

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS JOINTLY WITH  
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR 1

2 CITY COUNCIL  
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

4 ----- X

5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
8 JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON CIVIL  
SERVICE AND LABOR

9 ----- X

10 January 28, 2020  
11 Start: 1:09 p.m.  
12 Recess: 5:29 p.m.

13 HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

14 B E F O R E: Fernando Cabrera,  
15 Chairperson for Committee on  
16 Governmental Operations

17 I. Daneek Miller,  
18 Chairperson for Committee on Civil  
19 Service and Labor

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- 21 Ben Kallos
- 22 Alan N. Maisel
- 23 Bill Perkins
- 24 Keith Powers
- 25 Ydanis A. Rodriguez
- Kalman Yeger

3 A P P E A R A N C E S

4 Penny Abeywardena  
5 Commissioner for International Affairs at the  
6 Mayor's Office for International Affairs

7 Paul Ochoa  
8 First Deputy Director of City Legislative Affairs

9 Madida Kugema[SP?]  
10 Advisor for Lenape Center

11 Principal Man Ian Zabarte  
12 Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation

13 AL (SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF DWAIN PERRY)  
14 Ramapough Lenape Nation

15 Mira Gotegachie[SP?]  
16 Parents were survivors of the atomic bombing in  
17 Nagasaki

18 Frida Berrigan  
19 Kings Bay Plowshares

20 Elizabeth McAlister  
21 Kings Bay Plowshares

22 Joanne Kennedy  
23 Catholic Worker

24 Betty Reardon  
25 Founder of the International Institute on Peace  
Education

William Hartung  
Center for International Policy

Blaze Tepeus  
Resident of New York

Mary Yelenick  
Main Representative of the NGO Delegation to the  
United Nations of Pax Christi International

3 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

4 Brendan Fay  
5 New York City Divest Campaign and St. Pats for  
6 all

7 Maura Keane  
8 Amalgamated Bank

9 Alice Slater  
10 World Beyond War

11 Ray Acheson  
12 Women's International League for Peace and  
13 Freedom

14 Jacqueline Cabasso  
15 Mayors for Peace

16 Seth Shelden  
17 United Nations liaison for ICAN

18 Elaine Scarry  
19 Professor at Harvard

20 Jamie Bower  
21 Native New Yorker

22 Johnathan Granoff  
23 Senior Advisor to the Committee on National  
24 Security of the International Law Section of the  
25 American Bar Association

Michael Lent  
Chief Investment Officer and founding partner of  
Veris Wealth Partners

Tom Goggin  
Interim Chair of the U.S. Labor Against the War  
in New York City

Robert Kruncrist [SP?]  
Teacher at Jamaica in Queens for 20 years

Susan Schnall  
President of New York City Veterans for Peace

3 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

4 John Marigliano  
5 Local Aid 14

6 Tom Dwyer  
7 Retired Insurance Executive

8 Tarik Kalf[SP?]  
9 Member of Veterans for Peace New York

10 Emilie McGlone  
11 Director of Peace Boat US

12 Irena Chonch[SP?] on behalf of Linda Chapman

13 Jagela Conwell  
14 Reading the testimony on behalf of Yasuaki  
15 Amasheta{SP?}

16 Chin Why Wong  
17 Reading the testimony on behalf of Shigakosa  
18 Samorie[SP?]

19 Lena Gerow  
20 Reading the testimony on behalf of Ms. Setsuko  
21 Thurlow

22 Mitchie Takeuchi  
23 Resident

24 Rosemarie Pace  
25 Director of Pax Christi

Sally Jones  
Chair of Peace Action Fund of New York State

Anthony Donovan  
Hospice Nurse

Michael Gorbachev  
Production Designer

Reverend T.K. Nakagaki  
Buddhist Council of New York

3 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

4 Christian Ciobanu  
5 Representative of the Nuclear Age Peace  
6 Foundation

7 Jon Lipsky  
8 FBI retired

9 Donna Stein  
10 Member of the Board of Directors of Hudson River  
11 Sloop Clearwater

12 Bill Ofinawk[SP?]  
13 Reading a statement on behalf of Father Steve  
14 Kelly

15 Leslie Cagan  
16 Organizer in the Peace and Justice Movements

17 Heidi Hutner  
18 Professor at Stonebrook University, Strike for  
19 Peace

20 Lilly Adams  
21 Union of Concerned Scientist or UCS

22 Timmon Wallis  
23 Representing Nuclear Ban US

24 Vicki Elson  
25 Executive Director of the Treaty Awareness  
Campaign

Alfred Meyer  
Board Member of Physicians for Social  
Responsibility

Charles Johnson  
Program Director of International Physicians for  
the Prevention of Nuclear War

3 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

4 Molly Magenti[SP?]

5 Nuclear Program Assistant for the International  
6 Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War

7 Jasmine McKay

8 DJ Producer and Musical Artist

9 Rebecca Irby

10 Founder and Executive Director of PEAC Institute

11 Paul Miller; AKA DJ Spooky

12 Writer, Artist and Musician

13 Marie Noel

14 Lawyer, activist and Mother in Jackson Heights

15 Emily Rubino

16 Director of Policy and Outreach and Peace Action  
17 New York State

18 John Burroughs

19 Executive Director of the New York City Based  
20 lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

21 Cynthia Nevanski[SP?]

22 Film Maker

23 Molly Nolan

24 Retired professor of Cold War History at NYU

25 Michele Peppers

Ribbon International UN NGO

June Tano

Ribbon International UN NGO

Dr. Kathleen Sullivan

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: [GAVEL] Good afternoon. I  
3 am Council Member Fernando Cabrera; Chair of the  
4 Committee on Governmental Operations. Unfortunately,  
5 Council Member Daneek Miller; Chair of the Committee  
6 on Civil Services and Labor cannot be with us today  
7 but I am pleased to be joined by my colleague and  
8 good friend, Council Member Daniel Dromm who is the  
9 sponsor of today's legislation. And I'll just say  
10 off the notes, we wouldn't have this hearing today if  
11 it wasn't for you. Thank you for your leadership.

12 I would also like to acknowledge that we've been  
13 joined by Council Members, well, I'll let you do that  
14 part. I'll give you the honors.

15 Today, we will be hearing a bill and Resolution  
16 related to Nuclear Disarmament, both sponsored by  
17 Council Member Daniel Dromm. Nuclear Disarmament is  
18 the process of reducing and eradicating nuclear  
19 weapons while ensuring the countries without nuclear  
20 weapons are not equipped to develop them.

21 Introduction Number 1621 will create a nuclear  
22 disarmament and nuclear weapons free zone advisory  
23 committee to examine nuclear disarmament and issues  
24 related to reaffirming the city as a Nuclear Weapons  
25 Free Zone.

1  
2 So, in the Council, we have a very unique way, if  
3 you approve on something just – thank you so much.  
4 And issues related to a reaffirming, it will require  
5 that the Advisory Committee to conduct a  
6 comprehensive review of the city's current stance on  
7 nuclear weapons, issue certain recommendations  
8 related to educating about Nuclear Weapons Free Zones  
9 and establish a working definition for nuclear  
10 weapons free zones means for the city.

11 The advisory committee will be required to post  
12 online and submit five annual reports to the Mayor  
13 and Speaker of the Council and would be dissolved  
14 after the submission of the fifth report.

15 Resolution 976, calls on the New York City  
16 Comptroller to instruct the pension funds of public  
17 employees in New York City to divest from and avoid  
18 any financial exposure to companies involved in the  
19 production and maintenance of nuclear weapons,  
20 reaffirming New York City as a Nuclear Weapons Free  
21 Zoning, and join the ICAN Cities Appeal calling on  
22 the United States to support and join the Treaty on  
23 the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

24 Before I turn to Council Member Dromm to speak  
25 further on his bill and resolution, I would like to



1  
2 thank the Committee Staff who worked on this hearing.  
3 Emily Forgione, Elizabeth Kronk, Daniel Collins,  
4 Sebastian Bacchi, Nuzhat Chowdhury, Kevin Kotowski  
5 and Kendall Stephenson and my own Legislative  
6 Director Claire McLeveighn.

7 With that, I would like to turn it over to the  
8 champion here today to Council Member Dromm.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much Chair  
10 Cabrera and I want to really thank you for agreeing  
11 to have this hearing. This is of vital importance  
12 and I definitely appreciate you working with me on  
13 this. Thank you very, very much.

14 So, good afternoon everyone. I am Council Member  
15 Daniel Dromm and I will be Co-Chairing this hearing  
16 for the Committee on Civil Service and Labor in place  
17 of I. Daneek Miller, the regular Chair of the  
18 Committee.

19 I'd like to thank my Co-Chair Fernando Cabrera  
20 and welcome everyone to today's hearings. We've been  
21 joined by Council Member Bill Perkins, Council  
22 Member, oh my gosh, Kalman Yeger, I'm so sorry Kalman  
23 for blanking my mind out. Council Member Farah  
24 Louis, Council Member Adrienne Adams.

1  
2 Okay, and I'd also like to acknowledge and  
3 welcome my colleagues, which I just did.

4 Today's hearing is on two pieces of legislation  
5 related to Nuclear Disarmament on which I am the  
6 Chief Sponsor. Intro. 1621 would create a nuclear  
7 disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Advisory  
8 Committee and Resolution Number 976 calls on the New  
9 York City Comptroller to instruct the pension funds  
10 of public employees in New York City to divest and  
11 avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in  
12 the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons.  
13 Reaffirms New York City as a Nuclear Weapons Free  
14 Zone, joins us in the ICAN Cities Appeal and calls on  
15 the United States to join the Treaty on the  
16 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

17 "Nuclear Disarmament" is the term that is for the  
18 process of reducing and eradicating nuclear weapons  
19 while ensuring tht countries without nuclear weapons  
20 are not equipped to develop them. Interestingly, the  
21 scientists who were instrumental in the creation of  
22 the first atomic bomb from the Manhattan Project,  
23 were the first people to call for nuclear  
24 disarmament, as they saw the true potential of  
25 nuclear weapons and the devastating outcomes that

1 could result. In the waning days of the Second World  
2 War, 70 scientists, including Albert Einstein signed  
3 the Szilard Petition, which urged President Roosevelt  
4 to not use the bomb on Japan. However, this petition  
5 never reached the president, and on August 6 and 9<sup>th</sup>,  
6 1945, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on  
7 Japan, forever changing the world and sparking  
8 international support for nuclear disarmament.  
9

10 Since then, the frightening prospects of nuclear  
11 annihilation hungover and continues to hang over the  
12 world. During much of the cold War, the problem was  
13 largely bilateral, the Soviets and the Americans were  
14 the two superpowers that possessed nuclear arms in  
15 large numbers. Over time, a limited number of other  
16 nations joined this contemptable club.

17 Now, the specter of nuclear weapons is even  
18 scarier. We have a world leader namely the very  
19 stable generous sitting in the White House whose  
20 erratic tweets seem to encourage a nuclear arms race.  
21 Moreover, there is the very real concern that non-  
22 state actors such as terrorists groups will gain  
23 access to this deadly technology.

24 New York City should be leading the way for its  
25 own sake as well as the rest of the world. The core

1 questions then become, what can we do to end the  
2 investment of City Pension Funds in the institutions  
3 that support the production and sale of nuclear arms.  
4

5 Resolution 976 answers this by calling for the  
6 divestment of such funds. The follow up question is,  
7 how can we move forward to ensure our city does all  
8 it can to address nuclear proliferation? Intro. 1621  
9 answers this by establishing a committee to convene  
10 the sharpest minds to focus on the city's role in one  
11 of the most pressing issues of our time.

12 Today's hearing brings together some of the top  
13 advocates working in the field, including the Nobel  
14 Prize winning International Coalition to abolish  
15 nuclear weapons, to discuss the questions, why is New  
16 York City invested in its own destruction and what  
17 are we going to do about it? The city's commitment  
18 to divest from private prisons and fossil fuels  
19 certainly helps point the way forward on this  
20 context.

21 I look forward to the day when the city will not  
22 only divest but also engage in proactive efforts to  
23 help tackle the existential threat posed by nuclear  
24 weapons. In addition to the Government Operations  
25 Committee staff, I would particularly like to thank

1 the Civil Service and Labor Committee staff who  
2 helped prepare for this hearing. Nuzhat Chowdhury,  
3 Kevin Kotowski and Kendall Stephenson and thank you.  
4

5 With that, I now want to read a statement from  
6 Chair I. Daneek Miller, whose place I am taking  
7 today. So, from I. Daneek Miller; while Council  
8 Member Miller could not be here today, this statement  
9 and Introduction 1621 and Resolution 976 expresses  
10 his sentiments.

11 Last week we celebrated the life and  
12 accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our  
13 office held our annual celebration honoring his  
14 legacy at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center and in  
15 preparing my remarks, I was reminded of Dr. King's  
16 teaching on war and nuclear weapons.

17 For Dr. King, nuclear proliferation was deeply  
18 problematic on two fronts. The funding of atomic  
19 weapons he argued was a kin to robbing society of  
20 resources that could be otherwise used to uplift  
21 society. Dr. King warned that the catastrophic  
22 consequences a nuclear war could bring. Speaking on  
23 nuclear proliferation concerning the Freedom  
24 Movement, he stated that the two issues are tied  
25 together in many, many ways and noted that it would

1  
2 be rather absurd to work to get schools and lunch  
3 counters integrated and not be concerned about the  
4 survival of a world in which to integrate.

5 Now more than ever, we remember Dr. King's  
6 teachings as we face a world where nuclear weapons  
7 are still a looming treat and international relations  
8 are strained.

9 Introduction 1625 calls for the creation of a  
10 Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone  
11 Advisory Committee. This committee would serve as a  
12 valuable resource in the overarching goal of ending  
13 nuclear proliferation and the possibility of nuclear  
14 war.

15 Similarly, Resolution 976 would send a powerful  
16 message towards the goal of peace and nonviolence by  
17 calling for the pension funds of city employees to  
18 divest from companies that are involved in the  
19 production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. While  
20 the city must ensure a fully funded pension and must  
21 also reflect the values of the dedicated men and  
22 women that make up our workforce and the communities  
23 they represent.

24 As with the Council's past divestment programs  
25 relating to a partied and gun retailer stock. This

1 resolution makes a powerful statement that New York  
2 City stands on the side of peace.

3  
4 In Dr. King's sermon, loving your enemies, he  
5 said, it is an eternal reminder to a generation  
6 depending on nuclear and atomic energy, a generation  
7 depending on physical violence that love is the only  
8 creative redemptive transforming power in the  
9 universe. His words continue to ring true and we  
10 will continue to uplift his legacy in the Council.

11 I thank Council Member Dromm for his leadership  
12 and all my colleagues for the support of these two  
13 pieces of legislation.

14 And then finally, I would like to read a letter  
15 from Walter Naegle; the partner of Bayard Rustin.

16 Dear esteemed New York City Council. I am  
17 writing in memory of my late partner Bayard Rustin to  
18 urge the New York City Council to pass Resolution  
19 0976 and Intro. 1621 in support of the Treaty on the  
20 prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and divestment from  
21 the nuclear industry.

22 Bayard, a long time New Yorker, is mainly known  
23 as a civil rights activist and the organizer of the  
24 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He  
25 had a long history of involvement with a variety of

1  
2 social justice issues, including economic justice,  
3 immigrant and refugee affairs and LGBT rights.

4       During the Koch Administration, he testified  
5 twice before the New York City Council in support of  
6 laws protecting the LGBTQ community. His work  
7 against militarism and atomic nuclear weapons began  
8 in the 1940's with the American Friends Service  
9 Committee. He traveled the country speaking out  
10 against militarism and the dangers of the arms race.  
11 Learning of the destruction of Hiroshima Nagasaki, he  
12 reflected on the threat that such awesome power posed  
13 to human survival.

14       In the late 1950's, he was arrested not far from  
15 these chambers, when he refused to take shelter  
16 during an air raid drill. Joining Dorothy Day and  
17 other peace activists, he remained in City Hall Park  
18 during a time of mandatory evacuation to underground  
19 shelters.

20       Working with the British Committee for Non-  
21 violent Action, he helped organize a delegation to  
22 travel to the Algerian Sahara to protest French  
23 testing of an atomic bomb in 1959. He marched with  
24 the campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from London  
25 England after addressing a crowd at Trafalgar Square.



1  
2 In 1964, he spoke here at an anti-Vietnam War  
3 Rally on the anniversary of the destruction of  
4 Hiroshima. Were he here with us today, I know he  
5 would be urging the New York City Council to move  
6 forward on these initiatives. Walter Naegle New  
7 York, New York.

8 So, thank you Walter for that and we're going to  
9 have that in the testimony obviously and with that,  
10 I'm going to ask Council to swear in the  
11 Administration.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Please raise your right hand. Do  
13 you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and  
14 nothing but the truth in your testimony before the  
15 Committee and to respond honestly to Council Member  
16 questions?

17 PANEL: I do.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: You may begin.

19 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Thank you. Well, good  
20 afternoon Chair Cabrera, Council Member Dromm and  
21 members of the Committees. I am Penny Abeywardena;  
22 Commissioner for International Affairs at the Mayor's  
23 Office for International Affairs.

24 I would like to thank the Council for the  
25 opportunity to testify regarding Introduction 1621,

1  
2 which would create a Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear  
3 Weapons Free Zone Advisory Committee.

4       The New York City Mayor's Office for  
5 International Affairs is responsible for fostering  
6 positive relations and encouraging collaborations  
7 between the international community and New York City  
8 agencies and local neighborhoods. Our work involves  
9 sharing New York City policies and best practices  
10 globally and maximizing the benefits that New Yorkers  
11 get from having the United Nations and the largest  
12 diplomatic corps in the world present within their  
13 boroughs.

14       We created and continue to run the New York City  
15 Junior Ambassadors program, bringing youth across the  
16 five boroughs into the U.N. and the U.N. into their  
17 neighborhoods. In 2018, we led the effort to make  
18 New York City the first city in the world to report  
19 directly to the United Nations on the sustainable  
20 development goals.

21       In addition, my office works diligently to ensure  
22 that our city remains a strong voice around the  
23 world, showcasing the importance of subnational  
24 leadership on issues that matter to the City of New  
25 York and to New Yorkers.

1 Locally, we respond to requests from foreign  
2 governments, the United Nations and the U.S.  
3 Department of State. International Affairs also  
4 advises city agencies on diplomatic and consular  
5 matters and provides guidance to the diplomatic and  
6 consular community on city related issues.  
7

8 With the Department of Finance, International  
9 Affairs administers the City of New York, U.S.  
10 Department of State, Diplomatic and Consular parking  
11 program.

12 I would now like to acknowledge our strong  
13 support for nuclear disarmament and nuclear  
14 nonproliferation. As I am sure you are aware in July  
15 of 2017, the United Nations General Assembly passed  
16 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and  
17 in that same year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee  
18 awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the International  
19 Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.

20 My office has not been involved with this work,  
21 but they are certainly both important advancements  
22 that we applaud. While we are supportive of the goal  
23 of nuclear weapons free New York City, we have strong  
24 concerns about the proposed bill as currently  
25 constituted and our ability to meet the requirements.

3 As we understand it, the legislation proposes  
4 that I Chair an Advisory Committee whose function  
5 would be to examine nuclear disarmament and issues  
6 related to recognizing and reaffirming New York City  
7 as a nuclear weapons free zone.

8 This bill would also require the Advisory  
9 Committee to one; conduct a comprehensive review of  
10 New York City's current stance on nuclear weapons and  
11 the process of recognizing and reaffirming the city  
12 as a nuclear weapons free zone. Two; establish a  
13 working definition for how a nuclear weapons free  
14 zone might be defined in New York City. Three;  
15 recommend mechanisms for encouraging and increasing  
16 community input with the regard to education related  
17 to the nuclear weapons free zone. And four;  
18 recommend or host discussions, public programs and  
19 other educational initiatives.

20 These activities are primarily focused on the  
21 specific context of New York City and its stance on,  
22 need for, and current status visa nuclear weapons.  
23 The presence of nuclear weapons in New York City is  
24 not an international issue. The use of nuclear  
25 weapons is generally thought of as a matter of

foreign policy and national security considered by the federal government and foreign countries.

City's where weapons might be located would not have jurisdiction or involvement in this decision making process. The presence of nuclear weapons in New York City, is also not a matter of cooperation between New York City and foreign governments. Where and how such weapons are stored is instead an intergovernmental question between local, state and federal official.

International Affairs would not expect to be involved in any decision as to whether nuclear weapons are purchased or stored in New York City. Further, we do not have staff members with nuclear expertise or experience in the topic area. As such, International Affairs is not best positioned to take stock of New York City's nuclear status as it currently exists. Nor to make suggestions regarding how best to interface with stakeholders to negotiate a nuclear weapons free zone moving forward.

The mandate of this bill as currently stated, would require strong interagency and public coordination capacities that International Affairs does not possess due to the scope of my offices

1  
2 remit. While International Affairs is not best  
3 suited to effectuate the requirements of this bill,  
4 we continue to share the Council's commitment to  
5 ensuring that New York City is a nuclear weapons free  
6 zone.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on  
8 today's topic. I'm happy to answer any questions.

9 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much  
10 Commissioner. We're debating who will go first, we  
11 just love to be courteous towards one another. Let  
12 me just begin talking about Council Member Dromm's  
13 bill. In your estimation, what would be the cost of  
14 this Advisory Board if we were to put it into place?

15 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The cost of this Advisory  
16 Board, unfortunately I do not know. I don't have the  
17 expertise and we don't have the expertise in our  
18 office to identify what the cost would be in terms of  
19 securing the appropriate people to be on this.

20 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Can you hire someone with  
21 the expertise? A consultant that would help you put  
22 the advisory -

23 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, that's a  
24 great question. This is not about, and my testimony  
25 is not just about resources. It's about the fact

1  
2 that this bill is an intercity domestic bill and does  
3 not fit within the remit or the scope of  
4 International Affairs.

5 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, I want to go through,  
6 just briefly the arguments that you made. Why the  
7 Administration is not onboard with this bill and  
8 especially in relations to this Advisory Board.

9 Let me just jump at one of them, what I just  
10 heard you mention, basically that you don't have the  
11 staff members with nuclear expertise or experience on  
12 this topic. I have to tell you; I was fortunate  
13 right here in the Council to be part of a task force.  
14 Myself and now Public Advocate Jumaane Williams for  
15 the Cure Violence. Though I have worked with gang  
16 members for many years, I do not consider myself an  
17 expert, neither did he. That was the whole point of  
18 having the task force. The point is, we don't have  
19 the expertise but the expertise especially in New  
20 York City, we're very fortunate to have the expertise  
21 right here onboard. We have accessibility to it to  
22 make it happen. The whole point is, is that we don't  
23 have the expertise.

