of the purse, and pull their support from those who seek to do harm and profit from harm inflicted upon others. We do not have to put public support behind those who are making a killing on killing.

About the Coalition

The Divest from the War Machine campaign seeks to divest our assets from war and weapons. The coalition consists of more than 70 organizations from across the United States. Learn more at www.divestfromwarmachine.org, or contact divest@codepink.org



Model City Council Resolution

WHEREAS, since 2001, the United States has spent over \$5.6 trillion on wars resulting in over 1.17 million deaths and displacing more than of 10.1 million people;[1] and

WHEREAS, the cost of U.S. domestic and foreign militarism, including veterans' affairs, homeland security, and law enforcement and incarceration, topped \$818 billion in 2017[2], and accounted for 64 percent of federal discretionary spending in 2016, at a time when federal funds are desperately needed in order to build affordable housing, improve public transit, and develop sustainable energy sources;[3] and

WHEREAS, the United States remains the most militarized nation in the world, with a military budget greater than the next eight countries combined; an estimated 800 military bases and stations in over 70 countries around the world; and arms producers that dominated 56.6% of the share of major global arms sales in 2015;[3] and

WHEREAS, nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons, most of an order of magnitude more powerful than the U.S. atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, over 90% held by the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity [4]; and detonation of even a small fraction of these weapons would disrupt the global climate and agricultural production so severely that the resulting famine could put the lives of more than two billion people at risk; [5] and

WHEREAS, the United States is poised to spend \$1.7 trillion dollars over the next three decades to maintain and modernize its nuclear bombs and warheads; the submarines, missiles and bombers to deliver them; and the infrastructure to sustain the nuclear enterprise indefinitely, which many experts believe actually increases the risk of nuclear proliferation; nuclear terrorism; and nuclear war by accident, miscalculation or intent, at a time when nuclear-armed countries are already on the brink of military confrontation; [6][7] and

WHEREAS, investing in companies producing the nuclear and conventional weapons at the roots of U.S. militarism implicitly supports this misdirection of our tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, many major arms producers depend on the federal government as their primary consumer and are thus dependent upon perpetual warfare, political instability, and the prioritization of militarism over diplomacy; and



WHEREAS, U.S. weapons manufacturers continue to supply repressive regimes around the world, and U.S.-produced weapons are being used in attacks that the international community deems unlawful for their disproportionate and excessive harm to civilians; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars worth of military-grade equipment has been transferred to local police departments in our communities, resulting in the disproportionate targeting of communities of color and perpetuating a culture of violence, hostility, and and fear; and

WHEREAS, the rate of mass shootings in America is the highest anywhere in the developed world, as civilian gun manufacturers continue to reap enormous profits off of unnecessary bloodshed in our streets and home; and

WHEREAS, the average American taxpayer works 27 days a year to pay Pentagon contractors and pays 23.4 cents of each of their federal income tax dollars on military spending at a time when 43 million Americans live in poverty or qualify as low-income[8]; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously “calls on the President and Congress to reverse federal spending priorities and to redirect funds currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending to restore full funding for Community Block Development Grants and the Environmental Protection Agency, to create jobs by rebuilding our nation’s crumbling infrastructure, and to ensure basic human services for all, including education, environmental protection, food assistance, housing and health care”; [9] and

WHEREAS, the City's investment practices may be in conflict with the City's commitment to equality and justice; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council formally declares its opposition to investing City funds in any entities that are involved in the production or upgrading of weapons and weapons systems, whether conventional or nuclear, and including the manufacture of civilian arms, and decides that it shall be City policy to divest from such entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs any and all persons acting on behalf of City investment activity to enforce the provisions of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be binding City policy and shall be in full force and effect after adoption by the City Council.



- [1] Brown University, Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, [Costs of War](#)
- [2] The Balance, [US Military Budget: Components, Challenges, Growth](#)
- [3] National Priorities Project and Institute for Policy Studies, [The Militarized Federal Budget](#)
- [4] Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, [Top 100 Arms-Producing and Military Service Companies, 2015](#)
- [5] Arms Control Association, [Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance](#)
- [6] International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, [Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk?](#)
- [7] Arms Control Association, [U.S. Nuclear Modernization Programs](#)
- [8] Global Zero, [Global Zero Responds To Ballooning Costs of Rebuilding US Nuclear Arsenal](#)
- [9] National Priorities Project, [Tax Dollar Receipt](#)
- [10] U.S. Conference of Mayors 2017 Adopted Resolutions, [International Affairs](#)