

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, 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 ~~U.S. bases in Iraq~~ ~~on~~ January 7, 2020; and

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

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

1 safety of people in the U.S., United States, and instead caused massive loss of human life
2 and ongoing suffering in Afghanistan ~~and~~ Iraq, 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 U.S., US citizens, at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine,
6 Washington, including Seattle residents and families with small children; and

7 WHEREAS, ~~there are reports of~~ Seattle resident Aram Falsafi, who is an Iranian Americans,
8 reports being detained at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on January 5, 2020;
9 and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, on January 5, 2020, the Iraqi Parliament voted unanimously to expel all U.S.
23 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^{22.1} and

3 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2020, President Trump threatened on Twitter to strike targets,
4 "important to Iran & the Iranian culture^{22.1}" 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. ~~Congress is considering~~House of Representatives on January 9, 2020,
11 voted to approve a resolution ~~to direct~~aimed at restraining the ~~President~~
12 ~~pursuant~~President's ability to ~~Section 5(c) of the 1973 War Powers Resolution to~~
13 ~~terminate the use of the Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or~~military action against
14 Iran without congressional approval; and

15 WHEREAS, ~~since World War I, Iran's lucrative oil resources have been the target of imperialist~~
16 ~~intervention and international conflict; and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, in 2019 working~~peace-loving people ~~in~~and global leaders alike are calling on
18 national governments for de-escalation in the conflict between the United States and Iran;
19 ~~Iraq; and Lebanon built mass movements against poverty, corruption, ethnic oppression,~~
20 ~~and authoritarian rule; however the threat of war with the U.S. has cut across momentum~~
21 ~~for that movement, and strengthened the authoritarian Iranian regime; and~~

22 WHEREAS, the Iranian American, Iranian immigrant, and Persian heritage communities in
23 Seattle, like many other communities, consists of inspiring residents who work every day

1 to make our city a better place for all and the City of Seattle appreciates the contributions
2 of those communities to creating the kind of city where people want to live, learn, work,
3 and prosper; and

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

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

12 THEREFORE,

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

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

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

1 Section ~~23~~. The Seattle City Council ~~expresses its outrage at~~calls for an end to the
2 targeting of Iranian Americans for detention and questioning at the Peace Arch Border Crossing
3 in Blaine, Washington,~~and at the Seattle Tacoma International Airport.~~ The Seattle City
4 Council ~~demand~~calls on the Department of Homeland Security to respect the democratic civil
5 rights of all, regardless of country of origin, and urges the Port of Seattle to remain steadfast in
6 the implementation of the Welcoming Port Policy it adopted in May 2018 and publicly oppose
7 these injustices. The Seattle City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations
8 communicate this position to the Washington State congressional delegation and to the Port
9 Commission of the Port of Seattle.

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