24 So, I don't think that argument that you have  
25 right there holds a lot of float in terms of, we

1 don't have the expertise and then, very easily we  
2 could hire somebody or you could have the task force  
3 just like we did. We had somebody to be the  
4 Chairman, the Vice Chair, we put it altogether, it  
5 took 18 months. This is a five year process and then  
6 come back with some suggestion - I just don't see  
7 what it would hurt. It's not a heavy lift.

9 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, I appreciate  
10 what you're saying. First, I want to be very clear,  
11 the Administration is very much on board with the  
12 non-nuclear New York City and we support the nature  
13 of this bill.

14 Again, it is about and again, I really want to  
15 reaffirm that we want to support on partner on this  
16 effort but the way the bill is currently constituted,  
17 International Affairs is not the appropriate agency  
18 to take the lead on this because this is  
19 fundamentally a domestic activity.

20 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, then let's switch it  
21 over to Governmental Operations. I mean, somebody in  
22 the city should be able to manage something that to  
23 be honest with you, doesn't take a whole lot of  
24 leadership because we already have the leadership  
25 here. This is just all about coordinating setting a



1 time where they could get together. It's not that  
2 complicated. I mean, it really isn't and you made a  
3 really good point as to how the Administration is on  
4 board with all the Treaties that you mentioned but I  
5 just don't see a congruency with the next step.  
6

7 And to me, it would seem that the next step would  
8 be in light of the fact that we are concerned and we  
9 are at a target, New York City. I mean, how many of  
10 us have had nightmares? I know I have had nightmares  
11 of New York City going on fire. I mean, I'm sure,  
12 many, many people have. It's just consciously it's  
13 in our mind and having been and working in 9-1-1 and  
14 going through that whole trauma that we all went  
15 through, especially those of us that were first  
16 responders there. We're very concerned about this  
17 piece.

18 So, this is why - honestly, I thought I was going  
19 to come in today and we're going to say, Danny Dromm,  
20 Council Member five star, thank you for your  
21 leadership. We're on board.

22 So, I hope that you can go back to the Deputy  
23 Mayor and to the Mayor and to have reconsideration  
24 and if it's Government Operations, you know, I Chair  
25 Government Operations; I will be more than willing to

1 work with the wonderful staff that you have in  
2 Government Operations.  
3

4 So, please, if we could have that dialogue. The  
5 other question I was going to mention and then I'm  
6 going to pass it on to Council Member Dromm, because  
7 I know he has quite a few questions is, in regards to  
8 prepared we are in case an unfortunate event; if we  
9 were to have for example, a dirty bomb right here in  
10 New York City. I am very concerned about that.

11 You know, I've been to Israel, I've been to about  
12 30 countries and when you go to some other countries,  
13 you visit the hospitals which I had an opportunity to  
14 go there with the governmental staff. They have  
15 dedicated systems in their hospitals. For example,  
16 an independent way of non-connect the sources of  
17 water to decontaminate people in case that and the  
18 unfortunate, God for bid that we ever have that  
19 experience but they seem to be more prepared. I was  
20 talking to somebody earlier how we have less than one  
21 percent of our beds are able to handle burn traumas  
22 and during this critical incidents.

23 How can we prepare, the Administration, prepare  
24 themselves and you know, just like we have Corona  
25 virus. China was totally caught off guard by that.

1  
2 How prepared are we in light of the facts that I just  
3 presented?

4 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yeah, and Council Member it's  
5 a great point that you make. I am not aware of the  
6 response to have that. I believe it's NYPD's counter  
7 terrorism or OCME would be better suited to respond  
8 to that question.

9 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Well, I know the Chief, he  
10 was an inspector in my district, I definitely have  
11 that dialogue but we also have to talk to city  
12 hospitals.

13 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: To be prepared and it's not  
15 that difficult to have these water tanks to be  
16 installed to have the water ready and God forbid, if  
17 it is something localized. Something that will cover  
18 20 blocks easily and will have detrimental effects in  
19 the city.

20 I have some other questions but I'll come back  
21 later because I'm really, to be honest with you, very  
22 anxious to hear my Co-Chair for today, the questions  
23 that he has online. Thank you so much and thank you  
24 so much again Council Member Dromm for your  
25 leadership.

1 Thank you, Commissioner.

2  
3 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Chair Cabrera. I want  
4 to say we've been joined by Council Members  
5 Rodriguez, Moya and Powers and let me just start off  
6 by saying, I don't think anyone could survive a  
7 nuclear attack in New York City.

8 So, I think that this is an issue of major  
9 importance here in the city. I would also disagree  
10 with you respectfully, that this legislation is about  
11 a domestic issue on an international issue, a  
12 domestic bill on an international issue. So, I'm  
13 surprised that the Administration is not supporting  
14 it. You know, last week, I think we passed  
15 legislation where there was an agreement minimally on  
16 fossil fuels. And prior to that, I think there was  
17 something on private prisons as well.

18 Fossil fuels would also require international  
19 work as well. Was your office involved in that at  
20 all?

21 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: With the — repeat that.

22 CO-CHAIR DROMM: With the carbon fuels agreement  
23 that the Mayor announced last week?

24 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: No, and I think that's a  
25 perfect example. The lead on C40's, the Divestment

1  
2 Network, is our climate team. What International  
3 Affairs does is take that work and those partnerships  
4 they have with coalitions like C40 and then we  
5 amplify it to the global community through the United  
6 Nations.

7 So, again, the Administration is supportive of  
8 the nature of this bill but the way that it is  
9 currently constituted, it puts International Affairs  
10 as the lead and we just believe that this is an  
11 intercity bill that should be in another entity  
12 around the city.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, Commissioner, has this Mayor  
14 done any work on nuclear divestment?

15 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: On nuclear divestment? I do  
16 not know the response to that and I could get back to  
17 you on that.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: I would think coming into this  
19 hearing, the Administration would have prepared you  
20 on that to be honest and I would think that as the  
21 Commissioner for International Affairs, since this is  
22 such an important and vital issue, we would have  
23 information on that.

24 So, even if you argue that it shouldn't be in  
25 your jurisdiction, you know, it makes one wonder

1 where the Administrations priorities really are. I  
2 mean, I'm really shocked at that actually but what  
3 does MOIA do then exactly?  
4

5 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Mayor's Office of  
6 International Affairs?

7 CO-CHAIR DROMM: The Mayor's Office of  
8 International Affairs, yeah.

9 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: So, we really work on - New  
10 York City is host to the largest diplomatic corps in  
11 the world. We have the U.N., 193 permanent missions,  
12 116 consulates of different arms of foreign  
13 governments that work with our immigrant communities  
14 and about 70 International Trade Commissioners.

15 And so, we work partly on the operational. We  
16 administer the parking program, handle diplomatic  
17 incidents, the security issues, the U.N. General  
18 Assembly, which is our Superbowl in September but we  
19 also ensure that we make sure that New Yorkers get  
20 value. Council Member you sat on the Selection  
21 Committee for New York City Junior Ambassadors. But  
22 we make sure we take some of our most disconnected  
23 youth and bring them to the U.N., let them know how  
24 they are part of the global movement around issues  
25 related to climate or gender equity and then we ask

1  
2 them to go back into their neighborhoods and do  
3 something in that community.

4 So, one of my perfect examples is SD14, life  
5 under water. How are we cleaning up oceans from  
6 plastic, right. Our Junior Ambassadors in our  
7 neighborhoods, they are in the South Bronx, cleaning  
8 up the South Bronx river. That's how we're bringing  
9 New Yorkers to the global community and ensuring that  
10 the impact that's it's having, it's having at home.

11 So, we both do the programmatic, but the  
12 operational with a staff of 12.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Commissioner, do you know how  
14 many countries have signed on to the International  
15 Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons campaign for the  
16 implementation of the United Nations Nuclear Ban  
17 Treaty?

18 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I do not know that number.

19 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I mean, this is a big  
20 issue in the United Nations. Again, I'm surprised  
21 that you've come unprepared with that number. It's  
22 over 100 countries and again, I have to say, I'm  
23 disappointed that the Administration doesn't take  
24 this issue seriously.

25 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It's 122 sir.

1  
2 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yeah, well, okay. I mean, thank  
3 you staff but you know, it doesn't seem to be a  
4 priority Commissioner, is what I'm trying to get at  
5 and I understand your concern as Chair Cabrera has  
6 said, that you know, a task force could be set up.  
7 It's just a matter of a will and a matter of a budget  
8 perhaps. So, I want to ask a few questions around  
9 that issues as well.

10 So, what resources does the Mayor's Office of  
11 International Affairs would they need to implement  
12 1621?

13 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: And sir, that's a good  
14 question and it's not a question of just resources.  
15 This really is about the fundamental nature of the  
16 scope and the purview of the International Affairs  
17 Office and the way that the bill is currently  
18 constituted, it does not fall within the remit of our  
19 office.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, what office would you  
21 suggest it would be in?

22 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: And that's a great question.  
23 I don't know the capacity and the resources of the  
24 other entities around New York City and so, I  
25



1  
2 wouldn't be able to give you a good recommendation  
3 right now.

4 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, what would we have to do to  
5 make it within your purview?

6 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Well, it's not - the way that  
7 what you're looking to do in terms of the purpose of  
8 the bill, which is to make this a nuclear weapons  
9 free New York City. It will be assessing what is  
10 happening in New York City, which if fundamentally an  
11 intercity purpose, an intercity bill.

12 So, I don't know if there's a way for you to  
13 reconstitute this in a way that it would become  
14 International Affairs, because what the heart of the  
15 bill is trying to do around a non-nuclear New York  
16 City, does not deal with foreign governments. New  
17 York City dealing with foreign governments and that's  
18 fundamentally the purpose of my office.

19 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Do you acknowledge that nuclear  
20 disarmament, nuclear divestment is an international  
21 issue?

22 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It is an international issue,  
23 but it is also a domestic issue and this bill is  
24 specifically around the advisory committee, which we  
25

1  
2 believe does not fall within the scope of  
3 International Affairs.

4 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Again, Commissioner, it sounds  
5 very bureaucratic to me. Has your office convened  
6 any advisory committees in the past?

7 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: It has not.

8 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Anti-nuclear weapon  
9 organizations have successfully appealed to multiple  
10 American cities to formally call on the American  
11 government to support the Treaty on the Prohibition  
12 of Nuclear weapons. Has MOIA looked at what steps  
13 those American cities have taken to see if New York  
14 would also join such an appeal?

15 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We have not because we do not  
16 have the expertise within our office and again, that  
17 would be a domestic issue and we have not--

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, who makes the decision to  
19 send you? Was the decision to send you to today's  
20 hearing made on the basis of the fact that the task  
21 force would be put into your agency?

22 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yes, that is what I believe.

23 CO-CHAIR DROMM: And then the Administration  
24 didn't make an effort to have other people here?

1  
2 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I have my colleagues from the  
3 city with me.

4 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Who is here?

5 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: James from Intergovernmental  
6 Affairs and my team from International Affairs.

7 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, James, why don't you come  
8 up. So, who are the other two people? What do they  
9 do?

10 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Deputy Commissioner.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Your Deputy Commissioner.

12 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Sorry.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Your Deputy Commissioner.

14 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yeah, they're both in  
15 International Affairs sir.

16 CO-CHAIR DROMM: James, you got to do a better  
17 job preparing people for this type of a hearing.  
18 This is amazing to me.

19 How does the work proposed by Intro. 1621  
20 different from the work MOIA, your office and MOIA  
21 has done to commit the city to the principles of the  
22 Paris Climate Agreement.

23 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: So, that's an excellent  
24 question. What we have done is work with our climate  
25 team, who has been implementing the policy, creating

1 the policy around the Paris Climate Agreement. What  
2 we do is take their efforts and amplify it but we are  
3 not creating or implementing the policy in the way  
4 that Dan Zarrilli and Mark Chambers team did.  
5

6 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, who did that work prior to  
7 you being asked to disperse it or distribute it or  
8 you know?

9 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: To amplify it.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: To amplify it.

11 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Paris Agreement happened  
12 during the time of my tenure. I've been Commissioner  
13 since 2014 and we committed, New York City committed  
14 to the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017. So, it just  
15 fell within the work that we do.

16 CO-CHAIR DROMM: But when you say, we committed  
17 to it, you're saying who?

18 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: New York City did through the  
19 leadership of the Mayor's Office around response and  
20 resiliency.

21 CO-CHAIR DROMM: When Mayor de Blasio was the  
22 Mayor.

23 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Yes, he was.

24 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, so then, how is that  
25 different? If the Mayor wanted to make a commitment

1  
2 to nuclear divestment, how might that work if it was  
3 - is it his decision? And then it could come down to  
4 you to amplify it.

5 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: What ever the Administration  
6 does after it is centralized in a city agency, we  
7 would then work with them to ensure that that reaches  
8 the global audience.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, I think as a follow up to  
10 that, if Intro. 1621 would require the Advisory  
11 Committee to recommend or host discussions, public  
12 programs and other educational activities related to  
13 nuclear disarmament and the catastrophic consequences  
14 of nuclear weapons production, could your office,  
15 MOIA incorporate some of these initiatives into its  
16 current programming?

17 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We would absolutely love to  
18 work and support any advisory committee that gets  
19 convened around this to ensure that that happens.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, I think that the New York  
21 City Junior Ambassadors program, is that under your  
22 jurisdiction?

23 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: That is a program that  
24 International Affairs runs, yes.

1  
2 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, they work with you on  
3 connecting their local to global program for the  
4 diplomatic community. Can you describe that?

5 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Junior Ambassador  
6 program?

7 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yes.

8 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: The Junior Ambassador program  
9 takes, it's a partnership between DOE, DYCD, The  
10 United Nations to ensure that seventh graders learn  
11 about the sustainable development goals, get a  
12 connection to the United Nations, understand how  
13 they're part of a global movement and then they're  
14 asked to do a commitment to action in their  
15 community.

16 Our students and our educators select the  
17 sustainable development goal they want to focus on.  
18 Whether it's climate change or human trafficking,  
19 they select that topic, they learn more about it,  
20 connect to the global movement and then do something  
21 in our community.

22 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can you confirm now whether or  
23 not there are currently any nuclear weapons or  
24 components in New York City?

1  
2 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Sir, I do not know. That  
3 does not fall within the scope of my work.

4 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Is there another city agency  
5 besides yours that you think should be involved in  
6 advising. I asked that already on nuclear  
7 disarmament issues, but you can't name any.

8 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I just don't know the  
9 capacity in terms of this bill, but for the question  
10 that you just asked about whether there are nuclear  
11 weapons, I would say an NYPD Counter terrorism or the  
12 office for OCME.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I'm going to stop here for  
14 a moment and then I'm going to let some colleagues  
15 ask questions. We've been joined by Council Member  
16 Kallos and Maisel and I'm going to turn to Council  
17 Member Rodriguez.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I think that if you  
19 look at the faces of everyone here in the audience,  
20 all you get to see a thousand more years of people  
21 advocating, organizing for peace.

22 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: People that organize  
24 against nuclear weapons. People that organize when  
25 this country took us to fight unnecessary war you

1 know, the Persian Gulf, they work for oil and this  
2 time around this guy who no doubt is crazy,  
3 disseminating fear in the nation and the whole world  
4 by declaring the war in Iran, they put the whole city  
5 and the whole nation in danger.

7 So, I feel that we have a big responsibility.  
8 This conversation is not happening in the Midwest,  
9 it's not happening in other places but in the City of  
10 the New York that historically being led in the  
11 movement for peace for nuclear weapons. And I think  
12 the least this Administration could do and if we  
13 didn't do it when Mayor de Blasio was part of the  
14 solidarity movement or the Sandinistas Nicaragua was  
15 part of the movement against nuclear weapons. So,  
16 who would do that?

17 And I think that creating this advisory and  
18 Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Weapons Free Zone  
19 Advisory Committee is a must. For my daughters 13  
20 and 6, for our childrens and for the grandchildren.  
21 We live in fear. How does New York take the trains.  
22 When we take the trains, we want to move fast from  
23 Time Square, from the water center.

24 We don't want to be in a place with 100,000 more  
25 people because we know that this is about when. We



1 know that we have created with affording a fair  
2 policy, that unfortunately has created enemy  
3 throughout the world.  
4

5 What we have today is a lot of expertise. So, we  
6 had the Manhattan Project made here in our borough  
7 that unfortunately produced a bomb that killed  
8 millions of people. We have those institutions from  
9 Columbia School, NYU. With top scientists doing  
10 research, experts in this field. Yes, we have  
11 experts here in the City of New York and as a city,  
12 from the NYPD, create level of collaboration. We  
13 have the FBI, we have the CIA. We cannot wait for  
14 the crazy guy in this city to protect us and whoever  
15 is on his side.

16 Yes, we are a progressive city and we need to be  
17 a progressive city by action and we are not talking  
18 about taking away their resources, interfering with  
19 their foreign policy. We are saying lets create an  
20 advisory board and I think there's nothing on this  
21 legislation led by my colleague Council Member Dromm  
22 and of course, we also have the other legislation  
23 resolution for another hearing to move the money.  
24 You know, foreign weapons to social services and I  
25 hope that the Administration will be in our side.

3 So, I just want to encourage you know, the  
4 office, I know that we were there together last year,  
5 have to be more than putting an event together. Has  
6 to be more than yes, bringing the students together.  
7 It has to be more than meeting with celebrity, has to  
8 be more than meeting with the dignitary. That  
9 office, I hope in the next two years, is taking  
10 another approach with the resources that we need for  
11 you to have the necessary staff and the vision for  
12 the City of New York, we are in danger and we are not  
13 waiting for Washington DC to protect New York City.  
14 We need to take our own action and this action means  
15 creating this advisory board.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: I have one last quick  
18 question in light of the fact that there's a great  
19 article that came out this week that the Doomsday  
20 Clock we're down to first time. I believe to 17  
21 seconds. So, I have to prob here a little bit.

22 Did you have a discussion with the Deputy Mayor  
23 regarding this hearing today?

24 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I did not.  
25

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Did not, so, who did you have a conversation with regarding this hearing today?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: With IGA and with my staff.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: And your staff. Was there any moment where the discussion – did anybody come up with the question of, if it's not appropriate in your estimation, not to come to your agency, which other agency should it go to?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: We did not discuss that because the nature of this work, it is really about assessing where expertise, where resources, capacity exists and I do not know that and neither did the people that I spoke with. So, I am not prepared to answer that.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Do the agencies talk to one another?

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: It's kind of rhetorical question.

PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, I mean, I'm surprised nobody said hey, you know, this is a great idea. Council Member Dromm came out with a fantastic bill

1  
2 that is congruent with our policy and vision for the  
3 city, maybe this should go to Government Operation,  
4 lets give them a call.

5 Nobody come up with that question?

6 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Unfortunately, no.

7 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Would you be after today's  
8 hearing, contacting – who will you be contacting  
9 after this hearing today?

10 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I mean I will absolutely  
11 speak with my colleagues. Again, we are very  
12 supportive of the nature of this bill and I believe  
13 International Affairs wants to work and support. I  
14 hope we will be in touch with each other to figure  
15 out how we can support this after this hearing.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, your estimation, this  
17 bill makes sense, you just don't seem it deemed  
18 appropriate to be under your watch?

19 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Only because the way that  
20 this bill is written and the purpose of it is not  
21 within the remit of International Affairs.

22 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: At what point, if it was  
23 rewritten, would it be under your supervision, watch?

24 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I don't think that the nature  
25 of what it is trying to achieve would fall within

1 International Affairs because it's fundamentally  
2 about what is happening in New York City and I  
3 believe that another entity could take this on in  
4 International Affairs wants to collaborate and  
5 support that effort.  
6

7 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: But you do believe that it  
8 should go to for example, Government Operations?

9 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I don't have an opinion on  
10 that because again, I don't know what they are able  
11 to do.

12 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Okay, do you believe there  
13 should be an agency taking over it, correct?

14 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: A city entity should be the  
15 appropriate place for this.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Okay, thank you so much.  
17 I'll turn it back to my Co-Chair.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: So, we're going to go to Council  
19 Member Kallos for an opening first statement. He has  
20 joined us now, but before that, I want to say.  
21 Coming into this hearing, this is why I'm  
22 disappointed with the Administration, we have a veto  
23 proof majority on both of these pieces of  
24 legislation. So, we intend in the Council to pass  
25 them. Whether the Mayor is on board or not and so,

1  
2 to come in here and not have paid this as much as  
3 attention as I think they should have, especially  
4 when we have a veto proof majority is a very bad move  
5 on the part of the Administration, especially for one  
6 that considers itself to be progressive.

7 So, regardless of whether or not you feel it  
8 should be in your committee or it should be in your  
9 agency or another agency, because we have the veto  
10 proof majority, I can pretty much assure you, we'll  
11 move forward on it.

12 Council Member Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to Governmental  
14 Operations Chair Cabrera and Finance Chair Dromm for  
15 leading this amazing hearing. I'm Council Member Ben  
16 Kallos; I would like to just thank my good friend and  
17 colleague Danny Dromm for calling on the Council and  
18 being the lead sponsor. That the City should take  
19 this bold action against the nuclear disarmament and  
20 nuclear divestment.

21 Just a few weeks ago, the bulletin of atomic  
22 scientist which take stock of the treats posed by  
23 nuclear war on climate change each year, moved the  
24 doomsday clock to 100 seconds before midnight. We  
25 are now measuring how close the world is to

1 catastrophe in seconds, not hours or even minutes.

2 It is the closest to doomsday we have ever been since  
3 the clock was created in 1947. More than 13 Nobel  
4 laureates issued a statement that humanity is facing  
5 two simultaneous existential threats, those being  
6 climate change and nuclear war.  
7

8 The current White House has made it a point to  
9 not only eviscerate current Treaties and regulations  
10 but to also ignore and undermine the international  
11 mechanisms for collaboration. With the United States  
12 exit from the Paris Agreement and the Iran Nuclear  
13 deal, it is clear that the current president does not  
14 care about the imminent threat to our future.

15 I am proud to be a coprime sponsor since  
16 introduction for Introduction 1621 and Reso. 976.  
17 Intro. 1621 creates an Advisory Committee to examine  
18 a nuclear disarmament and issue related to  
19 reaffirming the city as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.  
20 The City declared this back in 1983 and I hope we can  
21 pass the bill quickly and reaffirm our declaration  
22 once again.

23 I'd like to again thank Danny for his leadership  
24 on this. I'd also like to thank the advocates who  
25 have been tireless in their efforts, including Nobel

2 Laureate Ray and the other members of the  
3 International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons,  
4 particularly for letting me hold their Nobel Prize.  
5 I think that is the closest I will ever get to  
6 holding a Nobel Prize.

