

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION ~~expressing the Seattle~~affirming The City Council's opposition of Seattle's support for its local Iranian-American and Iranian-immigrant communities, recognizing the importance of people-to-people diplomacy at the ~~Trump administration's~~ local level, calling for a de-escalation ~~toward war within 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.

..body

~~WHEREAS, 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 Iranian-American, Iranian-immigrant, and Persian-heritage community in Seattle, like many other communities, consists of inspiring residents who work every day to make our City a better place for all, and The City of Seattle appreciates the contributions of these communities to creating the kind of vibrant and diverse city where people want to live, learn, and work; 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 ~~U.S. bases in Iraq~~ on January 7, 2020; and

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

3 WHEREAS, the ~~U.S. wars~~United States war in Afghanistan, beginning in 2001, and in Iraq,
4 beginning in 2003, have not expanded ~~the~~ freedom, democracy, standards of living, or
5 safety ~~offor~~ ordinary people in the ~~Middle East; and have not~~middle east, nor increased the
6 safety of people in the ~~U.S.,~~United States, and instead caused massive loss of human life
7 and ongoing suffering in Afghanistan~~and,~~ Iraq, and among ~~U.S.~~United States soldiers;
8 and

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

13 WHEREAS, ~~there are reports of an~~ Iranian Americans reports being detained at the Seattle-
14 Tacoma International Airport; and

15 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council believes that it is unacceptable and contrary to Seattle’s
16 “welcoming city” policy for law enforcement to detain and question Seattle residents due
17 to their ethnic or national heritage; and

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

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

4 WHEREAS, on January 5, 2020, the Iraqi Parliament voted unanimously to expel all U.S.
5 military forces from Iraq, to which President Trump threatened, “If they do ask us to
6 leave, if we don’t do it in a very friendly basis, we will charge them sanctions like
7 they’ve never seen before ever^{22.1}” and

8 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2020, President Trump threatened on Twitter to strike targets,
9 “important to Iran & the Iranian culture^{22.1}” and

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

11 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Ro Khanna introduced
12 legislation, sponsored by Washington’s Senator Maria Cantwell, to block President
13 Trump from deploying any funding for military action against Iran without the approval
14 of Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, the U.S. ~~Congress is considering~~House of Representatives on January 9, 2020,
16 voted to approve a resolution ~~to direct~~aimed at restraining the President
17 pursuantPresident’s ability to ~~Section 5(c) of the 1973 War Powers Resolution to~~
18 ~~terminate the use of the Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or~~military action against
19 Iran without congressional approval; and

20 WHEREAS, ~~since World War I, Iran’s lucrative oil resources have been the target of imperialist~~
21 ~~intervention and international conflict; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, in 2019 working~~peace-loving people ~~in~~and global leaders alike are calling on
23 national governments for de-escalation in the conflict between the United States and Iran;

1 ~~Iraq; and Lebanon built mass movements against poverty, corruption, ethnic oppression,~~
2 ~~and authoritarian rule; however the threat of war with the U.S. has cut across momentum~~
3 ~~for that movement, and strengthened the authoritarian Iranian regime; and~~

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

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

13 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council believes that what is needed instead of war with Iran is a
14 mass anti-war movement in the U.S. United States and globally in solidarity with ~~the~~
15 ~~movements in Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon, those who are~~ campaigning for democratic rights
16 and against poverty, corruption, and ethnic division all over the world; NOW,

17 THEREFORE,

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

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

1 Section 2. The Seattle City Council opposes war with Iran, ~~and opposes military action~~
2 ~~that could lead to war~~. The Seattle City Council urges the United States Congress to support
3 legislation to prevent further military escalation with Iran along with legislation to defend the
4 democratic rights of people at the border, and requests that the Office of Intergovernmental
5 Relations communicate this position to the Washington State ~~congressional~~Congressional
6 delegation.

7 Section ~~2~~3. The Seattle City Council ~~expresses its outrage at~~calls for an end to the
8 targeting of Iranian Americans for detention and questioning at the Peace Arch Border Crossing
9 in Blaine, Washington, ~~and at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.~~ The Seattle City
10 Council ~~demands~~calls on the Department of Homeland Security to respect the democratic civil
11 rights of all, regardless of country of origin, and urges the Port of Seattle to remain steadfast in
12 the implementation of the Welcoming Port Policy it adopted in May 2018 and publicly oppose
13 these injustices. The Seattle City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations
14 communicate this position to the Washington State congressional delegation and to the Port
15 Commission of the Port of Seattle.

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