



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31925

Record No.: Res 31925

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 2

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 01/09/2020

Final Action: 01/21/2020

Title: A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle's support for its local Iranian-American and Iranian-immigrant communities, recognizing the importance of people-to-people diplomacy at the local level, calling for a de-escalation in the conflict and damaging rhetoric between the U.S. and Iran and an end to the attacks on the democratic rights of people with Iranian heritage in Washington State and requesting the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate these positions to the Washington State congressional delegation.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Uploaded By: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	01/10/2020	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
1	Council President's Office	01/10/2020	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council						
1	City Council	01/13/2020	referred	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council						
1	City Council	01/13/2020	held				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried, and the Resolution (Res) was held until January 21, 2020 by the following vote:						
	Notes: Motion was made by Councilmember Sawant and duly seconded, to hold						

Resolution 31925, until January 21, 2020.

In Favor: 7 Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Pedersen, Councilmember Sawant, Councilmember Strauss

Opposed: 0

1 City Council 01/21/2020 adopted as amended

Pass

Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:

Notes: ACTION 1:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31925.

ACTION 2:

Motion was made by Councilmember Sawant, duly seconded and carried, to amend Resolution 31925, by substituting version 3 for version 1.

ACTION 3:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31925 as amended.

In Favor: 7 Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Pedersen, Councilmember Sawant, Councilmember Strauss

Opposed: 0

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31925

A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle's support for its local Iranian-American and Iranian-immigrant communities, recognizing the importance of people-to-people diplomacy at the local level, calling for a de-escalation in the conflict and damaging rhetoric between the U.S. and Iran and an end to the attacks on the democratic rights of people with Iranian heritage in Washington State and requesting the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate these positions to the Washington State congressional delegation.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle values its ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity, which is a source of strength in Seattle and beyond, and the City Council is committed to ensuring that all our residents can live and pursue their livelihoods in peace and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle is committed to being an inclusive, welcoming city and advancing policies to protect vulnerable communities, while denouncing national and federal policies and rhetoric targeting immigrants and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's policies toward Iran, including air strikes and the prominent drone assassination of Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani in Iraq, are risking war, and have already resulted in retaliatory missile strikes on January 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, ordinary people, especially women, young people, and marginalized communities, always pay the greatest price of war; and

WHEREAS, the United States wars in Afghanistan, beginning in 2001, and in Iraq beginning in 2003, have not expanded freedom, democracy, standards of living, or safety for ordinary people in the Middle East, nor increased the safety of people in the United States, and

1 instead caused massive loss of human life and ongoing suffering in Afghanistan, Iraq,
2 and among U.S. soldiers; and

3 WHEREAS, *The New York Times* reported that on January 4, 2020, Department of Homeland
4 Security agents detained and questioned over 60 people of Iranian descent, the vast
5 majority of whom are US citizens, at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine,
6 Washington, including Seattle residents and families with small children; and

7 WHEREAS, Seattle resident Aram Falsafi, who is an Iranian American, reports being detained
8 at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on January 5, 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council believes that it is unacceptable and contrary to Seattle's
10 "welcoming city" policy for law enforcement to detain and question Seattle residents due
11 to their ethnic or national heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, the Washington State chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations
13 (CAIR) asserts that "all U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and visitors should be treated
14 with dignity," and condemns "government discrimination against people based on
15 heritage, race, country of origin, religion, or any other part of their identity because it
16 contributes to a climate of hostility that disproportionately impacts the most
17 marginalized"; and

18 WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal has announced that she is introducing
19 legislation to enable people to have attorneys present during questioning by Border Patrol
20 officers; and

21 WHEREAS, on January 5, 2020, the Iraqi Parliament voted unanimously to expel all U.S.
22 military forces from Iraq, to which President Trump threatened, "If they do ask us to

1 leave, if we don't do it in a very friendly basis, we will charge them sanctions like
2 they've never seen before ever;" and

3 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2020, President Trump threatened on Twitter to strike targets,
4 "important to Iran & the Iranian culture;" and

5 WHEREAS, the Geneva Conventions classify the targeting of cultural sites as a war crime; and

6 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Ro Khanna introduced
7 legislation, sponsored by Washington's Senator Maria Cantwell, to block President
8 Trump from deploying any funding for military action against Iran without the approval
9 of Congress; and

10 WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives on January 9, 2020, voted to approve a
11 resolution aimed at restraining the President's ability to use military action against Iran
12 without congressional approval; and

13 WHEREAS, peace-loving people and global leaders alike are calling on national governments
14 for de-escalation in the conflict between the United States and Iran; and

15 WHEREAS, the Iranian American, Iranian immigrant, and Persian heritage communities in
16 Seattle, like many other communities, consists of inspiring residents who work every day
17 to make our city a better place for all and the City of Seattle appreciates the contributions
18 of those communities to creating the kind of city where people want to live, learn, work,
19 and prosper; and

20 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council is committed to maintaining community stakeholder
21 engagement around implementation of policies that preserve and protect our diverse and
22 inclusive community and will work with established community-based organizations to
23 connect immigrant community members with City government; and

1 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council believes that what is needed instead of war with Iran is a
2 mass anti-war movement in the United States and globally in solidarity with those who
3 are campaigning for democratic rights and against poverty, corruption, and ethnic
4 division all over the world; NOW, THEREFORE,

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

6 Section 1. The Seattle City Council calls for de-escalation in the conflict between the
7 United States and Iran by all parties, recognizing that many residents of Seattle and the greater
8 Seattle region have close ties of family, love, and friendship with people in Iran and that peace-
9 loving people around the world have no desire to see armed conflicts escalate in any location.

10 Section 2. The Seattle City Council opposes war with Iran. The Seattle City Council
11 urges the United States Congress to support legislation to prevent further military escalation with
12 Iran along with legislation to defend the democratic rights of people at the border, and requests
13 that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate this position to the Washington
14 State Congressional delegation.

15 Section 3. The Seattle City Council calls for an end to the targeting of Iranian Americans
16 for detention and questioning at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine, Washington. The
17 Seattle City Council calls on the Department of Homeland Security to respect the democratic
18 civil rights of all, regardless of country of origin, and urges the Port of Seattle to remain steadfast
19 in the implementation of the Welcoming Port Policy it adopted in May 2018 and publicly oppose
20 these injustices. The Seattle City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations
21 communicate this position to the Washington State congressional delegation and to the Port
22 Commission of the Port of Seattle.


1 Section 4. The Seattle City Council reaffirms the importance of promoting people-to-
2 people diplomacy espoused by Sister Cities International and like-minded organizations, and
3 frameworks that advocate for citizen diplomacy and city diplomacy to be fostered so as to build
4 the foundations on which peace and stability between nations can grow and flourish.
5

1 Adopted by the City Council the 21st day of January, 2020,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 21st day of
3 January, 2020.

4 

5 President Pro Tem of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 21st day of January, 2020.

7 

8 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)