7 So, I guess, my question to Commissioner Penny  
8 is, have you ever held a Nobel Prize?

9 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: I have not and I'm a little  
10 jealous that you have.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: That is good. So, my  
12 offer on behalf of my friends, the Nobel Laureates,  
13 and I can't believe I get to say that is, if you can  
14 help us find a home and an agency to make this  
15 happen, we will let you hold and pose with a Nobel  
16 Prize.

17 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Indeed, thank you Council  
18 Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: In all seriousness, I  
20 just look forward to working with you to find the  
21 right agency, whether it's the Mayor's Office of  
22 Operations, they call them selves OPS, I call them  
23 MOO, either way, I think that we can work together to  
24 find the right place to convene this and again, I  
25



1  
2 want to thank the Chairs for moving this forward and  
3 thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Would you like to speak?

5 PAUL OCHOA: Yeah, Council Member, this is Paul  
6 Ochoa, First Deputy Director of City Legislative  
7 Affairs.

8 CO-CHAIR DROMM: We going to swear you in. Just  
9 hold on one second.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Please raise your right hand. Do  
11 you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and  
12 nothing but the truth in your testimony before this  
13 Committee and to respond honestly to Council Member  
14 questions?

15 PAUL OCHOA: I do. Council Member, thank you so  
16 much for holding this hearing. I just want to  
17 clarify for the record that this is not a  
18 controversial bill. We support it, if you want to  
19 move it next Monday on the Aging, we're there. I  
20 think all we're saying is we just have to find the  
21 right home. It is not uncommon for us to come in and  
22 support the intent of the bills and then negotiating  
23 the details after the hearing.

24 I figured that we could clarify that point.  
25

1  
2 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, my disappointment is just  
3 that I don't feel that the Administration was as  
4 prepared as they should have been to answer some of  
5 these questions and we look forward though to  
6 negotiating this as we move forward.

7 PAUL OCHOA: Absolutely, and we'll do a better  
8 job at communicating with staff to bring the right  
9 agencies, I think. We can absolutely do that.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Paul, I you know, have  
12 great respect for you. What I advise is for next  
13 time that these discussions take place before we get  
14 here.

15 PAUL OCHOA: Of course.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Come with recommendations  
17 and say hey, we'll transfer it to this agency or  
18 department. That way we can move rather quickly and  
19 expedite with this bill.

20 PAUL OCHOA: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: We appreciate you coming  
22 and clarifying.

23 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, I hate to be too tough but  
24 I have to be sometimes, especially when a legislation  
25 is important to me, but I do thank you for coming in

1 and for giving testimony and we look forward to  
2 working with you as we move forward. Thank you very  
3 much  
4

5 PENNY ABEYWARDENA: Council Member, thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, we're going to call our  
7 next panel up. And the next panel will be and pardon  
8 if I mispronounce the name. Madida Kugema from the  
9 Lenape Center, Ian Zabarte Western Bands of the  
10 Shoshone Nation of Indians, Chief Dwaine Perry from  
11 the Ramapough Lenape Nation, is Mira Gotegachie[SP?]  
12 from Hebaca[SP?] Shaw Stories.

13 Okay, I just want to remind everyone that we are  
14 going to give all those presenting testimony today,  
15 two minutes to present testimony.

16 And if you have a written testimony, please give  
17 it to the Sergeant at Arms and then they will  
18 distribute it to us.

19 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: You could begin, thank you.

20 MADIDA KUGEMA: Good afternoon, my name is Madida  
21 Kugema[SP?] and I am an Advisor for Lenape Center  
22 representing the federally recognized peoples  
23 indigenist New York City. I have been asked to  
24 deliver a land welcome and a message on behalf of the  
25 organization today.

3 [SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGE 1:21:18-1:21:30]

4 We are glad because you people came to Lenape,  
5 live well why you are here.

6 I quote, New York City sits at the heart of  
7 Lenapehoking. It has always been the home of the  
8 peace makers and the grandfathers, The Lenape. In  
9 continuing our responsibility towards our values of  
10 peace making, balance, respecting mother earth and  
11 respecting all life and all peoples, we do not want  
12 to witness the life sustaining energies of  
13 Lenapehoking to be utilized for the propagation of  
14 destructive weapons.

15 We, at the Lenape Center, led by Co-Directors  
16 from the federally recognized Lenape and Munsee  
17 Mohican Nations humbly ask the City Council to  
18 understand the depth of responsibility, which is owed  
19 to the life sustaining reality of mother earth and do  
20 everything in their power to prevent war on other  
21 peoples and on mother earth herself.

22 Lenapehoking has witnessed two much colonial  
23 genocide and violence upon our people which has yet  
24 to be recognized and acknowledged. This blindness to  
25 our history should first end so you can open your

1  
2 eyes to our people and see the true ramifications of  
3 supporting weapons and war.

4 Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
6 please.

7 IAN ZABARTE: I am Principal Man Ian Zabarte of  
8 the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation. I am also  
9 Secretary of the Native Community Action Council,  
10 party withstanding in the atomic safety licensing  
11 board on the proposed high level nuclear waste  
12 repository at Yucca Mountain.

13 Our lands, the Western Shoshone Nation are  
14 defined by treaty the most formal recognition between  
15 one government and another in international law. The  
16 1863 tree rooted valley that's from the Consolidated  
17 Treaty Series Volume 127, 1863. We a borne the  
18 burden of the nuclear age without help from America.  
19 One Thousand nuclear weapons test within our country  
20 fall out across country and across the United States  
21 and the world.

22 We've investigated our own adverse health  
23 consequences known to be plausible from radiation  
24 exposure that harms our land and harms our people and  
25 based on lifestyle differences alone, our exposure is

1 significantly greater than that of the non-Native  
2 community. We need help. Everywhere in the world  
3 there are radiation monitoring surveillance and DNA  
4 testing and registry.  
5

6 So, we don't have that here in the United States.  
7 We need that, we need help. This is the right thing  
8 to do and I don't have to tell you that, you know  
9 it's the right thing to do. It's a violation of the  
10 Treaty Ruby Valley, a violation of law to be killing  
11 Indians in secret with nuclear weapons and that is  
12 exactly whats happening. So, I urge you to support  
13 these two proposals to move this city to do the right  
14 thing.

15 Thank you.

16 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

17 [SPEAKING IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGE 1:25:57-1:26:09]

18 AL: I'm Al and I'm here on behalf of the Lenape  
19 Ramapough Lenape Nation. We're the Munsee people,  
20 the descendants of the original people of Manhattan.  
21 So, I bring you a statement on behalf of and from our  
22 leader Chief Dwaine Perry.

23 Chief Dwaine Perry is **[INAUDIBLE 1:26:42]** of the  
24 Ramapough Lenape Nation, the Munsee people whose  
25 ancestral land this great city now sits.

1  
2 I come not to belabor you with more facts, which  
3 you should already know but to share an ancient truce  
4 for which most have ignored since 1624. In the  
5 1400's, the Ojibway began their migration west  
6 because it was foretold that shiny people were coming  
7 and some would bring death. It has happened.

8 In the 1800's, the western nations prophesied the  
9 coming of the Black snakes which would bring joy to  
10 many and in the end death. It has happened. You  
11 cannot drink oil. If one oil train derails, spills  
12 into New York State Watershed as it nearly did in  
13 2018, hundreds of thousands of people in the city  
14 will die. You cannot drink oil, it is a current  
15 danger, it is a danger now.

16 In the 90's, the City in the Himalayas with  
17 elders from over 200 countries, it was foretold "that  
18 the hollow people were coming and some would hold the  
19 sons of death." It has happened. In the western  
20 world's freedoms, as the western world's Freedom wilt  
21 under the knowledge in knowing guys and misdirecting  
22 syntax, the hollow people have risen. They now carry  
23 their sons of death, worn openly as badges of  
24 bravado. It is happening now.

3 I implore each and every one of you to arise to  
4 stand for humanity and to support the legislation to  
5 divest from nuclear profiteering and proliferation.  
6 I'm asking New York to join Paris, Berlin, Sydney,  
7 Los Angeles and Washington DC to become a part of the  
8 ICAN, City's Campaign in support of the nuclear ban  
9 treaty, for now is the time, you cannot drink death.  
10 Thank you.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

12 MIRA GOTAGACHIE: My name is Mira  
13 Gotegachie[SP?]. My parents were survivors of the  
14 atomic bombing in Nagasaki. I have been working for  
15 nuclear abolition more than ten years as a peace  
16 correspondent and a member of the Hibakusha Stories  
17 that tells survivors the true story to students in  
18 the New York area.

19 We stay, we value peace, we invest to that deadly  
20 weapons due to our ignorance or our so-called  
21 security and protection. That is an imagination,  
22 that area destroyed by the first nuclear bombing in  
23 Hiroshima is almost that same strides over New York  
24 City. Imagine 140,000 dead bodies as there were in  
25 Hiroshima covered New York City. Imagine your  
parents, spouses, children and friends who you deeply



1 love were among them. It was inhuman and savage.  
2  
3 Melting skins hanging from the arms and the mothers  
4 carrying the dead infants. These were normal scenes  
5 in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1945.

6 My teenage parents were there. When I imagine  
7 that pain, hunger and the devastation they went  
8 through I feel how precious and fragile our lives  
9 are. Even if people survive a nuclear bomb, the  
10 radiation destroys their bodies, their system and  
11 they are poisoning that next generation. I have  
12 lived in New York City for more than 20 years. One  
13 of the great things about being here is knowing  
14 people who passionately believe in peace. With that  
15 we care, we act, we speak out for peace. I hope New  
16 York City will set the standard for nuclear  
17 abolition. Except my project started here, we as  
18 residents of New York City should take action to end  
19 that deadly weapon.

20 Thank you.

21 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. You get an  
22 A for staying in your timeframe, which is great and  
23 we really deeply appreciate all of you coming in and  
24 providing us with this testimony. Thank you very,  
25 very much.

1  
2       Okay, Frida Berrigan from Kings Bay, I can't make  
3 out the last I'm sorry. Elizabeth McAlister from  
4 Kings Bay also, Amanda Daloisio the Catholic Worker  
5 and Joanne Kennedy representing Martha Hennessey.  
6 And by the way, if you have written testimony, you  
7 want to give it to the Sergeant at Arms, they'll pass  
8 it out to us here. If you have written testimony but  
9 didn't make copies, you can always submit them to us  
10 at the Council as well. We're going to get you the  
11 email address as well.

12       UNIDENTIFIED: Good afternoon everybody -

13       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Hold on, somebody is missing.

14       UNIDENTIFIED: Joanne Kennedy is speaking on  
15 behalf of Amanda.

16       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, but there was one other, I  
17 thought.

18       UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, Carmen Trotta is also not able  
19 to be here today.

20       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, alright, so we just want  
21 to make sure we have the right cards for the right  
22 people.

23       UNIDENTIFIED: Oh yeah.

24       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, so, begin please.

25       UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, great.

1  
2 CO-CHAIR DROMM: We'll do one more, I'm sorry.  
3 Barry Reardon.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Betty.

5 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Betty, I'm sorry. International  
6 Institute on Peace and Education. Okay, we're all  
7 set.

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Go ahead.

10 FRIDA BERRIGAN: Yes, hi, my name is Frida  
11 Berrigan and I've come to speak briefly about the  
12 importance of this resolution. As one more tool in  
13 the critical work for nuclear abolition and I thank  
14 the City Council and all of the activists who have  
15 worked on the forum. So, thank you so much.

16 As the daughter of anti-nuclear activists, Phil  
17 Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister, who is here next to  
18 me, I was chastised as a teenager for wanting to go  
19 to the movies when the doomsday clock was at three  
20 minutes to nuclear midnight and as others have said  
21 here today, we know that that clock has moved and  
22 it's now just 100 seconds to nuclear midnight.  
23 Shorter than the length of time that I'll be speaking  
24 before all of you.

3 And so, in the face of this imminent and  
4 existential threat, we need every effort, every gong,  
5 every alarm and every tool in our toolbox and my  
6 mother Elizabeth McAlister is here. She along with  
7 six friends are awaiting sentencing for their part in  
8 the Kings Bay Plowshares. A non-violent disarmament  
9 action of Trident submarines in the State of Georgia.  
10 This is also an attempt to sound the alarm, to take  
11 responsibility for nuclear weapons, to say, not in  
12 our name. As this resolution says, not with New York  
13 dollars.

14 At 100 seconds to midnight, my own children, 13,  
15 7 and 5 are in the crosshairs of these nuclear  
16 nightmares. My mother here is looking at two years  
17 in prison at the age of 80. At the age of 80, she's  
18 risking the rest of her life for nuclear disarmament  
19 and if that's not an alarm that we need to heed, I  
20 don't know what is.

21 So, thank you.

22 ELIZABETH MCALISTER: So, along with friends, I  
23 went to Kings Bay in Georgia and we hammered on a  
24 nuclear submarine and we were arrested. I did about  
25 a year and a half in the local jail in Kings Bay

1 Georgia before one day they said, pack it up and I  
2 was released, but only to face trial.

3  
4 One of the six of us who did this action, a  
5 Jesuit priest by the name of Steve Kelly, remains in  
6 jail in Georgia because he will not cooperate with  
7 release conditions. The rest of us, along with him  
8 are all awaiting sentencing. So, we're looking at  
9 something like six to ten years, which is a  
10 possibility.

11 Mostly, I want to come here and ask for your  
12 prayer and your concern for Steve because I spent a  
13 year and a half in that jail before they released me  
14 on personal recognizance. They will not release  
15 Steve Kelly on personal recognizance because he will  
16 not agree to their conditions.

17 So, I don't know if you've heard about this, but  
18 I think it's important that people know that there  
19 are folks who are in prison and in jail and looking  
20 at years in jail for the sake of a disarmed country,  
21 a disarmed world and there are and I'm glad and I'm  
22 proud to be part of it.

23 JOANNE KENNEDY: Thanks, so much Liz. So, my  
24 name is Joanne Kennedy, I'm going to be reading a  
25

1 letter from Martha Hennessey, who is one of Liz's Co-  
2 Defendants who couldn't be here today.

3  
4 So, here is what Martha says, I only fixed her  
5 grammar a tiny bit, so don't tell her but I'm the  
6 Editor of the Catholic Worker. I can't help myself  
7 and a big thanks to Danny Dromm for all this work, we  
8 really appreciate it.

9 Alright, she says, Dear esteemed New York City  
10 Council. Thank you very much for your critical work  
11 for nuclear abolition. I send my apologies for not  
12 being able to attend this event in person.

13 I am Martha Hennessey; I am part of the New York  
14 Catholic Worker movement and the Kings Bay Plowshares  
15 communities and I am currently awaiting sentencing  
16 for our conviction in the non-violent disarming  
17 action that took place on April 4, 2018 at the Navel  
18 Station in Kings Bay Georgia.

19 I understand the sacrifice that each of us must  
20 make in our work for nuclear disarmament and I send  
21 my gratitude to all of you who are involved in this  
22 effort as we drift ever closer to nuclear  
23 annihilation. We need resolutions, actions,  
24 divestments, boycotts, people in the streets,  
25

1 economic shutdowns and all of the rest to make our  
2 voices heard.

3  
4 The governmental/corporate profiteers will not  
5 let go of their schemes unless we make them. And it  
6 can begin with initiatives such as this public  
7 hearing and resolutions put forth by local  
8 governments.

9 We can no longer bear the risks and unsustainable  
10 costs of our nuclear arsenal which is both immoral  
11 and illegal. Let's take back our money and resources  
12 and apply them to the needs that cry out around the  
13 country and the world. We no longer consent to a  
14 vision of a future that could bring horror on the  
15 heads of all humanity, no thank you.

16 BETTY REARDON: My name is Betty Reardon, Founder  
17 of the International Institute on Peace Education.  
18 First, I want to thank the City Council for this  
19 hearing because it's a clear demonstration that at  
20 least some elements in our government still listen to  
21 the electorate and pay attention to the concerns of  
22 the citizens.

23 It's the younger citizens that I'm most concerned  
24 about and why I want to see you pass this legislation  
25 and this proposition. I'm speaking as a teacher, a

1 teacher who learned the skills of the profession,  
2 being challenged every day by 13 to 16 year old's who  
3 wanted me to help them to become responsible  
4 citizens. Just as the young people today are asking  
5 adults now, to be responsible citizens. All of us  
6 have a responsibility to meet that challenge and to  
7 do everything in our power to assure their futures  
8 and to listen to the demands they are making.

10 The demands for our future held hostage by the  
11 great impower of future blind leadership that  
12 pretends to turn a deaf ear to their rightful  
13 demands, refusing to acknowledge the truth about  
14 nuclear weapons that these youngsters know.

15 They are homicidal, they are illegal and they are  
16 immoral. I want to speak to the immorality.  
17 Particularly the moral context in which we now raise  
18 the young. The demoralizing social and emotional  
19 climate and the lessons in social ethics arising from  
20 the possession and potential use of the weapons. The  
21 young, whom we hope to educate to construct an  
22 alternative to the present nuclear arm security  
23 system are enveloped in cynicism and fear that  
24 prevails and sustains this system. We see it in  
25 their attitudes and their behaviors. They are coming



of age with few political constraints on behaviors.

Do you have to stop?

CO-CHAIR DROMM: No, you can continue.

BETTY REARDON: Thank you.

They are coming of age with few social and political constraints on behaviors that place self interest over any commitment to the welfare of the larger community, in which the use of the weapons becomes ever more possible. Many blatantly resist and reject authority. Some question the kind of a national security system and its weapons – the kind of security this national security system and its weapons of mass destruction provide for their generation.

Why not live only for self? How can they care for and respect others when their country is prepared to wipe millions off the face of the earth in the name of a national security that it manifests little care for their future or their daily wellbeing. Why delay any available immediate satisfaction to prepare for a future so uncertain? Please think of these despairing questions as you deliberate on the proposition and the bill but think also of the youth who challenge rather than reject authority.

1  
2 Demonstrating by the thousands, they know the risks  
3 that knowledge dictates to conscience. They speak  
4 truth to power. Let us all manifest similar courage  
5 to face truth and act accordingly.

6 During in early 1980's, when nuclear weapons and  
7 their consequences were part of popular discords,  
8 teachers were obtained to keep children from the  
9 destructive fear that had produced nightmares and  
10 some.

11 It is recounted that one little boy sought to  
12 assure his classmates that it would be okay, because  
13 his parents were doing something about it. May there  
14 be a day when the children of this city's schools can  
15 say, it will be okay, our City Council did something  
16 about it.

17 Thank you very much for your efforts.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this  
19 panel and just before you leave, I just want to say  
20 how impressed I am and how grateful I am and how  
21 lucky I felt to be able to stand on the steps with  
22 you today at the Press Conference. And of course, to  
23 Ms. Reardon and to Ms. Kennedy, thank you very much  
24 and to Phillips Berrigan's daughter as well. Thank  
25 you so much for being here and how much I admire the

1 work that your father did, it was just absolutely  
2 incredible. Of course, throughout the whole Vietnam  
3 War in the 60's, as well as Elizabeth McAlister. I'm  
4 very, very pleased and grateful that you came in  
5 today. It's been 50, 60 years of activism, so this  
6 is not just a one time thing. You have been fighting  
7 for peace and justice in this world for many, many  
8 years.

9  
10 Thank you for coming today.

11 Okay, our next panel is William Hartung, Blaze  
12 Tepuis [SP?], Mary Yelenick and Brendan Fay. Okay,  
13 we're ready when you are. Do you want to start over  
14 here?

15 WILLIAM HARTUNG: Yes, I'll be brief because we  
16 have no choice. My name is William Hartung, I work  
17 at the Center for International Policy. I'm an  
18 expert on nuclear weapons, the arms trade and  
19 pentagon spending. I'm a Manhattan resident, a  
20 constituent of Council Member Helen Rosenthal.

21 I think what we're doing today is one of the most  
22 important things we can do to build a grassroots  
23 movement to put an end to nuclear weapons. Short of  
24 having hiding the nuclear button from Donald Trump.

1 I can't think of anything more important that we  
2 could be doing today.

3  
4 Passing the resolutions before you will put New  
5 York City in the leadership role and reducing the  
6 danger of nuclear war, also freeing up funds for  
7 desperately needed programs for housing, education  
8 and environmental protection and we'll be joining a  
9 growing international consensus for eliminating  
10 nuclear weapons before they eliminate us.

11 This is an issue for everyone. A full scale  
12 nuclear exchange would end life on this planet even a  
13 so-called limited nuclear war could put two billion  
14 people at risk of famine. So, we don't leave it to  
15 experts to decide or one level of government to  
16 decide, it's up to all of us. Particularly, when you  
17 think that some of the experts are funded by the  
18 nuclear weapons industry.

19 So, not only lives are at stake but huge amounts  
20 of money. The Pentagon wants to spend \$1.5 Trillion  
21 on nuclear weapons over the next decade. A waste of  
22 money that will make the world a far more dangerous  
23 place and there's a long honorable history of states  
24 taking the lead on issues like ending the apartheid  
25 regime in South Africa on issues like promoting the

1  
2 nuclear freeze campaign in the 1980's and I think in  
3 the case of New York City, we are a leader of the  
4 world. I think people look to us for guidance on  
5 many issues, so I think are we to pass these, end  
6 with the cooperation of the Administration, carry  
7 forward faithfully of these resolutions. I think  
8 there will a ripple effect all over the country and  
9 all over the world that would make a huge difference.

10 So, I thank you for taking your leadership on  
11 this issue.

12 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
13 please.

14 BLAZE TEPUIS: Hi, my name is Blaze Tepuis[SP?],  
15 I'm here today as a lifetime New York resident and  
16 asking the Council to support the resolution 976 and  
17 Introduction 1621.

18 My hero, Dr. Martin Luther King spoke about the  
19 fierce urgency of now and there are no better words  
20 to describe where we find ourselves today regarding  
21 the threats of nuclear war and the survival of our  
22 planet. While our federal government is in complete  
23 crisis with the Executive branch starting a new arms  
24 race, it is our city on the front line of any  
25 potential conflict that has to step up and show

1 leadership, have vision and moral clarity of who we  
2 are and where we need to go. And I applaud the City  
3 Council for showing the leadership in this  
4 legislation that is before us today.

