



Peace and Justice
Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 14, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Peace and Justice Commission
 Submitted by: George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
 Subject: Call for Immediate Ukraine Ceasefire

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Urging a Ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Minimal impact to staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Since 24 February 2022, tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians – children, mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, and other human beings – have been killed by Russian military forces' bombing and shelling of apartment buildings, private residences, hospitals including a maternity hospital, children's schools and playgrounds, and other non-military locations in cities throughout the sovereign state of Ukraine.

Appeals to Russia and to its President Vladimir Putin from UN Secretary-General António Guterres and member states of the United Nations for an immediate cease-fire have gone unheeded.

At its regular meeting of April 4, 2022, the Peace and Justice Commission unanimously proposed the attached resolution for the City Council.

M/S/C: (Maran/Morizawa)

Ayes: Bohn, Gussman, Jacquelin, Lee, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Leon-Maldonado

BACKGROUND

On February 22, 2022, the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution entitled “Support of Ukraine, Continued Diplomacy, and Adherence to Constitutional Procedure With Respect to Armed Conflict Amidst Ongoing Tensions,” standing with Ukraine and affirming that the territorial integrity of a state cannot be changed by force; and furthermore, “that in resolving tensions, the U.S. and its allies must vigorously pursue all potential diplomatic solutions to the crisis and that any last resort move towards armed conflict must be carefully debated and declared by the United States Congress.”¹

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

War is among the most catastrophic causes of environmental degradation and climate change. An article by the Atlantic Council states, “At a time when humans are racing against the clock to prevent irreparable damage to the planet over the next one to two decades, contending with conflict-driven carbon emissions on top of already massive human-sourced emissions is unbearable.”²

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The United Nations was created after World War II to end the “scourge of war,” to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a ... humanitarian character...,” and to “be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.” People around the world rely on, and must urge the United Nations to lead in the peaceful resolution of international conflict.”

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on this recommendation.

CONTACT PERSON

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Commission Secretary, City Manager’s Office, (510) 684-0503

Attachments:

1: Resolution

¹ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2022/02_Feb/Documents/2022-02-22_Urgent_Item_-_Ukraine.aspx

² “The Atlantic Council is an American think tank in the field of international affairs, favoring Atlanticism, founded in 1961.” Ariel Ezrahi, March 25, 2022, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-ukraine-crisis-is-a-reminder-of-why-conflict-driven-carbon-emissions-matter-in-mena-and-beyond/>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

Call for Immediate Ukraine Ceasefire

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council and the BUSD on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, since 24 February 2022, tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians – children, mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, and other human beings – have been killed by Russian military forces' bombing and shelling of apartment buildings, private residences, hospitals including a maternity hospital, children's schools and playgrounds, and other non-military locations in cities throughout the sovereign state of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, appeals to Russia and to its President Vladimir Putin from UN Secretary-General António Guterres and member states of the United Nations for an immediate cease-fire have gone unheeded; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Charter, in force since 24 October 1945 and resulting from the entirely voluntary and wholly legally-binding ratification of the Charter by 193 sovereign states, declares:

“Chapter 1 PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES...

(The Purposes of the United Nations are: ...)

Article 1 (3) To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a ... humanitarian character...”; and

“Article 1 (4) To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that we hereby call upon the United Nations Secretary-General to offer the UN's good offices to the government of Ukraine and the government of the Russian Federation for the purposes of

1. declaring an immediate cease-fire, and
2. concurrently convening peace negotiations for a permanent end to armed hostilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Senator Dianne Feinstein,

Senator Alex Padilla, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (current Congressional Representative to the UN General Assembly).