5 I was born in New York City and grew up on 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6 Street and Chelsea in the 70's and 80's and I was  
7 shocked to learn only recently, that on 20<sup>th</sup> Street,  
8 over 300,000 pounds of uranium was stored during the  
9 40's for the Manhattan project. And that site was  
10 not remediated until the early 1990's. Over 50 years  
11 it sat radioactive. The Intro. 161 gives us an  
12 opportunity to create curriculum for our schools, so  
13 that children can learn about our history and we can  
14 make sure that the remediation was complete and that  
15 all the other sites that have radio activity have  
16 been cleaned up.

17 With the passing of the adoption of the Treaty of  
18 the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we finally have a  
19 law that puts the reality that these weapons are  
20 immoral, instruments of omnicide that have no  
21 legitimate use and threaten the survival of life on  
22 earth every minute of every day. While we continue  
23 to work for that goal and we work to get a federal  
24 government that recognizes this reality and signs and  
25

1 ratifies the treaty, we cannot wait for that  
2  
3 eventuality. We must put pressure on the  
4 corporations that profit from the manufacturer of  
5 these weapons and make it untenable for them to  
6 continue business as usual.

7 By divesting the City Pension fund from these  
8 corporations, we send a powerful message to the  
9 country and the world that New York will not stand  
10 idly by. We will not have our money invested in our  
11 own destruction.

12 Please pass these vital pieces of legislation and  
13 show that New York City has the moral leadership to  
14 overcome the blind militarism that has taken us to  
15 this brink.

16 Thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you, next please.

18 MARY YELENICK: Good afternoon, my name is Mary  
19 Yelenick; I'm a New Yorker, an attorney and the main  
20 representative of the NGO Delegation to the United  
21 Nations of Pax Christi International. A global  
22 Catholic Peace Movement active in more than 60  
23 countries around the world and with a very strong and  
24 active presence here in New York City.

3 It has been 75 years since the United States  
4 plunged the world into the unspeakable horrors of  
5 nuclear weapons. We at Pax Christi to were found at  
6 75 years ago and have worked tirelessly since that  
7 time including as a long time member of ICAN, to  
8 abolish those horrific weapons.

9 Symbolically and in solidarity with the  
10 Hibakusha. Pax Christi will be holding our own 75<sup>th</sup>  
11 Anniversary world assembly this May in Hiroshima.

12 Pax Christi solutes and strongly supports and  
13 thanks the New York City Council for your pending  
14 initiatives regarding the prohibition of nuclear  
15 weapons in New York and in the pension holdings of  
16 New York City public employees. It's very fitting  
17 that New York take a lead in this for reasons that  
18 other people have articulated. By hosting the United  
19 Nations, New York has already played a key role in  
20 the evolution and adoption of the landmark treaty on  
21 the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

22 And we New Yorkers who lived here on 9-11 will  
23 never forget the mass deaths and destruction at the  
24 site of the World Trade Centers caused by a  
25 relatively low tech assault.



1  
2 New Yorkers understand how incapable we would be  
3 of responding to a nuclear explosion. The magnitude  
4 of devastation of life and infrastructure with beyond  
5 any capacity to address.

6 You on the New York City Council recognize this  
7 horrific reality and thank you for that. These two  
8 important legislative initiatives are necessary and  
9 we support you. You are taking a critical step  
10 toward ensuring that the unthinkable remains just  
11 that.

12 Thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Brendon.

14 BRENDAN FAY: My name is Brendan Fay and I am  
15 with the New York City Divest Campaign and St. Pats  
16 for all.

17 I urge all members of the New York City Council  
18 to support and pass the legislation to divest New  
19 York City pensions from nuclear weapons production  
20 and support the global movement for nuclear  
21 disarmament.

22 I was a teenager in Ireland when I first learned  
23 about the horrors of August 1945 bombing of Hiroshima  
24 and Nagasaki. From the women of **[INAUDIBLE 2:04:43]**  
25 and leaders of the Irish Campaign for nuclear

1  
2 disarmament. This awakening in me as a teenager to  
3 the horror and presence of nuclear bombs and their  
4 threat to the human family has never left me since  
5 that early awakening.

6 Indeed, I was only left with a sense of the human  
7 responsibility not to be indifferent. To become  
8 aware that in minutes, our beautiful and evolved  
9 world could be destroyed by nuclear war as  
10 governments were investing millions of hard earned  
11 workers wages and human resources, challenged me and  
12 others to become active in the movements for nuclear  
13 disarmament. So, it's with gratitude I am present  
14 with you members of the New York City Council and my  
15 friends in the New York advocacy movement and leaders  
16 of the global movement. I'm proud to be with you  
17 today.

18 Today, we speak with our human hearts for peace  
19 and call upon and support our political leaders to  
20 divest New York City pensions from these weapons of  
21 death. Indeed, let us invest instead in the hard  
22 work of peace making and human development. Invest  
23 in our childrens future, all children. Have they not  
24 got a right to a future of peace; a world free of  
25 nuclear weapons? Every dollar invested in nuclear

1  
2 weapons is taken from resources desperately needed  
3 for healthcare. For the child with Sickle cell, with  
4 cancer, schools, housing, food for the hungry.

5 Echoing leading New Yorkers who before us spoke out  
6 from **[INAUDIBLE 2:06:59]**, Bayard Rosen, Dorothy Day  
7 and right here in this Chamber Paula Dwar[SP?], may  
8 future generations say of all of us, we too spoke up.

9 This afternoon let the message go from us in this  
10 City Hall be loud and clear. No more investing in  
11 weapons of mass destruction. And because we care for  
12 life in our city and our world, we love our earth and  
13 our children, we unite as citizens, with you  
14 political leaders and take this stand to preserve  
15 peace for future generations.

16 Thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Thank you  
18 to this panel. Thank you to Brendan in particular  
19 for the introduction to Kathleen Sullivan, I really  
20 appreciate that and for getting me onboard of this  
21 and making me aware of everything that's going on.

22 Thank you, thank you very much and by the way,  
23 we've had over 35 or so tweets, so if you tweet and  
24 you want to tweet about the hearing today, that would  
25

1  
2 be great. Keep it going, let everybody know what we  
3 are doing here today.

4 Our next panel is Maura Keaney from Amalgamated  
5 Bank. I haven't seen Maura in a long time. Alice  
6 Slater World Beyond War, Ray Acheson Women's  
7 International League from Peace and Justice, I think.  
8 Freedom, I'm sorry, for Peace and Freedom and  
9 Jacqueline Cabasso from Mayors for Peace.

10 MAURA KEANEY: Good afternoon, thank you Council  
11 Members for your interest in this important issue.  
12 I'm Maura Keaney; I'm a First Vice President with  
13 Amalgamated Bank.

14 Amalgamated is a nearly 100 year old financial  
15 institution formed here in New York City in 1923 by  
16 the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

17 At the time, workers were unable to bank at big  
18 commercial banks. Not like it was a bad experience  
19 and they didn't feel that they were getting  
20 appropriate service, which is important but actually  
21 they couldn't open accounts.

22 So, the union formed a bank giving its members  
23 and their family members a way to save, to build  
24 credit, to send money home to their families at that  
25 time in Eastern Europe and to borrow when they were

1  
2 able to build their own small businesses. As the  
3 labor movement grew and those union members families  
4 grew, so did the bank. We're still headquartered in  
5 New York City. We're chartered by New York State but  
6 we're national in our client profile. We have  
7 clients in 48 states. We bank for Progressive  
8 individuals, many of the people here today. We offer  
9 consumer savings and checking accounts and home  
10 mortgages but on the commercial side, we specialize  
11 in banking for lending to and investing for socially  
12 responsible businesses and nonprofit organizations  
13 like Planned Parenthood, Color of Change, The Sierra  
14 Club, SEIU, Transgender Legal Defense and Education  
15 Fund and hundreds of others. We also bank for much  
16 of the democratic party and many New York City  
17 candidates and elected officials.

18 The union that formed us, is still our largest  
19 single shareholder and we are committed through that  
20 relationship to continuing our progressive stance on  
21 issues. We're the first bank to pay our employees  
22 then \$15.00 an hour, now \$20.00 an hour. We were the  
23 first bank to accept NYC ID as a form of, a primary  
24 means of opening an account and we are the first bank  
25

3 to endorse the U.N. Principles for Responsible  
4 Banking.

5 We, as a financial institution are also committed  
6 to ending financial support for companies involved in  
7 firearms and weapons production and distribution. We  
8 don't bank for or lend to firearms manufacturers or  
9 weapons production companies.

10 On the investment front, we don't invest any of  
11 the banks money in weapons manufacturers and we offer  
12 our investment management clients, whether they're  
13 individual consumers or commercial businesses or  
14 organizations, the opportunity to ensure their money  
15 is not invested in defense companies or gun sellers.

16 When New York City pension funds are being  
17 invested, without consideration to weapons, you're  
18 supporting with those dollars, the operations of  
19 these businesses. As a city resident, as a former  
20 city employee with a city managed 401K and hopefully  
21 some day a city pension, if I come back and work for  
22 the city. I don't want my money backing up those  
23 destructive businesses but beyond my personal  
24 interest, New York City has an abiding interest and  
25 responsibility to ending violence and war. It's not

1 good for our citizens, for our economy, or our  
2 environment.

3  
4 We have a history in New York as many have  
5 referenced to pursuing what's right for shareholder  
6 action. The McBride Principle, South Africa  
7 Investment, divestment. We've used our pension power  
8 to make change before.

9 We can continue to be a leader by pushing other  
10 governments to do the same and I can say from the  
11 banks perspective and from a purely fiduciary  
12 perspective, investing in this industry is not  
13 lucrative, nor is it low risk. In fact, similar to  
14 carbon divestment, we see portfolios with weapons  
15 screened out performing as well or better than those  
16 without the screening.

17 New York's fiduciary responsibility to its  
18 employees current, future and retired, can continue  
19 to be met without investing in companies involved in  
20 weapons production or maintenance.

21 Amalgamated Bank thanks you Council Member for  
22 your leadership on this issue and encourage you to  
23 pass the Resolution and Introduction.

24 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Maura and I know you  
25 have to run, so if you want to run, run but we

1  
2 appreciate your efforts on this piece of legislation  
3 and also, I am very grateful to you for what you do  
4 with IDNYC. That was my legislation as well, so  
5 thank you to Amalgamated Bank. Thank you very much.

6 MAURA KEANEY: We love it and happy to do more  
7 and you should make the city only invest city dollars  
8 in banks that use IDNYC.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: I am working on that. I am  
10 working on that.

11 MAURA KEANEY: I know you are.

12 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yes, we all are. And I just  
13 want to remind everybody, please keep it to the two  
14 minutes because we have so many people who want to  
15 give testimony.

16 Thank you.

17 ALICE SLATER: Oh, my name is Alice Slater; I  
18 just want to thank you for this wonderful initiative  
19 and proceeding. I'm on the Board of World Beyond War  
20 and a U.N. Rep for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
21 and I'm just so grateful to the Council for stepping  
22 up the plate and taking historic action to finally  
23 ban the bomb.

24 I was born in the Bronx and went to Queens  
25 College when tuition was only \$5.00 a semester. In



1  
2 the 1950's during the terrible red scare of the  
3 McCarthy era. At the height of the war we had 70,000  
4 nuclear bombs on the planet. There are now 14,000  
5 with about 13,000 in the U.S. and Russia. The other  
6 seven nuclear armed counties have only 1,000 among  
7 them.

8 So, it's really up to us and Russia to move first  
9 to negotiate for the abolition as outlined in the new  
10 Treaty. At this time, none of the nuclear weapons  
11 states and our U.S. partners in NATO, Japan,  
12 Australia or in South Korea, are supporting the new  
13 Treaty.

14 It may really surprise you to know that Russia  
15 has generally been the eager proposer of treaties for  
16 verified nuclear missile disarmament and sadly, it is  
17 our country in the grip of the military industrial  
18 complex that Eisenhower warned against, that provokes  
19 the nuclear arms race with Russia from the time  
20 Truman rejected Stalin's request to put the bomb  
21 under U.N. control. To Reagan, Bush, Clinton and  
22 Obama rejecting Obama Putin proposals. That is  
23 documented in my submitted testimony to Trump,  
24 walking out of the INF Treaty just recently.

3 Walt Kelly, the cartoonist of the Pogo comic  
4 strip during the 1950's red scare, as Pogo saying, we  
5 met the enemy and he is us.

6 We now have a breakthrough opportunity for global  
7 grassroots actions in cities and states to reverse  
8 course from plummeting our earth into catastrophic  
9 nuclear disaster. At this moment, there are 2,500  
10 nuclear tip missiles in the U.S. and Russia targeting  
11 all of our major cities. As for New York City as the  
12 song goes, if we can make it here, we'll make it  
13 anywhere and it's wonderful and inspiring and the  
14 majority of this City Council is willing to add its  
15 voice for a nuclear free world.

16 Thank you so much.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you, next please.

18 RAY ACHESON: Hello, thank you very much. My  
19 name is Ray Acheson and I'm with the Women's  
20 International League for Peace and Freedom, as well  
21 as the International campaign to abolish nuclear  
22 weapons.

23 It's unfortunate that the folks from the Mayor's  
24 Office left, because I do indeed have the Noble Peace  
25 Prize that we could have shown to them. But anybody

1 who wants to support the legislation could absolutely  
2 have your photo taken with this later on.

3  
4 But I also wanted to comment on some of what the  
5 Mayor's Office was saying this morning, because I  
6 think it's important for our discussion. This is  
7 really both in international and a domestic issue. I  
8 think that is irrefutable and when the federal  
9 government won't stand up for our safety and  
10 security, we need to do it at all other levels of  
11 government that we possibly can.

12 The idea that we don't have the appropriate  
13 interagency or public coordination or expertise,  
14 capacity within our offices, can't be an excuse for  
15 not doing anything. To say that we don't have  
16 capacities, to say that things have to just stay the  
17 same and this is the exact same mentality of why we  
18 have nuclear weapons all these years later, knowing  
19 exactly what they do to human bodies and to the  
20 environment.

21 It's this idea that we still have to have them.  
22 We're told, this is just the way the world is. This  
23 is how things work and that we need them for our  
24 security and we're told all of this by the people and  
25 the companies that profit from these weapons.

3 The rest of the world, well, not all of the rest  
4 of the world, but a lot of the rest of the world, 122  
5 countries at least, have rejected this kind of  
6 mentality by voting for the adoption of the Treaty on  
7 the prohibition of nuclear weapons in 2017 and this  
8 Treaty is really a rejection of this idea that might  
9 makes right or that we can only achieve our security  
10 through massive radioactive violence.

11 This is really not the way things are and it's  
12 not something we should accept and it's not something  
13 that New York City should accept ever. And as  
14 Council Member Rodriguez said, we need to reject  
15 nuclear weapons, not just in word but in action.  
16 That New York City needs to be a progressive city in  
17 everything that it does and it can do that by  
18 endorsing the nuclear ban treaty, divesting from  
19 nuclear weapons and setting up the advisory  
20 committee.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

23 JACQUELINE CABASSO: Thank you, my name is Jackie  
24 Cabasso and I serve as North American coordinator of  
25 Mayors for Peace.

3 I speak today in support of Intro. 1621 and  
4 Resolution 976 on behalf of Mayors for Peace and it  
5 is my honor to convey warm greetings from Mayor  
6 Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima; the President of Mayors  
7 for Peace.

8 Mayors for Peace was launched in 1982 by the  
9 Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has grown to  
10 nearly 8,000 member cities in 163 countries including  
11 218 U.S. members. The U.S. Conference of Mayors or  
12 USCM, the nonpartisan association of 1,400 American  
13 cities with populations over 30,000, has unanimously  
14 adopted ever stronger Mayors for Peace sponsored  
15 nuclear disarmament resolutions for 14 consecutive  
16 years.

17 Directly relevant to Res. 976, is its 2016  
18 Resolution, in which the USCM commends Mayor Denise  
19 Simmons in the Cambridge City Council for  
20 demonstrating bold leadership at the municipal level  
21 by unanimously deciding on April 2, 2016 to divest  
22 their \$1 billion city pension fund from all companies  
23 involved in production of nuclear weapons system and  
24 in entities investing in such companies.

25 Relevant to both bills, the USCM calls on member  
cities to take action at the municipal level to raise

1  
2 public awareness of the humanitarian impacts and  
3 financial costs of nuclear weapons. The growing  
4 dangers of wars among nuclear arm states and the  
5 urgent need for good faith U.S. participation in  
6 negotiating the global elimination of nuclear  
7 weapons.

8 One example among many is planting seedlings of a  
9 bomb tress and I note that New York Mayor Bill de  
10 Blasio, though not a member of Mayors for Peace was a  
11 Co-Sponsor of this resolution.

12 In its 2018 Resolution, the USCM urges the United  
13 States government to embrace the treaty on the  
14 prohibition of nuclear weapons as a welcome step  
15 towards negotiation of a comprehensive agreement on  
16 the achievement and permanent maintenance of a world  
17 free of nuclear weapons.

18 Intro., I'm sorry, just a couple of sentences.  
19 Intro. 1621 would establish an advisory committee to  
20 examine nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapons free  
21 zone. The Commissioner of the Mayor's Office on  
22 International Affairs would serve as Chair and I wish  
23 the city was here to hear me say that. Mexico City,  
24 a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace, the  
25

3 International Affairs Department handles matters of  
4 nuclear disarmament.

5 In any case, three members of the Advisory  
6 Committee would be appointed by the Mayor. This  
7 makes it all the more natural for Mayor de Blasio to  
8 join Mayors for Peace. He has been personally  
9 invited by the Mayors of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
10 and I would publicly like to invite him again to  
11 join. Hiroshima is prepared to welcome New York City  
12 to Mayors for Peace by offering to plant an A-bomb  
13 sapling at a mutually agreed location in New York.  
14 And I invite you to read my written testimony for  
15 more in depth information analysis.

16 Thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you and I'd like to see  
18 the Mayor sign on to that as well. Thank you.

19 Next, Seth Shelden from ICAN, Raymond Black from  
20 ICAN, Elaine Scarry and Jamie Bower. Seth, do you  
21 want to start?

22 SETH SHELDEN: Sure, my name is Seth Shelden and  
23 I am the United Nation liaison for ICAN. Winners of  
24 that Nobel Peace Prize that Ray Acheson has just  
25 displayed for you but before and above any of that, I

1 am a New Yorkers. I was born and raised in Canarsie.  
2 I went to PS279, IS239 in Brooklyn and Stuyvesant.  
3

4 Today, I am a law professor at CUNY School of  
5 Law. My whole family, since my grandparents  
6 immigrated her have been artists and public school  
7 teachers in this city. I know about New York; I care  
8 about New York. In my written submission, I'm  
9 detailing the merits of Reso. 976 and Intro. 1621. I  
10 was planning to focus on just one aspect of those  
11 bills, but even if it cuts short on my time, I want  
12 to start by saying that I am disappointed to hear  
13 what MOIA had to open with. Their demureness on 1621  
14 based on capacity and scope. Their excuse is not  
15 commensurate with the dire threat of this issue and  
16 you know, it is so obvious that these bills are  
17 intended to address issues, both domestic and  
18 international that I suppose it's fine, I only have  
19 two minutes to say that because it is really that  
20 obvious. And this will be even more true as  
21 international law continues to develop, including  
22 with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
23 weapons. But I wanted to focus with the remaining  
24 time on the ICAN city's appeal component of  
25 Resolution 976, because ICAN's U.N. Liaison, I work



3 closely with governments that are evaluating their  
4 countries plans regarding the TPNW.

5 And so, I can testify firsthand how by declaring  
6 its support for the Treaty, New York City can advance  
7 adherence while also advancing global disarmament  
8 norms in general. The ICAN city's appeal counters a  
9 frequent argument we hear from nuclear armed  
10 governments that their citizens are protected by  
11 nuclear weapons and that they want them.

12 There's only a few countries that argue this but  
13 the U.S. is one of them and in fact, the day the  
14 treaty was adopted by a solid majority of the world,  
15 the U.S. even asserted that we do not intend to ever  
16 become a party to it ever. All New Yorkers should be  
17 offended by this anti-democratic argument that the  
18 Trump Administration speaks for generations not even  
19 yet born.

20 The ICAN city's appeal provides a powerful  
21 rebuttal. New York is going to join other American  
22 cities from DC to LA together with hundreds of cities  
23 around the world that have already endorsed the  
24 Treaty in this manner. This encourages countries to  
25 sign and ratify as it moves toward entering the force  
and it makes sense for cities to speak up because

1  
2 after all, nuclear weapons don't target soldiers on  
3 battlefields. They target civilians and cities like  
4 this one.

5 Local governments have a big role to play,  
6 especially hours given New York's legacy. Nuclear  
7 weapons are a New York problem and these bills offer  
8 a New York solution.

9 Thank you.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you Seth. Next please.

11 RAYMOND BLACK: Good afternoon, my name is  
12 Raymond Black. I am an attorney, an activist, a  
13 member of ICAN and a representative of the activist  
14 group, Rise and Resist which has co-endorsed and  
15 sponsored this legislation in today's press  
16 conference. I've also been a proud New Yorker for 30  
17 years and I ask you, I implore you to pass both these  
18 bills.

19 New York has a unique responsibility as others  
20 have said since the Manhattan project began here, but  
21 if a nuclear weapon explodes over our city,  
22 instantaneously, eight million women, men and  
23 children are extinguished. All the vegetation, all  
24 the animals, all the art in our museums, all of our  
25 architecture, all of it is gone. It's gone forever.

1 Human beings have continuously inhabited the island  
2 that we are gathered on today for 3,000 years. If a  
3 nuclear weapon explodes over New York City, it is as  
4 if those 3,000 years never happened and the  
5 carcinogens and the nuclear fall out that will hang  
6 over this city will exist for far more than the 3,000  
7 years that human beings have made their lives on the  
8 island of Manhattan.

9  
10 The only issue more crucial than combating  
11 climate change for the survival of human beings on  
12 our dear and fragile planet earth is the abolition of  
13 all nuclear weapons. As a member of the activist  
14 community here in New York City, I promise you that  
15 we will be back on this issue and do whatever it  
16 takes to get these bills passed and I thank you so  
17 much for the leadership you are taking today.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

19 ELAINE SCARRY: My name is Elaine Scarry; I'm a  
20 Professor at Harvard and the author of a book called  
21 Thermonuclear Monarchy, which shows that nuclear  
22 weapons and governance are mutually exclusive. I'm  
23 not a citizen of New York or I'm a sole mate of New  
24 York as I think everyone in the United States is.

2 Nuclear architecture has two extreme features.  
3 The first is the level of injury. We know from the  
4 most recent work on nuclear winter that if you live  
5 in a tiny percentage of the current arsenals used,  
6 not one percent but three one hundredths of one  
7 percent, forty four million people will be casualties  
8 and one billion people will die within the first  
9 month. Nuclear weapons have eliminated the capacity  
10 for self-defense, the right of self-defense, which  
11 underlies all our other rights. It's also eliminated  
12 the capacity for mutual aid. The International Red  
13 Cross has said that if even a single city is hit,  
14 their worldwide resources can't help.

15 But there's a second feature of nuclear weapons  
16 and that is that this level of injury is brought  
17 about by a single person. The nuclear architecture  
18 arranges for a single person to bring about the  
19 genocide level of injury.

20 In our own country, that's the president acting  
21 alone with no consultation or breaking power provided  
22 by the citizenry or congress or the courts or even by  
23 his cabinet and as we know from formal missile launch  
24 office Bruce Blair, that presidential launch order is  
25 only the length of a single tweet.

1 Both of these features are wildly illegal.  
2  
3 International law completely outlaws the level of  
4 suffering I've described. National law, the  
5 constitution completely outlaws having an arrangement  
6 for war that lets a single person with no testing by  
7 the population of the congress injure a foreign  
8 population. We need to honor both our national laws  
9 and our international laws by eliminating these  
10 weapons as quickly as possible.

11 And the Resolution 976 and Bill 1621 are a strong  
12 step in that direction.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
14 please.

15 JAMIE BOWER: Yeah, thank you for this  
16 opportunity to speak before you and I'd also like to  
17 thank the other panelist for providing their eloquent  
18 testimony. I'm Jaimie Bower; I'm a Native New Yorker  
19 and I retired from New York City Transit in 2014  
20 after 33 years of service.

21 I'm a civil engineer and an urban planner. I  
22 purposefully picked a socially responsible career  
23 that allowed me to serve the public and the city that  
24 I love. There is nothing that makes a retiree  
25 happier than getting that check the first of every

1  
2 month. I live on my pension and when inflation eats  
3 away at it, I will supplement it with the saving from  
4 my 401K and 457 New York City Transit provides a  
5 really good standard of living.

6 But unlike my 401K and 457 which are invested in  
7 socially responsible funds, I have no control over  
8 the money in the pension system. Money that I  
9 contributed. There is no way that I would invest my  
10 money in nuclear weapons production and I implore you  
11 to pass Res. 976, so that New York City will divest  
12 public employee pension funds from companies involved  
13 in nuclear weapons production and maintenance.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: I have a quick question and  
16 if you could make it real quick, because we have a  
17 lot of people. You know the other side will ask the  
18 question, well if we get rid of all of the atomic  
19 bombs that we own here in the United States that we  
20 possess, then that will give a military edge to the  
21 enemies. How would you answer that?

22 ELAINE SCARRY: I would answer it by saying that  
23 we should see that most other countries are way in  
24 advance of the United States in stepping forward.  
25 Even North Korea testified in 1995 at the

1 International Court of Justice that nuclear weapons  
2 should be designated illegal. At that time North  
3 Korea and India didn't have nuclear weapons but they  
4 said if the United States doesn't get rid of them, we  
5 have to.  
6

7 Also, with this new treaty going through the  
8 U.N., the single nuclear state that stepped forward  
9 to support it was North Korea and they didn't sustain  
10 that support but they at least initially saw the  
11 wisdom of it. So, we need to wake up to the fact  
12 that most other countries and certainly the citizenry  
13 of other countries are at least as eager as the  
14 citizenry of this country to eliminate nuclear  
15 weapons.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you.

17 JAMIE BOWER: I can add too, that you know, as a  
18 New Yorker, when I hear something like that, it  
19 reminds me a lot of the argument that the only way to  
20 stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.  
21 And we've had a lot to say about that type of  
22 argument in New York. It doesn't make sense to us.

23 We've internationally had an easy time saying  
24 that other weapons of mass destruction aren't  
25 something we should build to maintain a competitive

1  
2 advantage. We've gotten rid of chemical weapons and  
3 biological weapons by similar treaties. There's no  
4 reason that we should hold all weapons of mass  
5 destruction illegal, other than the most destructive  
6 ones.

7 It boggles the mind that anyone would make that  
8 argument and succeed.

9 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, our next panel is  
11 Johnathan Granoff, sorry Johnathan. Michael Lent,  
12 Tom Goggin and Robert Kruncrist.

13 Alright, let's start over here.

14 JOHNATHAN GRAOFF: Thank you very much, my name  
15 is Johnathan Granoff and I'm the Senior Advisor to  
16 the Committee on National Security of the  
17 International Law Section of the American Bar  
18 Association.

19 I am also the United Nations Representative of  
20 the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. I'm here  
21 on behalf of Move the Nuclear Money initiative and  
22 I'm the President of the Global Security Institute  
23 and I wanted to say that I had a speech prepared and  
24 I've given my remarks to you in writing but the  
25 Commissioner's comments particularly her shocking



1  
2 ignorance of the very fact that the first resolution  
3 of the general assembly of the United Nations was to  
4 get rid of weapons of mass destruction naming atomic  
5 weapons. That there is an existing international  
6 legal obligation under the nuclear nonproliferation  
7 treaty to negotiate the elimination of nuclear  
8 weapons and the prohibition treaty is a step to  
9 fulfill that obligation. Her ignorance that the  
10 sustainable development goals that she's committed to  
11 advancing number 16 of those sustainable development  
12 goals specifically calls for fulfillment of the rule  
13 of law and accountability at all levels of  
14 government, including the City of New York, including  
15 the government of the United States and including all  
16 governments in the world.

17 All of those reasons are exactly why we need an  
18 advisory committee to advise her on going forward in  
19 an effective way. She made the case for us and  
20 therefore, and then the only other hurdle that she  
21 laid out was economic and administrative and I can  
22 see in this very room, we have experts of  
23 international law, we have experts in science, we  
24 have experts in geopolitics, we have experts in  
25 gender equity and women's rights, children's rights,

1  
2 education, everyone of those issues that she says is  
3 in her mandate, we could get for free and to say that  
4 there aren't resources, the only resource standing in  
5 the way of getting rid of nuclear weapons is a  
6 emotional, spiritual and political will. And that's  
7 why these two resolutions are so important because  
8 they express the will of the conscience of humanity  
9 and if the people of New York, the first duty of this  
10 Committee, the Commission, I believe is to educate  
11 the people of New York on the truth that we sit here  
12 under threat with this cloud and this sword over our  
13 heads for no good reason number one.

14 Number two, \$1.7 trillion is a theft from the  
15 people, from schools, hospitals, roads and real  
16 security. If the people knew their conscience would  
17 act and this, the first mandate of this initiative is  
18 to use the amazing resources of New York as a place  
19 of communication.

20 The City of Geneva did this in 1985 and out of  
21 that came a nuclear war can never be won and  
22 therefore must never be fought. Geneva became a  
23 beacon for the world, New York, New York should be a  
24 beacon for the world.

25 God bless you and thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

4 MICHAEL LENT: My name is Michael Lent; I'm the  
5 Chief Investment Officer and founding partner of  
6 Veris Wealth Partners. I want to thank the Council  
7 for inviting me to speak and providing testimony  
8 regarding Resolution 976 and Bill 1621.

9 Veris is an independent national wealth  
10 management firm providing impact investing solutions  
11 for endowments, foundations and families. I've been  
12 a wealth manager providing positive social and  
13 environmental portfolios for my clients since 1993.  
14 For the past 26 years, a significant number of my  
15 clients have been excluding the largest nuclear  
16 weapons components and systems manufacturers from  
17 their portfolios, often in combination with other  
18 exclusion screens. It has made little or no  
19 difference in the returns they received versus  
20 traditional portfolios that include manufactures of  
21 nuclear weapons.

22 The reason for this is that the number of  
23 securities excluded is small and their impact in  
24 portfolio returns is insignificant. One measure of  
25 the impact of exclusions on portfolio risk and as we  
are speaking now because a lot of the arguments

1  
2 against this are specifically with regards to how it  
3 would negatively impact the portfolio, is an impact  
4 called tracking error on removing nuclear weapons  
5 manufacturers. When you evaluate this in regards to  
6 a large global index and we use one called the MSEL  
7 County World Index, which includes over 2,800 stocks.  
8 What the research shows is that the tracking error  
9 created by excluding military weapons manufacturers  
10 which is a larger cohort of holdings, causes less  
11 than a 0.3 tracking error or variance from the index.

12 Since nuclear weapons manufacturers are a smaller  
13 group, the tracking error created would be much  
14 smaller. From the standpoint of risk and return,  
15 this is a very small portfolio performance impact but  
16 a very important social and environmental and peace  
17 impact.

18 Another issue that I would like to address, which  
19 I'm out of time is what impact does an investment  
20 have. I would argue that the level impact is a  
21 function of the ability of institutional investors,  
22 such as the New York City Pension Fund to be a part  
23 of broadening the effort example to other investors  
24 and the New York City Pension Fund would not be the  
25 first to divest. Two of the top five global pension

1 funds have divested as of 21 other institutional  
2 investors.  
3

4 And we know from several experiences with other  
5 divestment movements, that they can be powerful and  
6 create reputational business risks for companies that  
7 do not change their business strategies.

8 I urge New York City to adopt this resolution and  
9 contribute to a nuclear free zone.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
11 please.

12 TOM GOGGIN: Good afternoon. This is a wonderful  
13 opportunity to speak to you and thank you both Chair  
14 Dromm and Chair Cabrera for supporting this  
15 legislation and helping to put this forward. It is a  
16 wonderful opportunity for New York City to reinforce  
17 its long time commitment as a nuclear free city and  
18 to model an important resolution for the rest of the  
19 world.

20 My name is Tom Goggin; I'm the Interim Chair of  
21 the U.S. Labor Against the War in New York City.  
22 Chapter included in some of our union affiliates are  
23 professional staff congress, public sector union  
24 1199, SCIU private sector principally.  
25

3 We've long opposed massive U.S. spending on wars  
4 and on nuclear weapons. My written testimony goes  
5 into the horrors of the wars in the middle east and  
6 the impact on our soldiers and frankly on all of us  
7 with \$3 Trillion already spent for those wars, \$6  
8 Trillion likely to be the long term outcome in terms  
9 of caring for our veterans, for example.

10 As the wars rage on, planetary nuclear disaster  
11 looms greater than ever. It's already been mentioned  
12 a couple of times. The doomsday clock reset to 100  
13 seconds before midnight. We are in an incredibly  
14 dangerous moment in the history of the entire human  
15 race and of our planet.

16 USA holds by far the largest arsenal of nuclear  
17 weapons, the biggest nuclear cudgel. Therefore, it  
18 is up to us Americans to lead the world out of this  
19 nuclear morass. Yet we do the opposite. While  
20 scores of countries have voted to ban the bomb, our  
21 country leads the other major nuclear weapons holders  
22 by refusing to sign on. We simply must reverse  
23 course.

24 It's been 50 years since our leaders signed the  
25 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. I will skip way  
ahead and conclude.

3 Globally and locally, we need to build up, not  
4 tear down. Peace in nuclear disarmament start at  
5 home, city by city, county by country. Let's begin  
6 right here in New York City, a strategic withdrawal  
7 from this deadly enterprise.

8 Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Robert.

10 ROBERT KRUNCRIST: My name is Robert  
11 Krunclist[SP?];I initially wanted to speak on the  
12 fiduciary responsibility to divest from nuclear  
13 weapons. Matthew Bolton in the paper, that is part  
14 of your portfolio of information is written  
15 beautifully in a paper called, Risky Business, about  
16 how investing in nuclear weapons is not sound  
17 fiduciary responsibility.

18 Instead, I'd really like to speak on how much I  
19 love this city and my love for the city. I taught at  
20 Jamaica High School in Queens for 20 years. I taught  
21 global literature and culture in advanced placement  
22 English. I taught students of all faiths and from  
23 all religions of the globe. Students who cultures  
24 have at one time or another been at war. Throughout  
25 we found a common thread, a respect for life, for the

1  
2 mystery of creation and for all that we care and  
3 share for the earth and one another.

4       Among those students were two girls who crossed  
5 the Khyber Pass in Afghanistan on boroughs and came  
6 to become doctors without borders. One was a girl  
7 whose mother sorted body parts from September 11<sup>th</sup>.  
8 Those girls at the end of the year thought that they  
9 would be enemies because it was Afghanistan who  
10 caused that and by the end, they were friends and  
11 they loved one another.

12       When we were advocating here on the steps of City  
13 Hall for this legislation, I came into Council  
14 Chambers at a stated meeting and all of the Council  
15 Members of color came in with shirts that said, Black  
16 Lives Matter and I Can't Breath and they said, I  
17 speak for someone who has lost their life to gun  
18 violence.

19       Then, the woman who gave the dress lay on the  
20 floor and said, I can't breath eleven times before  
21 she walked out. This is the New York City I love.  
22 These are the people that I'm doing this for. 20,000  
23 students, 100,000 students, I don't know, I think it  
24 was 60,000 students marched around this City Hall in  
25



1  
2 the student climate strike. It's for those students  
3 that I'm here.

4 I know you're about to do the right thing. I  
5 know you are about to do what is responsible for me  
6 as a pension holder and for me as a teacher who loves  
7 my students and who loves this city.

8 I thank you very much for being here and  
9 listening to us.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this  
11 panel. We appreciate you coming in. Thank you very,  
12 very much.

13 Okay, Susan Schnall New York City Veterans for  
14 Peace, Thomas Dwyer, John Marigliano and Tarik Kalf.

15 SUSAN SCHNALL: Good afternoon. My name is Susan  
16 Schnall; I am currently President of New York City  
17 Veterans for Peace. I'm also an Adjunct Professor at  
18 New York University and a member of the New York City  
19 Pension Fund. For I worked for the New York City  
20 public hospitals for over 31 years.

21 50 years ago, I served this country as a nurse in  
22 the United States Navy, carrying for the wounded who  
23 came home from war in Southeast Asia. I also  
24 protested United States involvement in that war and  
25 was court marshaled for my peace activities.

3 Like many of us in Veterans for Peace, I've  
4 witnessed the pain, the horror of war, the  
5 destruction, the use of bombs, the use of chemical  
6 defoliants, the harm caused by our military and our  
7 government.

8 Today, I am testifying in support of Resolution  
9 976 and Intro. 1621. Veterans for Peace is a member  
10 of the international campaign to abolish nuclear  
11 weapons. These represent organizations in 100  
12 countries promoting adherence to an implementation of  
13 the United Nations Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

14 As a member of this coalition, Veterans for Peace  
15 is dedicated to pressuring the United States  
16 government to sign the Treaty. For over three weeks  
17 in October 2019, I was on a peace trip to Japan.  
18 Speaking to civil society organizations, academics,  
19 United States Navy, Japan Self Defense Forces and  
20 school children, to apologize for my government  
21 having dropped nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and  
22 Nagasaki.

23 Today, I come before the New York City Council  
24 and thank you for sponsoring these resolutions and  
25 Introduction. I come in support to make New York  
City a nuclear free city as well as in support of

1 Intro. 1621 Divestment of New York City Pension Funds  
2 currently invested in companies involved in nuclear  
3 weapons and nuclear weapons production and  
4 maintenance. For as I said, I am also a member of  
5 the Pension Fund in New York City.  
6

7 The corporations manufacturing nuclear weapons  
8 are fueling the nuclear arms race for their own  
9 financial gain. They actively lobby their  
10 governments and their parliaments to continue  
11 allocating funds for nuclear weapons and they support  
12 their think tanks and other public initiatives to  
13 promote the "need for nuclear weapons maintenance  
14 modernization or expansion."

15 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can you just wrap up?

16 SUSAN SCHNALL: I am.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay.

18 SUSAN SCHNALL: We must become a life affirming  
19 society instead of a death enhancing culture. It is  
20 our responsibility, all of us as citizens of the  
21 world who reside in New York City to make our voices  
22 heard, to make our city and continue it as a nuclear  
23 free zone.

24 We thank you our elected representatives for  
25 hearing us to attempt to divest from those nuclear

3 companies that make their profits on death and  
4 destruction. We thank you for listening to the  
5 people of New York City, to listening to us veterans  
6 who have served this country and request that we  
7 divest from nuclear production industries.

8 Thank you all for hearing us.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

10 JOHN MARIGLIANO: Hi there, my name is John  
11 Marigliano, they call me Johnny Brooklyn or Johnny  
12 Skates. I'm a lifelong teamster member and I work  
13 for Local Aid 14. I'm a foreman with Globe Sargent  
14 Moving and I overheard that this meeting was  
15 happening at a party and was compelled to come  
16 because something has been bothering me for 30 years.  
17 I worked in the Baker and Williams Warehouse for  
18 Globe. We leased that space for probably about 15  
19 years in the late 80's and early 90's until they  
20 forced us out of our lease.

21 How many times I was on the floors of the  
22 building. At some floors, you could actually see the  
23 train tracks where the highline now exits and there  
24 were barrels everywhere and we always wondered what  
25 was in those barrels and the floor was made up of  
asphalt like it was on the street and wherever the

1  
2 barrels sit, there was a big ring. There was warmth  
3 radiating from these barrels and it was actually  
4 melted around, the asphalt was actually melted around  
5 the barrels.

6 My boss was given a bonus to get us out of that  
7 building, if we could get out six months early.

8 Something was wrong and we knew something was wrong  
9 for them to force us out that quickly. I have always  
10 wondered about the cancers that some of our members  
11 got. About what happened, what the future is, what  
12 those people walk on the highline now, what the  
13 people that are in the galleries that are there now,  
14 how that neighborhood has changed so much but still,  
15 there are people that live there. There are human  
16 beings in this city that are exposed to things that  
17 they shouldn't be exposed to and I hope that you will  
18 pass this. That nobody is put in danger again like  
19 that.

20 I didn't work there enough to be exposed in that  
21 way, or at least, I don't think so. I don't know  
22 that yet but I'll never know what happened to some of  
23 those men and if that was a part of it.

24 So, thank you for listening.  
25

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you for that. Thank you very much. Next please.

THOMAS DWYER: Hi, my name is Tom Dwyer; I'm a retired Insurance Executive. I worked in the Wallstreet Financial or the Financial District in Manhattan in all my working years and I just love New York and I'm delighted to be at this hearing.

I owe my presence here really to Anthony Donovan who is here tonight and is connected with the Catholic Workers movement and it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here.

He was aware of the fact that during my time in the army during the 1950's, I was posted to atomic energy commissions testing site in Mercury Nevada and where I witnessed the explosion of the atomic bombs and so, we felt that it would be of interest to the people coming to this hearing to hear from somebody who actually has seen an atomic bomb explode.

So, before I start, I'm just wondering, is there anyone else who has seen one of these things actually blow up? Because I'd be very interested whether I have any of my cohort's here.

Okay, well, it's an astounding, awesome, scary site to see. I saw eleven of them in the spring of

1  
2 1953. The background to is that after I graduated  
3 from college in 1952, I was drafted into the army and  
4 the Korean War was on at the time and sent to the  
5 Signal Corp Photography School in Fort Monmouth New  
6 Jersey where I was given an extensive course in  
7 photography, particularly in processing films and  
8 then was sent to the AEC's test site and my  
9 assignment was to develop what were known as film  
10 badges.

11 Film badges were essentially dental x-ray films,  
12 many of you may have seen or used when they were  
13 using them. I don't think dentists use them anymore,  
14 but they used to put them in your mouth and the x-ray  
15 machine was put up here and after the x-rays went  
16 through, the doctor or the dentist could and when it  
17 was developed. The film is developed inside this and  
18 he could tell what was wrong with your tooth. Well,  
19 those same gadgets were also used to tell how much  
20 radiation those working at the test site received and  
21 I processed them.

22 To just wind this thing up, as a result of being  
23 there, I saw these eleven atomic bombs explode and it  
24 is horrifying to see. The blast is enormous, the  
25

1 light would blind you if you weren't watching it  
2 through goggles.  
3

4 So, I wholly endorse the bills that are before  
5 the City Council here of New York to do everything we  
6 can to eliminate these horrible weapons.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

9 TARIK KALF: Thank you, my name is Tarik  
10 Kalf[SP?]; I'm a member of Veterans for Peace New  
11 York. Veterans for Peace is an international  
12 organization with many sister and brother chapters  
13 across the globe. I'm also a member of Veterans for  
14 Peace Ireland.

15 I was born in New York, I spend most of my time  
16 here but the last year, I spent mostly in Ireland  
17 including some time in Limerick Prison. The reason I  
18 was in Ireland was similar to why I'm here today.  
19 Ireland is supposed to be a neutral country. 82  
20 percent of the people in Ireland believe in  
21 neutrality and want to see neutrality.

22 The U.S. has been violating that neutrality at  
23 Shannon Airport since 2001 and actually before that.  
24 So, I was invited with some of my fellow veterans to  
25 come to Ireland to stand with the Irish people and to



1  
2 expose this hypocrisy that is going on by the Irish  
3 government allowing the U.S. to do that.

4 Now, there was a connection; we have two things  
5 hanging over our head. We have the threat of nuclear  
6 war as had been stated and also the environmental  
7 destruction climate change that's going on. Both of  
8 these things are intimately connected and one of the  
9 things I spoke about in Ireland when I wasn't in  
10 Limerick Prison and actually, I spoke about it in  
11 Limerick Prison to because they were interested, was  
12 the connection between these two factors. These two  
13 horrible factors hanging over our head threatening  
14 and you know, destruction to all life on earth.

15 I'm talking about all life on earth. One of  
16 these bomb goes off and that's it. Okay, so, I so  
17 applaud what you're doing and like I said, 82 percent  
18 of the Irish people are in favor of neutrality and I  
19 will bet you that 82 percent at least of New Yorkers  
20 would be in favor of the initiatives that you have  
21 courageously put forward. It is so important and I  
22 thank you so much for doing this and as far as the  
23 not type of obstruction put forward before by the  
24 International Affairs Committee.

3 You know, we got to go past that. This has to be  
4 done, this is urgent.

5 Thank you so much.

6 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. You must have known  
7 I was Chair of the Irish Caucus here in the City  
8 Council.

9 TARIK KALF: Wonderful.

10 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much to this  
11 panel. We appreciate you coming.

12 TARIK KALF: Thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, Emilie McGlone, Irena  
14 Chonch. I hope I said it right, I apologize if I  
15 didn't. I think it's Jagela Conwell[SP?] and Chin Why  
16 Wong[SP?].

17 Okay, so, we're calling four at a time.  
18 Everybody is good though. Would you like to start  
19 here.

20 EMILIE MCGLONE: Dear Council and Committee  
21 Members, my name is Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace  
22 Boat US. An organization working in collaboration  
23 with the United Nations and Civil Society towards  
24 peace and sustainability with a strong commitment to  
25 disarmament education.

3 I am honored to speak to you today and share my  
4 support for these proposals. To divest from and  
5 avoid any financial exposure to companies involved in  
6 the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons.  
7 Reaffirming New York City as a nuclear weapon free  
8 zone and supporting the treaty on the prohibition of  
9 nuclear weapons.

10 As an International NGO, we fully support  
11 Resolution 0976 and Introduction 1621. For it is not  
12 only a citywide declaration but can also serve as an  
13 example for a nuclear free world. With our office  
14 located in Manhattan, we are in favor of this nuclear  
15 disarmament legislation to let our home, New York  
16 City shine as a role model for other major cities  
17 around the globe.

18 Peace Boat is also a member of the International  
19 Steering Group of ICAN, the international campaign to  
20 abolish nuclear weapons, which was awarded the 2017  
21 Nobel Peace Prize as we saw today.

22 We work together with the Hibakusha, atomic bomb  
23 survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki onboard our  
24 global voyages to raise awareness of the humanitarian  
25 consequences of nuclear weapons.

3 As we know the atomic bombings in Japan killed  
4 more than 200,000 people in 1945. Even today, the  
5 survivors continue to suffer diseases and health  
6 issues associated with exposure to Ionizing radiation  
7 nearly 75 years later.

8 Given that New York City started the nuclear age  
9 as a keynote in the Manhattan project, which  
10 developed the atomic bombs, we have a responsibility  
11 to work towards the total elimination of these  
12 weapons and to maintain our status as a nuclear  
13 weapon free zone.

14 Together with our partners here today, we support  
15 our Council Members and request that you align our  
16 cities financial power with our progressive values.

17 Thank you very much for your consideration and  
18 the opportunity to support these historic resolutions  
19 today.

20 IRENA CHONCH: Dear Committee, my name is Irena  
21 Chonch and I am reading this testimony on behalf of  
22 Linda Chapman, the Associate Artistic Director of New  
23 York Theater Workshop and the Founding President of  
24 Youth Arts New York.

25 I grew up in Spokane Washington. From the hand  
for the nuclear plan on the Columbian River. I'm a

1  
2 two time cancer survivor and I've always suspected  
3 that **[INAUDIBLE 3:22:38]** long suppressed from public  
4 discussion may have had something to do with my  
5 disease.

6 I'm writing on behalf of passing the legislation  
7 Resolution 976 on Nuclear Disarmament and Intro. 621,  
8 a bill to create a Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear  
9 Weapon Free Zone Advisory Committee.

10 New York City played a major role in developing  
11 the nuclear bomb. **[INAUDIBLE 3:23:11]** and now,  
12 possible immediate attack for nuclear attack, we have  
13 a special responsibility in putting a stop to the use  
14 of nuclear weapons.

15 I came to New York City to pursue a career in the  
16 theatre. New York City is the best of cultural and  
17 US society. It is for this love and stewardship of  
18 human life itself that I want to rid the world of  
19 nuclear weapons. We must protect ourselves, nurture  
20 our theatre, our music and our art since one nuclear  
21 bomb over New York will destroy everything and  
22 everyone we love.

23 I would like to thank City Council Members for  
24 being real leaders and taking responsibility where  
25 the federal government fails. By confronting the lie

3 and reality of nuclear weapons, one local initiative  
4 at a time.

5 Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you and next please.

7 JAGELA CONWELL: Hello, I'm Jagela Conwell  
8 and I'm reading the testimony on behalf of Yasuaki  
9 Amasheta{SP?}, a survivor of Nagasaki atomic bomb.

10 Over the course of twelve years, I have an  
11 initiative called Hibakusha Stories, a program of  
12 Youth Arts New York.

13 I personally interacted with the tens of  
14 thousands of New York City high school students,  
15 sharing my story so that they will take leadership in  
16 ridding the work of nuclear weapons.

17 I, Yasuaki Amasheta, was a six year old boy in  
18 Nagasaki when the atomic bomb fell. Normally, on a  
19 hot summer day, I would go out to the mountains with  
20 my friends of my age to catch dragon flies. However,  
21 on this day, I was playing at home nearby my mother  
22 who was preparing the midday meal. Suddenly  
23 precisely at 11:02, we were blinded with an intense  
24 light like thousands of simultaneous flashes of  
25 lightening.

1  
2 My mother pushed me to the ground and covered me  
3 with her body. We heard that roar of great wind and  
4 flying debris off the house collapsed on top of us.  
5 Then there was silence. The atomic bomb had turned  
6 the Center of Nagasaki into an inferno of death and  
7 devastation.

8 Communications and transportation, we destructed.  
9 There was no food in the city and we were starving.  
10 One week after the explosion, we walked through the  
11 rubble of the City Center where fires still burned on  
12 our way to the countryside. Relatives would share  
13 what little food they had.

14 Later, I learn about the dangers of radiation  
15 that caused my fathers death and I witnessed the  
16 effects and the work in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb  
17 Hospital. It was very painful to see the survivors  
18 still suffering from the effects of burns and  
19 radiations.

20 In 1968, I moved to Mexico. I have excepted many  
21 invitations to speak about my atomic bomb experience.  
22 I feel that it is important to keep alive the memory  
23 of the suffering, devastation and death that nuclear  
24 weapons can cause. In the hope that no one will ever  
25 use them again. I worry because each year there are

1 fewer and fewer people still alive who can speak  
2 about this memory from personal experience.  
3

4 Thank you so much.

5 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much also. Next  
6 please.

7 CHIN WHY WONG: Hello, my name is Chin Why Wong,  
8 I'm reading the testimony on behalf of Shigakosa  
9 Samorie[SP?], an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima.

10 Over the course of twelve years, I have  
11 participated in Hibakusha Stories and interacted with  
12 thousands of New York City high school students.  
13 Sharing my story so that they would take leadership  
14 in ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

15 I was a 13 year old student in Hiroshima Japan  
16 when the United States dropped the atomic bombs on my  
17 city. Hearing the sound of a plane, I looked up to  
18 see a B29 flying overhead. Seconds later, I was  
19 knocked unconscious by the blast. When I came to, I  
20 was so badly burned that I was unrecognizable. I  
21 repeated my name and address over and over until I  
22 was finally found days later by my father. My  
23 friend, who was at my side when we looked into the  
24 sky and many classmates who were there died.  
25



1  
2       Some of course survived like me. One third of my  
3 body was burned, all my face, neck, back, half of my  
4 chest, shoulders, arms and both hands. It's a  
5 miracle to me. Years later, I traveled to the United  
6 States in 1955 as part of a group of young women  
7 known as the Hiroshima Maidens. While in New York, I  
8 underwent numerous plastic surgery operations and met  
9 my adopted father, Dr. Norman Cousins. I have  
10 dedicated my life to making certain no one ever  
11 experience what I experienced and have traveled  
12 around the world telling my story and sharing my  
13 love.

14       I have met thousands of New York City students  
15 who hugged me and gave me their love after my  
16 testimony. I love these children and it breaks my  
17 heart that anything bad would ever happen to them.  
18 New York has always been a home to me and I'm proud  
19 that the New York City Council is providing world  
20 leadership in ridding the world of nuclear weapons.  
21 No more war, no more Hiroshima's, no more Nagasaki's.

22       Thank you.

23       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Can I just ask; how did you get  
24 the testimony of those two victims of the atomic  
25 bombing?

1  
2 EMILIE MCGLONE: From Peace Boat US, we are in  
3 partnership with Hibakusha Stories and Youth Arts New  
4 York and we work directly with, actually, I know  
5 these survivors personally who have traveled with us  
6 and spoken with us at many schools here in New York  
7 City. They sent us the testimonies personally.

8 CO-CHAIR DROMM: You met them?

9 EMILIE MCGLONE: These are our interns and they  
10 are reading on behalf of the survivors.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Have you met them?

12 EMILIE MCGLONE: I know them personally, yes.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: That's really amazing. It's  
14 really important to hear that to. Thank you.

15 EMILIE MCGLONE: Yes, thank you. We have one  
16 last.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Yeah, I know. Is that Lena  
18 Gerow[SP?].

19 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, Lena.

21 LENA GEROW: Good afternoon everybody. I am Lena  
22 Gerow and I'm reading this testimony on behalf of Ms.  
23 Setsuko Thurlow, who is a survivor of the atomic bomb  
24 in Hiroshima and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize  
25

1  
2 in 2017 with international Campaign to abolish  
3 nuclear weapons.

4 Dear Council and Committee Members, as a 13 year  
5 old schoolgirl, I witnessed by beloved city of  
6 Hiroshima burn in the heat of 4,000 degrees Celsius,  
7 turning into a place of desolation with heaps of  
8 rubbles, skeletons and blackened corpses everywhere.

9 Of a population of 360,000, largely noncombatant  
10 women, children and elderly. Most became victims of  
11 the indiscriminate massacre of the atomic bombing.  
12 Even today, nearly 75 years later, people are still  
13 dying from the delayed effects of one atomic bomb.  
14 Considered crude by the contemporary standards for  
15 mass destruction.

16 Through months and years of struggle for  
17 survival, rebuilding lives out of the ashes, we  
18 survivors or Hibakusha became convinced that no human  
19 being should ever have to repeat our experience and  
20 that our mission is to warn the world about the  
21 reality of the nuclear threat and to help people  
22 understand the ultimate evil of nuclear weapons.

23 When I accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of  
24 the International Campaign to abolish nuclear  
25 weapons, I recall the words I heard when I was

1 rescued from the rubble of a collapsed building in  
2 the ruins of Hiroshima, "Don't give up, keep pushing.  
3 See the light, crawl towards it." This legislation  
4 Resolution 976 and Intro. 1621 is part of that light.  
5 The light for abolition.  
6

7 On behalf of the survivors of Hiroshima and  
8 Nagasaki, I would like to express my deep gratitude  
9 to all in the New York City Council who support this  
10 effort. I urge you to vote in favor of nuclear  
11 disarmament bills, to invest in New York City's  
12 future and send a message to Washington DC and the  
13 world to do the same.

14 Thank you.

15 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you so much. Thank you to  
16 the whole panel, thank you.

17 Alright, we're going to go to six, so Sergeant,  
18 we're going to need two extra seats, if you can get  
19 that for us.

20 Mitchie Takeuchi, Rosemarie Pace, Anthony  
21 Donovan, Michael I think Gorbachev, Sally Jones, and  
22 the Reverend T.K. Nakagaki, who was here with us last  
23 week, giving the invocation to the City Council.

24 So, welcome back to the City Council. Okay,  
25 let's start over here.

1  
2 MITCHIE TAKEUCHI: Okay. Good afternoon New York  
3 City Council Members and fellow New Yorkers. My name  
4 is Mitchie Takeuchi , New York City has been my home  
5 for the past 40 years. This creative and energetic  
6 city has given me so much. I feel I owe it to this  
7 city; I owe it to share my story about my family who  
8 survived the atomic bombing in Hiroshima.

9 My grandfather, Dr. Ken Takeuchi was the Founding  
10 President of the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima. On  
11 August 6, 1945, the first war time use of an atomic  
12 bomb leveled my hometown, which had a mostly civilian  
13 population of 300,000. Although, close to Ground  
14 Zero, the Red Cross hospital withstood total  
15 destruction. The enormous blast caused a heavy door  
16 to fly off its hinges and knocked my grandfather  
17 unconscious. When he came to, he was unable to move  
18 due to broken bones all over his body but far worst  
19 was what he saw. Unimaginable suffering, dead bodies  
20 everywhere. It was complete chaos.

21 The A Bomb indiscriminately destroyed everyone  
22 and everything in Hiroshima. Severely burned and  
23 injured people, streaming into the hospital  
24 desperately looking for help. The surviving doctors  
25 and nurses did the best they could with no

1  
2 electricity and few medical supplies. That day, it  
3 is estimated that more than 72,000 people died.

4 By the end of 1945, the deaths totaled over  
5 140,000. The nuclear weapons we have today are 3,000  
6 times more powerful than the ones dropped on  
7 Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If one of these model  
8 weapons was used on New York City, with 8.5 million  
9 people, it could cause a disaster of unprecedented  
10 scale and thrust the globe into an immediate climate  
11 crisis killing millions more people worldwide.

12 We cannot allow the same catastrophic fate of  
13 Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be fall this city that we  
14 love so much.

15 Thank you.

16 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very, very much. Next  
17 please.

18 ROSEMARIE PACE: My name is Rosemarie Pace; I'm  
19 Director of Pax Christi Metro New York, a region of  
20 the International Catholic Peace Movement. I thank  
21 you very much for this opportunity to speak in  
22 support of Intro. 1621 and Resolution 976.

23 Since I represent the Catholic Peace Movement, my  
24 testimony is rooted in Catholic social teaching.  
25 Pretty much since the development of nuclear weapons,

1 the Catholic church has opposed them, recognizing  
2 them to be weapons of mass destruction, capable of  
3 destroying all life, all of Gods creation.  
4

5 Just this past November, Pope Francis visited  
6 Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Japan where in August 1945, the  
7 United States of America dropped the only nuclear  
8 weapons ever used in war. Must of my testimony will  
9 be the words of Pope Francis, that he delivered on  
10 his historic trip. In Hiroshima, he said in part,  
11 with deep conviction I wish once more to declare the  
12 use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today  
13 more than ever a crime, not only against dignity of  
14 human beings but against any possible future for our  
15 common home.

16 The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is  
17 immoral just at the possessing of nuclear weapons is  
18 immoral. We will be judged on this. How can we  
19 speak of peace, even as we build terrifying new  
20 weapons of war. How can we speak about peace, even  
21 as we justify illegitimate actions by speeches filled  
22 with discrimination and hate.

23 Indeed, if we really want to build a more just  
24 and secure society, we must let the weapons fall from  
25 our hands, a true piece can only be an unarmed piece.

1  
2 In Nagasaki, Pope Francis was even more specific. We  
3 must never grow weary of working to support the  
4 principle international legal instruments of nuclear  
5 disarmament and nonproliferation including the Treaty  
6 on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. He went on to  
7 address political leaders directly.

8 Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear  
9 weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political  
10 leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot  
11 protect us from current threats to national and  
12 international security.

13 We need to ponder the catastrophic impact of  
14 their deployment, especially from a humanitarian and  
15 environmental standpoint and reject heightening the  
16 climate of fear, mistrust and hostility fermented by  
17 nuclear weapons.

18 Pax Christi has made nuclear weapons abolition a  
19 corner stone of its work since its beginning 75 years  
20 ago. In that context, I call on the New York City  
21 Council to pass Intro. 1621 and Resolution 976.  
22 There is no time to lose.

23 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

24 SALLY JONES: Dear members of the New York City  
25 Council, my name is Sally Jones; I'm the Chair of



3 Peace Action Fund of New York State and I submit this  
4 testimony on behalf of Peace Action. An organization  
5 that began 57 years ago here in New York City, as the  
6 Committee for a sane nuclear policy.

7 We have an office just a few blocks from here,  
8 Peace Action New York State and my local chapter,  
9 Peace Action of Staten Island is a short Ferry ride  
10 across the harbor. Through my involvement with Peace  
11 Action over the last 18 years, I've learned about how  
12 present the danger is of nuclear war and nuclear  
13 accident and how much damage just the building of  
14 nuclear weapons is doing around the globe. This  
15 damage extends to my hometown of Staten Island where  
16 tons of uranium were stored under the Bayonne Bridge  
17 during World War II in a site which has still not  
18 been properly remediated.

19 We are thankful to the organizers who work so  
20 hard to bring this legislation to you, the City  
21 Council Members and made these hearings possible. I  
22 have a special thank you. She's not here, to my own  
23 representative, Council Member Debbie Rose of Staten  
24 Island who is a co-sponsor.

25 In three months, on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 800  
Japanese, at least 800 Japanese including survivors

1 of August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of the atomic bomb attacks will  
2 be here in New York City along with hundreds of  
3 international activists and people all around and  
4 they'll be at Riverside Church. I want to welcome  
5 you Council Members to come to these events and I  
6 think it would be a wonderful symbolic gesture for us  
7 to welcome the Japanese and the survivors with this  
8 legislation passed.  
9

10 Thank you very much.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Please, get me the  
12 details. Thank you.

13 ANTHONY DONOVAN: Yeah, so thank you very much.  
14 My name is Anthony Donovan. I love sitting here and  
15 I'm looking at a great painting of George Washington  
16 and how he was fought against Empire and how these  
17 nuclear weapons represent exactly that, putting this  
18 gun to people heads.

19 So, God bless you. We're going to do our best -

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: I got to tell you something  
21 about that painting.

22 ANTHONY DONOVAN: Yes.

23 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Notice where the horses behind  
24 is. That will tell you what the painter thought of  
25 George Washington.

3 ANTHONY DONOVAN: Okay, alright. Well, and thank  
4 you so much Council Member Dromm and Chairman Cabrera  
5 for this precious moment and for everyone sticking it  
6 out today.

7 It's very rare in our life that we get to do  
8 something that can save the world. I'd say it's  
9 pretty rare, right. You're doing it. You're doing  
10 it by this legislation.

11 I want to share an experience that I had four  
12 years ago when I visited, I spent a week going to the  
13 offices of our representatives of our United States.  
14 Every member of the Arms Service Committee, every  
15 member of our Appropriations Committee. These are  
16 the people responsible for our nuclear weapons and I  
17 found out some really disturbing things. And this is  
18 after I did this documentary, which is unfortunate,  
19 but I found out they did not have an idea of what one  
20 bomb actually does. They hadn't thought about it.

21 So, I'm really proud to be with people who think  
22 about this. I'm a hospice nurse, I know what it  
23 takes to care for your mother, your child whose got  
24 cancer. I know how much energy it takes for one  
25 person. You can't even consider what this is. So,  
they didn't know what one bomb does. The other

1  
2 thing, these are the people responsible. They had no  
3 idea what the cost was. They didn't know, they  
4 couldn't give me a figure. Oh, it's about - so, wow,  
5 okay and Council Member Dromm, you know that you have  
6 to be accountable and you need some transparency.  
7 You're a Finance Chair; imagine our government not  
8 knowing the cost.

9       And just quickly, what else I found out with  
10 them, is they had no idea that 155 countries at that  
11 time were gathering to talk about this because they  
12 knew the nuclear states were just going along with  
13 the status quo and later I found out the myth that  
14 they also kick back with, well, our allies depend on  
15 us. Our allies really need us with these nuclear  
16 weapons. They don't and I've been to Scotland where  
17 57 out of 59 Scottish members of parliament say we  
18 want these weapons out and I've been to Germany where  
19 70 to 93 percent of the citizens want our 20 nuclear  
20 bombs out of Germany.

21       So, the people are really behind you. Thank you  
22 so much. God bless you for doing this, you're a  
23 great light.

24       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much.

3 MICHAEL GORBACHEV: Hi everybody. My name is  
4 Michael Gorbachev; I am a Production Designer right  
5 here in Soho and you probably guessed, I am related  
6 to this former Soviet Union Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

7 And so, my father is Sergey Gorbachev, he's a  
8 world famous Russian Artist, Cousin of Mikhail  
9 Gorbachev. He was good friends with Mikhail's wife  
10 Raisa Gorbachev. In 1988 Raisa invited my father to  
11 showcase his artwork in the Soviet Cultural  
12 Foundation as she frequently exhibited passionate  
13 artists who were against war and nuclear weapons.  
14 Raisa also was the one who encouraged my father to  
15 take his family and migrate to New York City because  
16 she knew Russia would be going through difficult  
17 times.

18 We migrated from Ukraine in 1991, in 1996 the  
19 United Nations Commission, my father to create  
20 original work into redesign the United Nations Stamp.  
21 His green and red flower painting is currently housed  
22 in their collection.

23 Mikhail Gorbachev has been very proactive in  
24 downsizing the volume and availability of nuclear  
25 weapons on an international level. He holds a strong  
position against further development, maintenance and

1 expansion of all nuclear arsenals. He is convinced  
2 that is just a matter of time before nuclear weapons  
3 fall into their own hands and create a scenario of  
4 attack and instant retaliation.  
5

6 Sharing the same beliefs on this important  
7 matter, I to believe the world will greatly benefit  
8 from season production and elimination of all nuclear  
9 weapons. The two prominent leading nuclear countries  
10 are still Russia and the United States. Diplomatic  
11 tensions continue to aspirate between the two  
12 nations.

13 While some of the reasons are due to irrational  
14 phobias and televised propaganda, they have recently  
15 become more similar socially, economically and  
16 politically. I strongly believe trustworthy  
17 diplomatic relations are important and necessary to  
18 deescalate the production existence of nuclear war  
19 capabilities. There is much more to collectively  
20 benefit from having stronger relations versus being  
21 in opposition. Together, the two nations can stand  
22 together and encourage the rest of the world to  
23 denuclearize.

24 I strongly supported TPNW and a nuclear weapons  
25 divestment. New York is one of the greatest and most

1 influential cities on earth and it should stand  
2 firmly against any cooperation or ties to nuclear  
3 weapons manufacturing. Every one of us can play a  
4 small part in this brave contribution and set a  
5 positive example for future generations.  
6

7 Thank you.

8 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Very  
9 interesting, thank you. Reverend.

10 REVEREND T.K. NAKAGAKI: Yes, good afternoon and  
11 I'm sorry, you must be so tired, no time to go to the  
12 bathroom even maybe.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: I'm energized by this. I'm  
14 ready to go, let's fight, you know.

15 REVEREND T.K. NAKAGAKI: So, my name is T.K.  
16 Nakagaki; I'm the President and Founder of Peace and  
17 Reconsideration Foundation of New York and also the  
18 former President of the Buddhist Council New York.  
19 Current also as Vice President of Buddhist Council of  
20 New York as well and also, I was recognized as a  
21 Hiroshima Peace Ambassador as well as a Nagasaki  
22 Peace Correspondent.

23 So, I'll be organizing actually the Hiroshima,  
24 Nagasaki memorial in Manhattan since I came to New  
25 York 1994, so actually 26 years, I've been every year

1 annually hosting the interface peace gathering to  
2 commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3  
4 So, that's kind of my background and also, in  
5 this case I would like to also share why I'm doing -  
6 I'm not familiar with everything that everybody is  
7 talking about already, so I don't have to say those  
8 things. Instead, my intention is simple. You know,  
9 life is very important for everyone. Why do we need  
10 to have weapons even, like kill anybody and  
11 especially this nuclear weapons, it's too much  
12 really.

13 So, that's one of the reasons and two countries  
14 should be responsible for these things ever happen.  
15 One is Japan, because it was a country somehow,  
16 somehow actually of course is a reason there to but  
17 the atomic bomb was dropped. So, that's one country,  
18 so my response for having this memorial service every  
19 time. So, I try to bring the awareness of the  
20 people, the importance of the peace and importance of  
21 all lives.

22 And then, but the second part, then the other  
23 country is the United States who use the weapons and  
24 especially New York, you know, the Manhattan Project  
25 that many people are talking about. The Manhattan



3 Project for these weapons but yet, now, we are  
4 actually you know, I'm hoping always to see Manhattan  
5 or New York or United States become a responsible  
6 country which really maintain the peace and respect  
7 in your life.

8 So, instead of Manhattan Project for war or you  
9 know, nuclear weapons, I hope that this Manhattan  
10 Project, this is Manhattan Project for Peace and I  
11 hope you will move forward with this and make the  
12 U.S. as a more responsible country **[INAUDIBLE**

13 **4:00:36]** you did or we did to probably. One of the  
14 comments I just wanted to share, there's one thing  
15 that stuck in my mind was you know if U.S. didn't  
16 drop the bomb, maybe at that time, if Japan has the  
17 quality to, maybe they would drop to.

18 So, everybody was you know, kind of competing  
19 each other to try to win the game but then that is  
20 the result here. So, we need to really think of the  
21 peace as the most important things that we need to do  
22 and that we respect each other. We try to live  
23 together and that is the message that I would like to  
24 share with you today and I fully support this bill.

25 Thank you.

1  
2 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much and thank  
3 you for coming last week to give us a little peace  
4 before our Stated Meeting. Thank you, thank you to  
5 this panel.

6 Okay, so, I'm being told that we only have this  
7 room until 4:30, so that's why I'm rushing a little  
8 bit with the panels, but if we still have people who  
9 want to speak at 4:30, we'll go next door to hear the  
10 rest of the panels. Everybody who signed up will get  
11 an opportunity to speak.

12 Alright, Yuni Chang, Christian Ciobanu, Bill  
13 Ofinawk, Jon Lipsky, Donna Stein, Leslie Cagan. My  
14 constituent, where is Leslie? Good to see you.

15 And by the way, after this hearing, there is a  
16 Lunar New Year celebration in this room. So, if you  
17 want to stick around for the Lunar New Year  
18 celebration, you are all welcome. Although, I know  
19 many of you have been here since early this morning.

20 Alright, would you like to start?

21 CHRISTIAN CIOBANU: Dear Council Members and  
22 esteemed colleagues. My name is Christian Ciobanu;  
23 I'm a representative of the Nuclear Age Peace  
24 Foundation. I'm also registered in District 4 which  
25 covers the United Nations.

1 I held degrees in nonproliferation and terrorism  
2 studies as well as political science. I have been a  
3 nuclear disarmament activist since 2009. I have also  
4 been on government delegations to settle high level  
5 nuclear disarmament negotiations.  
6

7 As an American, a Native New Yorker, I grew up  
8 with limited knowledge about our city's involvement  
9 and the creation of nuclear weapons, which devastated  
10 the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ravaged the  
11 pacific region.

12 The devastating impact of nuclear testing in the  
13 pacific region propelled me to act by helping the  
14 government of the Marshal Islands during the  
15 negotiations on the Treaty on the prohibition of  
16 nuclear weapons, TPNW as an advisor.

17 We negotiated the articles related to victim  
18 assistance, environmental remediation, also known as  
19 the positive obligations of the TPNW. To educate the  
20 New Yorkers about the devastating impact of nuclear  
21 weapons, I have organized seminars at universities  
22 throughout our city. High level experts and  
23 diplomats to inform the students about the horrific  
24 impact of nuclear weapons. These young New Yorkers  
25

1 were able to pose questions and engage in meaning  
2 dialogue about nuclear weapons and the TPNW experts.  
3

4 Significantly, in December of 2018, I served as  
5 the official Co-Chair of the Global Youth Forum on  
6 the TPNW, which was held at Auckland New Zealand.  
7 Several young New Yorkers attend the conference and  
8 engage in dialogue with youth from both New Zealand  
9 and the pacific region. These dialogues focus on the  
10 impact of U.S. nuclear testing in the region and the  
11 dome in the Marshal Islands where the U.S. has stored  
12 it's nuclear waste from the tests.

13 The American participants were shocked about the  
14 U.S. decision to test on the Pacific Islands and the  
15 environmental and humanitarian consequences of  
16 nuclear weapons. As a result of this conference,  
17 many of them, especially the New York participants  
18 remain in the field of nuclear disarmament and  
19 interact with policy makers about the importance of  
20 the treaty.

21 One of them even inspired his friend to become an  
22 activist in the field. This young person was able to  
23 convey her own views about nuclear weapons to  
24 diplomats by drafting the Youth Statement for an  
25 International U.N. conference in October of 2019.

1 Her views resonated with many policy makers who began  
2 to understand the importance of youth engagement. We  
3 need to continue to have these cross cultural  
4 dialogues and engage with all young New Yorkers about  
5 the impact of nuclear weapons.  
6

7 To continue this process of educating New  
8 Yorkers, it is imperative for all Council Members to  
9 support these measures, Introduction 1621 and  
10 Resolution 976. These measures will help establish  
11 an advisory committee, reaffirm New York City status  
12 as a nuclear weapon free zone, underscore its support  
13 for both ICAN cities appeal as well as the TPNW and  
14 divest the pension fund.

15 Together, we can establish a new peaceful period  
16 in New York and send a clear message to the entire  
17 world that New York City is committed to a world free  
18 of nuclear weapons.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you to. Thank you, next  
21 please.

22 JON LIPSKY: Jon Lipsky; FBI retired Longmont  
23 Colorado. Honorable New York City Council Members,  
24 staff and visitors, I thank you for the opportunity  
25 to address Introduction and Resolution. Your

1  
2 legislation promotes world peace and I urge you to  
3 pass it.

4 Nuclear weapons inherently produce nuclear waste  
5 but is not protective of human health and the  
6 environment. The United States is comprised of  
7 nuclear state created dangers and coverups of weapons  
8 grade plutonium 239 manufacturing waste and  
9 unfulfilled remediation. Plutonium 239 among many  
10 other nuclear weapon chemicals is primarily  
11 anthropogenic with a half life of over 24,000 years  
12 and capable of aberrations of human cells. One such  
13 nuclear super fund site is the former Rocky Flats  
14 nuclear weapons plant, Golden Colorado.

15 I was a principal FBI agent who investigated  
16 crimes at Rocky Flats where plutonium pit productions  
17 ceased that resulted in federal criminal convictions.  
18 In 1989, the Rocky Flats Contract Operator sued the  
19 federal government in part because "compliance with  
20 the land disposal restrictions is current  
21 impossible."

22 Thirty years after Rocky Flats, proliferation of  
23 nuclear weapons is frightfully increasing. Despite  
24 the lack of nuclear repository facilities in the  
25 United States, the National Nuclear Safety

1 Administration or Security Administration NNSA is  
2 forcing its plan to produce 80 weapons grade  
3 plutonium 239 pits per year by 2030 and have cost of  
4 exceeding \$1 Trillion and that's going to be at Los  
5 Alamos New Mexico in the Savannah River site South  
6 Carolina. The NNSA plan unfortunately is more  
7 nuclear super fund sites instead of infrastructure  
8 projects completed. Misguided temporary nuclear  
9 waste storage sites instead of affordable housing and  
10 more citizens forced to live with radiation instead  
11 of affordable healthcare plans.  
12

13 Health and safety will be pretermitted as it has  
14 in the past. I know because I investigated it. With  
15 nuclear weapons and its vail of secrecy, as President  
16 Obama remarked in 2009, "the peace and security of a  
17 world without nuclear weapons." Nuclear waste is not  
18 your friend.

19 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Imagine what we  
20 could do with a trillion dollars.

21 JON LIPSKY: It would be fun.

22 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Right. Next please.

23 DONNA STEIN: Thank you, Council. My name is  
24 Donna Stein, a member of the Board of Directors of  
25 Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and President of New

1  
2 York City Friends of Clearwater. Both founded by  
3 Pete Seeger 50 years ago to clean up the  
4 environmental disaster that was the Hudson River.  
5 There was much success, but the river still needs our  
6 attention.

7 Clearwater has long opposed and exposed the risks  
8 of nuclear power. Focus has been on the dangers of  
9 nuclear plants and the use of nuclear energy but make  
10 no mistake, there is a direct connection between  
11 nuclear weapons and nuclear energy and its result in  
12 nuclear waste.

13 Nuclear is not just about the plant, the bomb,  
14 there are so many things up to that point. Uranium  
15 mining, milling and weapons testing impacts  
16 communities around this country and the world  
17 including first nation communities with proposed  
18 waste storage on their lands.

19 Pete Seeger, back in 1963, sang a song, Never  
20 Again the A-Bomb. Look it up. He said, we must  
21 forbid it. Take care that the third atom bomb never  
22 falls. Sadly, testing continues even past the times  
23 we were told that it stopped and nuclear weapons,  
24 arsenals in several countries remain deeply  
25 troubling. History demonstrates that plants were



1  
2 mainly for the purpose to create material for nuclear  
3 bombs. There are much better, safer ways to boil  
4 water.

5 Bob Elpern[SP?] an anti-nuclear activist and  
6 fellow Clearwater Board Director, often calls Indian  
7 Point a pre-positioned nuclear weapon. So many  
8 things could go wrong. It sits too close to a high  
9 pressured gas pipeline, managed by a company who has  
10 pipeline accidents. It also sits on a seismic fault  
11 line, which was unknown to the builders when it was  
12 originally sited. Terrorists have included Indian  
13 Point as a possible target.

14 Please put a halt to this madness and don't make  
15 public employees have to be a party to this horror.  
16 I urge you to divest from nuclear weapons, make  
17 history, attend to your legacy and pass this  
18 Resolution. It's a start.

19 Thank you for your understanding on this  
20 important issue.

21 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

22 BILL OFINAWK: My name is Bill Ofinawk[SP?] and  
23 I'm here to read a statement on behalf of Father  
24 Steve Kelly, whom you heard about earlier.

3 He's been in prison now almost two years in  
4 Georgia for a plowshares action and has served over  
5 ten years in prison for similar actions.

6 He writes, I write regarding these resolutions  
7 worthy of your agenda and effecting New York City  
8 citizens and millions of other vulnerable people. I  
9 am currently a prisoner of conscience in Brunswick  
10 Georgia as a consequence of a witness, an embodiment  
11 of the vision of economic, political and moral  
12 conversion giving us an Isaiah sorts into plowshares.

13 This nonviolent exposure of the Ommissiah of the  
14 trident offense system underlines your concerns of  
15 the danger of nuclear possession, threat and God  
16 forbid use. But more importantly, and several  
17 Catholic workers and others will speak to this. It  
18 is trillions of dollars in theft from the needs of  
19 our society as outlined by Eisenhower in his  
20 presidential departure declaration.

21 I'm encouraged that you consider divestment and  
22 advocacy of the ICAN Treaty. Nuclear weapons will  
23 not go away by themselves.

24 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
25 please.

3 YUNI CHANG: Hello, my name is Yuni Chang and I'm  
4 the Field Organizer with the War Resisters League and  
5 we are the oldest secular anti-war organization in  
6 the U.S.

7 I was born on August 13, 1996 in Seoul South  
8 Korea and I've lived on the east coast for 22 years.  
9 This country has been at war for 80 percent of my  
10 life. The war my grandparents lived through and that  
11 my parents were born in, the one that killed 3  
12 million Koreans, separated my family and remains one  
13 of the bloodiest wars in history is still not over.  
14 This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that war.

15 Nuclear weapons are tools of endless war. They  
16 were designed to wipe out human life and to destroy  
17 the world many times over. Therefore, War Resisters  
18 League supports these proposals and we commend you  
19 for standing up to the grave threat of nuclear  
20 warfare.

21 However, in our 96 years of organizing against  
22 war, we know that the only way to truly eliminate the  
23 threats posed by nuclear weapons is to end all wars  
24 and the only way to end all wars is to address their  
25 root causes which include racism, sexism and all  
forms of exploitation. These root causes threaten

1 humanities common desire to live well and without  
2 fear and we see them at play in the daily lives of  
3 all New Yorkers. We see the root causes of war  
4 thriving in the city that chooses to spend billions  
5 on building new jails and are cracking down fair  
6 evasion instead of on NYCHA, harm reduction programs  
7 and poverty benefits.  
8

9 The systems that wage war across the world and  
10 the systems that police harass, surveil and detain  
11 people in our city are the same. If you support  
12 divesting from nuclear weapons and reaffirming New  
13 York City as a nuclear free zone, for the wellbeing  
14 and future of humanity, then you cannot  
15 simultaneously fund and advocate for projects that  
16 criminalize people for being Black, Brown, Queer and  
17 Trans and poor. You have to fight for peoples lives  
18 in every arena.

19 As the City Council, it is your responsibility to  
20 vote consistently for the safety and dignity of New  
21 Yorkers and those with whom we share this earth. We  
22 celebrate that veto proof majority supports this  
23 powerful and needed legislation and we urge you to be  
24 brave and take a stand against violence and all it's  
25 force.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Leslie.

LESLIE CAGAN: Hi, first of all, thank you to the Council Members who, I'm sorry, I'm having trouble with my voice today but thank you to the Council Members who are taking your role on City Council seriously and giving us all the leadership on this issue.

My name is Leslie Cagan; I am a decades long organizer in the Peace and Justice movements and in fact, 38 years ago, I was the Lead Organizer of the Historic Nuclear Disarmament Protest on June 12, 1982, here in New York City.

A few hours ago, I sat here as I think many in the room in disbelief, horrified and outrage by the comments from the Mayor's Office. I urge you and your comrades on the City Council to respond to those comments by quickly, very quickly passing 976 and 1621. For decades the people of this city have petitioned, lobbied, marched, rallied and engaged in civil disobedience as part of the global movement to rid the world of the most horrific weapons ever produced, nuclear weapons.

We should be proud of this history but our work is far from over. Today, the world faces two great

3 existential threats. The nightmare of a global  
4 climate crisis unfolding faster and more intensely  
5 than previously predicted and the ever present threat  
6 of the use of nuclear weapons, either by accident or  
7 design. Nine nations have nuclear weapons; some of  
8 the best nations in the world.

9 So, one might ask, what is the point of New York  
10 City passing 976 and 1621. The point is this, each  
11 of us as citizens of the world must find and use  
12 every single tool available to bring us, that is the  
13 planet, back from the edge of disaster. There is no  
14 time to waste. Our opinions matter but our opinions  
15 matter but most critically our actions are what is  
16 most important. The City of New York has the  
17 opportunity to help strengthen the global movement to  
18 rid the world of nuclear weapons.

19 We urge you to use the power of your office to  
20 take the concrete steps by enacting 976 and 1621 and  
21 to do so without further delay. Quite literally, the  
22 clock is ticking.

23 Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you so much. Very  
25 powerful, thank you to this panel and we're going to

1 call up one more panel and see if we can then move  
2 over to the next room.

3  
4 But let me get this panel up here now. From  
5 Nuclear Ban US, I'm sorry, I can't read the name.  
6 Vicki Elson, Nuclear Ban also US, Lilly Adams Union  
7 of Concern Scientists, Heidi Hutner, Alfred Meyer  
8 Physicians for Social Responsibility, Charles K.  
9 Johnson International Physicians for the Prevention  
10 of Nuclear War.

11 Alright, would you like to start?

12 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you for this opportunity to  
13 speak Council people. I'm very honored to be here  
14 and I am going to speak very quickly because I know  
15 we don't have much time.

16 I come as a representative of a group called,  
17 Women's Strike for Peace. This is a group of women  
18 who in the 1960's, the early 60's fought on behalf of  
19 their children and the children of United States  
20 because fall out from nuclear bomb testing in the  
21 Nevada desert had spread across the U.S. and  
22 scientists found the Strontium-90 from this fall out  
23 in baby teeth gathered from all over the United  
24 States.

25 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Did you say your name?

3 HEIDI HUTNER: My name is Heidi Hutner; I'm a  
4 Professor at Stonebrook University. I'm a writer and  
5 I'm actually making a documentary film right now  
6 about women and nuclear disasters.

7 So, these women, my mother was one of them and  
8 this group was founded by Bella Abzug and Dagmar  
9 Wilson. These women, 50,000 of them organized; it  
10 was the largest group at the time that was organized  
11 in the United States and they protested and they  
12 convinced President Kennedy to sign the limited Test  
13 Ban Treaty and they stopped atmosphere of bomb  
14 testing or at least they greatly influenced this  
15 Treaty.

16 So, I'm here on behalf of those women and on  
17 behalf of the women, indigenous people across the  
18 world who actually are most harmed by nuclear  
19 disasters, by radiation waste. One of the facts in  
20 the preamble to the treaty that we spoke about today,  
21 that these wonderful people won a Nobel Peace Prize  
22 for, speaks to the gender issues. Women are twice as  
23 likely to get cancer from the same exposure to  
24 radiation as adult men and they are nearly twice as  
25 likely to die from that exposure. Children many,  
many times more so and little girls most of all are



1 harmed, seven times more so than adult White males.

2 But radiation standards, safety standards are based  
3 on an adult male body.

4  
5 So, this is the important fact, indigenous people  
6 we know are most exposed because they are in  
7 communities where uranium mining takes place and we  
8 also know that their communities have been very much  
9 effected by nuclear bombs.

10 These facts are often ignored and these  
11 communities and these people are most harmed. So, I  
12 speak on behalf of them and on behalf of the children  
13 and I ask that you humbly pass this Resolution and  
14 work hard and I thank you so much for your work.

15 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

16 LILLY ADAMS: Hello, my name is Lilly Adams; I  
17 work with the Union of Concerned Scientist or UCS. A  
18 nonprofit organization dedicated to using rigorous  
19 independent science to solve our planets most  
20 pressing problems including the threat of nuclear  
21 weapons. I would like to thank the New York City  
22 Council Members today for considering this urgent and  
23 important issue.

24 As an organization of scientists, UCS must reckon  
25 with the fact that scientists help bring about the

1 development of nuclear weapons. Yet, after the  
2 creation of the bomb and its tragic use in New Mexico  
3 and Japan, the very same scientists were some of the  
4 most ardent advocates for disarmament and the  
5 prevention of their use ever again.  
6

7 UCS works to continue that legacy of science  
8 advocacy. As others have said, last week, the  
9 bulletin of the atomic scientists set their doomsday  
10 clock to just 100 seconds to midnight, citing  
11 unprecedented nuclear threats and calling on the  
12 world to take immediate action.

13 Despite these dire warnings, our federal  
14 government is neglecting its responsibility to act  
15 and, in some cases, is actively making the world less  
16 safe by promoting dangerous nuclear weapons policies.

17 This is why UCS believes it is crucial for local  
18 governments to take a stand. We urgently need local  
19 elected officials and concerned advocates to raise  
20 their voices and denounce these terrible inhumane  
21 weapons. This action is especially powerful coming  
22 from New York City, the birthplace of the Manhattan  
23 Project and home to many former nuclear weapon sites.

24 New York City has a stake in this fight and as a  
25 New York City resident myself, I am proud to be here

1  
2 today as part of this historic effort and to support  
3 the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

4 The Union of Concerned Scientist wholeheartedly  
5 supports New York City in divesting from the  
6 companies involved in the production and maintenance  
7 of nuclear weapons and we urge New York City Council  
8 to support Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 to  
9 help create a safer world.

10 Thank you.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

12 TIMMON WALLIS: Hello, my name is Timmon Wallis;  
13 I'm Representing Nuclear Ban US and the Acronym  
14 Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy and I've given  
15 you two background documents. One is called Warheads  
16 to Windmills, which is a report about the links  
17 between climate change and nuclear weapons and  
18 demonstrates not only the links between these two but  
19 the fact that we can't address climate change without  
20 addressing nuclear weapons and we need the money, we  
21 need the scientists and the engineers and we need the  
22 international good will that is being squandered by  
23 these weapons.

24

25

3 So, New York is already in the lead on the fossil  
4 fuels and so, that's why I hope we can add that to  
5 the nuclear issue.

6 The other document that I've given you is just a  
7 very brief summary of research I did back in the  
8 1990's about the peace movement in the 80's that led  
9 to the INF Treaty and to the largest disarmament  
10 process that we've seen so far. Including as many  
11 people here were part of, the nuclear freeze  
12 movement, that million people marching in the streets  
13 of New York and so on and my research was looking at  
14 what ultimately effected the Reagan Administration to  
15 reverse course from calling the Soviet, you know the  
16 Evil Empire, into being willing to sign the most  
17 comprehensive treaty that was ever signed up to that  
18 point and it was about pressure on these companies.  
19 It was about divestment campaigns and boycotts. It  
20 was about cities like Chicago and Oakland California  
21 refusing to have contracts with these companies as  
22 one is divesting.

23 And so, I think we need remember this legacy when  
24 you're looking at divestment and how important it is.  
25 It was important in many other issues as well as in  
the nuclear issue back in the 1980's. So, thank you.

CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you. Next please.

VICKI ELSON: My name is Vicki Elson; Executive Director of the Treaty Awareness Campaign. Like many of the people in this room, part of work as members of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is to visit the UN Missions here in New York City.

So, I want to tell you a little story. One day, as we were visiting the UN Mission of Antigua Barbuda, we were talking about the 122 countries that adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We were talking about the countries that have already signed and ratified it. We were talking about ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize. We are asking how we can support Antigua Barbuda to get going and sign this treaty sooner rather than later. And they were saying yes, we're going to sign the treaty but it's going to take a while, lots of red tape and then we started telling them about what's happening here in the U.S., what the people in this room are doing all over the country working with faith organizations, schools, universities, banks, hospitals, cities, counties, states and the US Congress to bring an end to the 75 year nightmare of nuclear weapons.

3 So, I was talking about what we're doing here in  
4 this country and I watched this persons face change  
5 and she said, you know what, I'm going to light some  
6 fires under some people today. And I'm happy to  
7 report that Antigua Barbuda has since signed and  
8 ratified the treaty. I don't take personal credit  
9 for it.

10 What we do here in the U.S. and what happens in  
11 New York City has an impact. It tells the rest of  
12 the world that there are strong currents here in  
13 solidarity on this issue. We look forward to the day  
14 sooner or later when U.S. policy will change to  
15 reflect the fact that nuclear weapons of mass  
16 extinction are obsolete and indescribably dangerous.  
17 Sucking trillions of dollars and our best scientists  
18 away from the green technologies we need to survive  
19 the climate emergency.

20 Here in the big apple, you have an opportunity to  
21 accelerate the transformation of Warheads to  
22 Windmills. You've already voted to divest from  
23 fossil fuels, a magnificent step toward being on the  
24 right side of history, survival and sanity. Thank  
25 you so much for your beautiful efforts to do the same  
with nuclear weapons.

1 I have to tell you; this work is tiring. Anybody  
2 know what I mean. Like, it's hard, it's like pushing  
3 a big radioactive rock up a hill or something you  
4 know and today, I feel so encouraged, the stuff with  
5 the Mayor's Office notwithstanding. I feel so  
6 delighted and refreshed to be here. Thank you so  
7 much.  
8

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Thank you very much.  
10 Yes sir.

11 ALFRED MEYER: My name is Alfred Meyer and I'm a  
12 Board Member of Physicians for Social Responsibility.  
13 An organization which has worked on nuclear issues  
14 since 1963 and the issue of atmospheric nuclear  
15 testing. It's a great pleasure to be here and I  
16 appreciate this opportunity.

17 Dear Council and Committee Members, nuclear  
18 weapons threaten in an instant to vaporize all that  
19 we love in New York City. We must act to end this  
20 grave danger to our survival. Resolution 976 and  
21 Introduction 1621 are two important steps that New  
22 York City can take to protect and promote public  
23 health and safety.

24 Thank you for moving these two items, which show  
25 strong support for City Council action on such an

1  
2 important topic. Cities are the targets of nuclear  
3 weapons and cities are the first responders to an  
4 attack. From a medical perspective, there is no  
5 response possible given that the medical providers,  
6 medical facilities and medical supplies are destroyed  
7 by a nuclear blast.

8 Prevention is the only medical response to this  
9 threat. Resolution 976 and Introduction 1621 are two  
10 good methods of prevention, which will benefit New  
11 York City residents. New York City can play an  
12 important part in the growing cities, states,  
13 national and international movement to get countries  
14 to sign and ratify the 2017 United Nations Treaty for  
15 the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

16 Divestment of New York City investments from  
17 nuclear weapons related corporations and banks is a  
18 strong statement of the seriousness of this topic and  
19 a moral statement that we don't want our pensioners  
20 benefits to come from nuclear weapons which could  
21 destroy us.

22 When a nation possess nuclear weapons, it harms  
23 its own population. Yet, many steps of the nuclear  
24 fuel and weapons chain a complex and very large  
25 industry has noted in the treaty for the Prohibition



1  
2 of Nuclear Weapons women and children are most  
3 impacted by exposure to radiation.

4       So, this matter is urgent for us to address,  
5 although it will take time to make the changes needed  
6 to achieve a nuclear weapons free world. The wise  
7 leadership and support for Resolution 976 and  
8 Introduction 162 to date is most appreciated. I  
9 trust the ongoing and attentive engagement by the  
10 City Council will support achievement of these  
11 important missions which in turn, benefit us all.

12       Thank you.

13       CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you.

14       CHARLES JOHNSON: Good afternoon, I'm Chuck  
15 Johnson, Charles K. Johnson; Program Director of  
16 International Physicians for the Prevention of  
17 Nuclear War.

18       Thank you, Co-Chairs and Council Members for  
19 having us. I'm honored to have the opportunity to  
20 speak to you today and wish to thank the New York  
21 City Council for having the foresight to consider  
22 these two measures which taken together, would be the  
23 strongest statement yet by a U.S. Municipality in  
24 favor of global sanity in the face of the continued  
25

3 and renewed threat to global survival posed by  
4 nuclear weapons and war.

5 It's our proposal that the International City of  
6 New York would lead the way toward reconsidering our  
7 nations reliance on the judgement and actions of a  
8 few flawed and fragile individuals to prevent a  
9 nuclear catastrophe or as our president put it, fire  
10 and fury like the world has never seen.

11 International Physicians for the prevention of  
12 nuclear war, is a federation consisting of 63  
13 national affiliates worldwide that have studied the  
14 effects of a single atomic bomb and of nuclear war at  
15 various levels of severity.

16 In all cases, we find there is no adequate  
17 medical response to the use of nuclear weapons, which  
18 destroys medical and other infrastructure as Alfred  
19 just said and wounds and kills the professionals who  
20 would ordinarily provide aid to the sick and wounded.

21 Consequently, we concluded as our founding  
22 organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility in  
23 the U.S. originally said, that prevention is the only  
24 cure and the only responsible medical position to  
25 take on this subject.

1  
2 You've received in your packets, three statements  
3 from physicians representing IPPNW, our Co-President  
4 Tilman Ruff on the faculty of the University of  
5 Melbourne on Australia and a cofounder of ICAN. Co-  
6 President Ira Helfand; Practicing Physician in North  
7 Hampton Mass and IPPNW Germany Representative Inga  
8 Bloom, a physician in Hamburg Germany.

9 In addition, I'm attaching to the end of my  
10 testimony the statement of IPPNW, the World Medical  
11 Association, the International Council of Nurses and  
12 the World Federation of Public Health Associations in  
13 strong support of the 2017 U.N. Treaty on the  
14 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

15 Working together with the International Committee  
16 for the Red Cross, we are actively encouraging all  
17 levels of government to support the nuclear ban  
18 treaty in any way they can and we thank you for your  
19 time.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much for your  
21 time and thank you for coming in and giving  
22 testimony. We appreciate that and what I think we're  
23 going to do now is move next door. Are you ready for  
24 us there? Okay, so, those of you who want to come  
25

3 in, come in please and we'll continue the hearing in  
4 that room.

5 [GAVEL] Okay, we are back in business. I did  
6 promise that I would make the announcement that those  
7 of you who would like, you may submit your written  
8 testimony within 48 hours to be included on the  
9 official record by emailing it to

10 [hearings@council.nyc.gov](mailto:hearings@council.nyc.gov) and it has to be done within  
11 48 hours. So, if you're here in the room or if your  
12 listening on the livestreaming as well, please make  
13 sure that you do that within 48 hours.

14 And I think we have two panels coming up, so, I'm  
15 going to call up the first panel. Marie Noel,  
16 Jasmine McKay, Paul Millie, Miller I'm sorry Paul.  
17 Rebecca with Peace Institute. Okay, good and Emily  
18 Rubino and Molly Magenti[SP?].

19 Alright, let's start here.

20 MOLLY MAGENTI: Dear Committee Members, my name  
21 is Molly Magenti and I am the Nuclear Program  
22 Assistant for the International Physicians for  
23 Prevention of Nuclear War. I am honored to be here  
24 today as a youth representative but I want you to  
25 know that my beliefs do not represent the majority of

1  
2 my former classmates, friends and other  
3 acquaintances.

4 This is not because they hope for a world in  
5 which the proliferation of nuclear weapons continues,  
6 but rather they are not aware that we are closer to  
7 nuclear war now as we were at the height of the cold  
8 war.

9 As we all know by now, the recent report by the  
10 Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, reports that the  
11 doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight, which  
12 is the closest to nuclear warfare that they have ever  
13 estimated. This is a way to warn world leaders and  
14 civilians alike.

15 Youth are taught that the use of nuclear weapons  
16 ended with World War II. The former Soviet Union and  
17 U.S. had a nuclear arms race and with the fall of the  
18 Berlin Wall, all of that is behind us. Prior to  
19 starting my position at IPPNW, I was not aware of the  
20 bleak future that we are currently facing. I too  
21 believe the pretense that this is an issue of the  
22 past. It is my job along with many others in the  
23 room to educate youth on the reality of nuclear  
24 weapons in this year of 2020. We deserve the right  
25

1 to know that a "limited" nuclear conflict between  
2 India and Pakistan will create worldwide famine.  
3

4 We deserve the right to know that our cities,  
5 universities and banks are investing in these weapons  
6 that inevitably change our world as we currently know  
7 it. With that being said, I am not alone. The next  
8 generation is becoming more and more aware of the  
9 "hidden dangers" that nuclear weapons pose and we  
10 deserve the right to have faith in our local, state,  
11 and federal leaders to do everything in their power  
12 to put an end to these weapons of mass destruction.

13 I am doing my part to educate all people and  
14 specifically the rising generation on the current  
15 dangers of nuclear weapons. As a young person and  
16 Nuclear Disarmament Professional, I urge you to do  
17 your part and to pass Resolution 976 and Introduction  
18 1621 to ensure a necessary step forward to shifting  
19 the world toward being nuclear free.

20 It is imperative that youth be aware of the  
21 imminent danger that nuclear weapons pose to our  
22 future and just as importantly, that they know we  
23 still have the opportunity and power to shift this  
24 future. By passing these pieces of legislation you  
25 are showing me and countless other youth, whether or

1 not they know it, that you are actively invested in  
2 our future. We are prepared to bring progress into  
3 this world, but we are going to need to ensure that  
4 there is a liberal world to bring progress to.  
5

6 On behalf of young people throughout New York and  
7 beyond, we thank you in advance for using your  
8 platform to take action for our survival. Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Molly, what's your last name?

10 MOLLY MAGENTI: Magenti.

11 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Did you submit written  
12 testimony?

13 MOLLY MAGENTI: I just emailed it.

14 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Oh, okay, fine. I just wanted  
15 to be sure.

16 MOLLY MAGENTI: Great, thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

18 JASMINE MCKAY: Hello, my name is Jasmine McKay;  
19 I'm a DJ Producer and Musical Artist and former  
20 student of Kathleen. I'll be reading the testimony  
21 of Anohni Hegarty. Here we go.

22 I'm an English born singer composer and visual  
23 artist who moved to Manhattan in 1990 to study at  
24 NYU. All these years later, New York is still my  
25 home.

3 In 2016, I became the second openly transgender  
4 person nominated for an academy award for best  
5 original song from Manta Ray. In the film Racing  
6 Extinction. A film about the mass extinction of  
7 species we are now undergoing. I say these things to  
8 state the obvious.

9 New York is a city of artists. I am one of  
10 thousands of artists who call this city home. I am  
11 one of thousands who say with our work, stop  
12 extinction, stop war. Stating the obvious in a post  
13 true society is becoming a noble task and so too this  
14 legislation, stating the obvious that we must act to  
15 rid ourselves of the threat of nuclear war and  
16 radioactive violence.

17 I'm grateful to all our City Council Members who  
18 have supported this legislation which gives me the  
19 opportunity to share how my life and my work have  
20 been touched personally by the nuclear age. A few  
21 years ago, I was asked to write a song for a film  
22 about The Great Barrier Reef called Coral Rekindling  
23 Venus by the artist Lynette Wallworth. Lynette was  
24 making a new film in collaboration with a group of  
25 aboriginal Martu, women, elders.



1  
2 She asked me to accompany her to the Western  
3 Australian Desert to meet this community and see if I  
4 could be in some way a part of the work she  
5 envisaged. I had the honor to spend some time  
6 witnessing and befriending a group of Martu elders  
7 who taught me to see things from a much bigger point  
8 of view. Visiting them was a heart opening and life  
9 changing experience for me. To be with these women  
10 was deeply inspiring and it left me with the sense  
11 that I would do whatever I could to help them.

12 There was something familiar about the Martu.  
13 They had a tremendous presence that reminded me of my  
14 own family and of the women from the hills of Donegal  
15 Ireland that I descend from. There's a sense of  
16 inseparableness of body, spirit and landscape that I  
17 recognize from my own grandmother and aunties. I  
18 found myself as a student of the Martu people in a  
19 blessed moment of circumstance. As time went on, I  
20 began to understand the nature of the struggle that  
21 they were in the grips of. Two multinational  
22 companies had worked with the government and managed  
23 to acquire a large parcel of Martu territory with the  
24 goal of creating a uranium mine there.

1           The elders Martu women banded together and  
2  
3       launched a years long offensive to halt the mining  
4       threat. They began working on giant paintings of  
5       their land and sharing them with museums across  
6       Australia to bring attention to their plight. I  
7       wanted to help in any way I could.

8           I performed a concert in Tasmania, the Dark Mofo  
9       Festival and donated the proceeds to create a fund to  
10       support the Martu and their brave work confronting  
11       the mining giants, Camico and Mitsubishi. We  
12       appeared on the Q&A, a national talk program to  
13       discuss the crisis with leading politicians.

14           The Martu staged a ten day walk across country.

15           CO-CHAIR DROMM: You may continue.

16           JASMINE MCKAY: Okay. From their remote  
17       community to the site of the proposed uranium mine.  
18       I joined them on that track, which culminated in the  
19       ceremony between the structures left by the mining  
20       expiration crew in the middle of a pristine and  
21       majestic desert that was bursting with life.

22           What I found most impressive about this circle of  
23       women was their sense of presence and integrity and  
24       patience. I found dignity and perseverance and  
25       intense intuitive wisdom. They are one of the few

1 indigenous groups that has an almost unbroken  
2 connection to the land. They weren't radically  
3 disrupted until after World War II when the  
4 Australian government sought to clear them from their  
5 land, so they could begin nuclear testing. Elders in  
6 the community recount that as children, they saw a  
7 giant cloud in the sky and being told, it must be a  
8 sign from God and then the kangaroos dying around  
9 them and thinking God was offering them a feast and  
10 giving praise for their good fortune.  
11

12 Sometimes it seems that corporations have little  
13 regard for those who live in proximity to their  
14 projects. The fight to halt the proposed uranium  
15 mine at Kintyre has been fought since the 1980's and  
16 still there is no assurance that the fight is over.  
17 If built and operating uranium mine will irreversibly  
18 contaminate the environment with radioactive waste  
19 and mill tailings and threaten water security as  
20 vital modern resources are located near the proposed  
21 mine.

22 The health of the people and some 28 threatened  
23 species that live in the precious bioregion will be  
24 forever compromised. People have asked me, why this  
25 mine, why these people. While the sequence of events

3 led me to this particular place and people, this one  
4 place represents the global operation of uranium  
5 mining, which very often adversely effects indigenous  
6 people across the planet. Why this story from  
7 Australia for New York City Council told by an  
8 English born artist of Irish descent who calls her  
9 home Manhattan. There that is it, Manhattan, the  
10 Manhattan Project because nuclear weapons were born  
11 here. Every uranium mine that has opened since owes  
12 its legacy and some part to New York City and  
13 although the thousands of tons of uranium stored in  
14 Manhattan and Staten Island and elsewhere, primarily  
15 came from the brutality racist Belgian Kongo. The  
16 Manhattan project paved the way for every uranium  
17 mine ever exploited.

18 The mine at Kintyre in western Australia  
19 threatens not just the local environment but offers  
20 the potential to unleash havoc across our planet.  
21 Some of the Martu grief that as guardians of their  
22 land, any uranium taken is Martu responsibility. Any  
23 pain inflicted on the world using that uranium would  
24 be spiritually tied to a failure of the Martu to keep  
25 the poison in the ground. It's heart breaking.

1 Mining the raw material for nuclear bombs and/or  
2 a nuclear energy, a fuel source that cannot change  
3 the course of climate chaos must stop forever. As a  
4 New Yorker, I expect that clarion call from my City  
5 Council, especially our city, which has so much to  
6 lose in the event of any kind of nuclear disaster,  
7 whether it be by war, facility, collapse or  
8 terrorism.  
9

10 New York City has cultural and political capital  
11 to spend. If we aren't spending that now as we lurch  
12 towards and away from the cliff of further war in the  
13 middle east, the cliff of climate chaos, the cliff of  
14 social injustice, when would we deem best to act? If  
15 not now, when? What further madness must we witness?  
16 What will it take?

17 Thank you.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Next  
19 please.

20 REBECCA IRBY: Hello Council Members and honored  
21 guests. My name is Rebecca Irby and I am long  
22 supporter of a nuclear free NYC. I am the Founder  
23 and Executive Director of PEAC Institute, an  
24 international peace education nonprofit and NGO which  
25

holds special consultative status with the economic and social council at the United Nations.

I founded PEAC Institute in 2016 in response to the five years I lived in Japan. Specifically, after visiting Hiroshima on a long weekend. I was so taken back by what I learned from Hibakusha, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. The American narrative of Japan bombed us, we bombed them back and won the war. It was completely turned on its head when seeing the true impact of these inhumane weapons.

The humanitarian effect of nuclear weapons can no longer be ignored. For 75 years since the bombing, the survivors, their children and their childrens children have struggled to live on. Afflicted by delayed effects and the anxiety about possible effects of radiation.

How have we prohibited the use development production and possession of biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster ammunitions but yet, nuclear weapons, the most destructive of all are still not only legal, they are touted as necessary to keep us all safe.

How can a weapons which can destroy the entire planet be seen as safe? As said before, on January

1  
2 23, 2020, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the  
3 doomsday clock to 100 seconds before midnight. We're  
4 now not measuring how close the world is to  
5 catastrophe in minutes or hours. We're down to  
6 seconds.

7 It's the closest the doomsday clock has ever been  
8 since the clock was created in 1947. Now is the time  
9 to take action. We have done enough talking for the  
10 last 75 years. It's shameful its taken us this long  
11 to get to this point.

12 As an educator, I know that it is vitally  
13 important to stand with the youth of today. Indeed,  
14 it is the young people worldwide who are standing up  
15 and demanding action. How many more generations will  
16 be held hostage by the imminent danger of weapons  
17 whose sole purpose is the destruction of all life.  
18 How can this not be an international issue? Nuclear  
19 war is not limited to the countries involved; it is a  
20 human issue. The entire planet is affected.

21 New York City has the opportunity to be at the  
22 forefront of this international movement. The  
23 fastest and most effective way to take action is by  
24 voting yes on Resolution 976 and Bill 1621. It is  
25

3 time to stop investing in our mutual destruction and  
4 start investing in and supporting our future.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

7 PAUL MILLER: Hello, good afternoon. It's an  
8 absolute pleasure to be here and I am a New Yorker  
9 who lives in New York, Tribeca area, District one.  
10 So, I'm going to have to nudge my Council Member  
11 Margaret Chin to kind of chime in with you guys a  
12 little more.

13 My name is Paul Miller; AKA DJ Spooky and I'm a  
14 writer, artist and musician. My books are generally  
15 within MIT Press and I work extensively in a global  
16 electronic music community.

17 I think we're here today to kind of look at the  
18 merits of how common sense things can affect us in an  
19 everyday life. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century was essentially  
20 haunted by, what I like to call the law of unexpected  
21 effects; Teflon, asbestos and so on. If you start to  
22 think about how those affect consumer life and then  
23 everyday context, the unintended consequences of  
24 those will linger for generations, yet the scale of  
25 human kind of construction of materials, like uranium  
and plutonium will actually linger far longer than



1  
2 our entire civilization or as our species has been on  
3 this planet.

4 So, as an artist whose worked with universities  
5 like Columbia University, who is shown with  
6 galleries, in the gallery districts and you know, on  
7 20<sup>th</sup> street, you can actually remember that most of  
8 the plutonium and other kind of radioactive materials  
9 that were stored there, lingers over the highline,  
10 lingers over the westside highway where I go jogging.  
11 And above all, it actually creates a serious tension  
12 with how we think about the future.

13 So, it's with the great sort of joy that I'm  
14 seeing that the panel has a bullet proof veto over  
15 the idea of disinvesting in these kinds of materials.

16 So, I want to just kind of and to respect every  
17 one's time and kind of just go from the viewpoint of  
18 common sense and making money and investing money.  
19 They're not mutually exclusive and it's a real  
20 pleasure to see a commonsense approach to saying that  
21 we can actually have our money be put to better use  
22 than it's currently being done and I solute you.

23 Thank you. Oh, by the way, I'll submit my  
24 written statement later.

3 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you very much.

4 Within 48 hours, okay. Thank you.

5 MARIE NOEL: Hi, my name is Marie Noel; I'm a  
6 lawyer, I'm an activist and mother in Jackson  
7 Heights. Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
8 today. I'd like to pass on the message of peace from

9 Hibakusha's who have appealed to the world to  
10 realize the world without nuclear weapons. Mr.  
11 Tsutomu Yamaguchi who was only 14 at the time of the  
12 Nagasaki bombing appealed at the U.N. in 1982 for the  
13 sake of the people of the world, those get to be  
14 born, the children and atomic bomb survivors like us,  
15 we cannot forgive the suffering or death of even one  
16 person in atomic bombing.

17 Mr. Tsutomu Yamaguchi who suffered from various  
18 health issues from the bombing said, in this city in  
19 2015 that nuclear arms are weapons of the devil which  
20 will not allow humans to live nor die as humans.

21 Mr. Terumi Tanaka, a hibakusha from Nagasaki  
22 emphasizing New York City in 2015 that the policy of  
23 nuclear deterrence is against humanity. He made a  
24 point that no state will be spared and its existence  
25 will be threatened by the use of a nuclear weapon,

3 even if the use of such weapon is to protect the  
4 survival of the state.

5 Now, the escalation of the arms race promoted by  
6 the current administration and developing nuclear  
7 weapons present a considerable expense for our nation  
8 and it is important for us, New York City to deliver  
9 a firm message to the world that we need to set our  
10 priorities right instead of investing in nuclear  
11 weapons production and maintenance, the real priority  
12 should be to fight against poverty. To promote  
13 peace, to provide at education, healthcare systems  
14 and to fight against the climate crisis. Let's stop  
15 investing for the destructive false sense of security  
16 but instead, let's invest for hope that our children  
17 live in, which is a nuclear free world.

18 Thank you so much.

19 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you.

20 EMILY RUBINO: Hi, good afternoon everyone.

21 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Oh, it's good evening now.

22 EMILY RUBINO: Good evening now, yes. When I  
23 wrote it, I thought it would still be afternoon. My  
24 name is Emily Rubino; I'm the Director of Policy and  
25 Outreach and Peace Action New York State.

3 As Sally mentioned before Peace Actions roots  
4 date back to 1957, long before I was born, out of the  
5 national committee for the same nuclear policy and  
6 the nuclear freeze movement. Sixty-three years  
7 later, we're still part of the antinuclear struggle  
8 and working to bring it to the next generation.

9 We currently have 25 campus chapters across the  
10 state with about 7 of those just right here in New  
11 York City. Like me, our students were born in a  
12 post-cold war era, not knowing a world in which  
13 nuclear weapons have not existed.

14 We will, however, continue to fight for a nuclear  
15 free future. Our students are greatly concerned by  
16 nuclear issues and understand both the economic  
17 impact the environmental impact and the humanitarian  
18 impact that these weapons have. As the semester is  
19 just getting started, our students weren't able to  
20 join us today, but I'm here to represent them and  
21 their voices and experiences as well as my own.

22 When I was in fifth grade, I remember reading the  
23 story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Years  
24 later, while in college with a passion for social  
25 justice and a strong desire to change U.S. foreign  
policy, I began interning at Peace Action New York

1 State. Through what went from a semester long  
2 internship to a full time organizing position, I have  
3 had the opportunity to hear testimony from Japanese  
4 and Korean Hibakusha, indent on sharing their stories  
5 and seeing an end to nuclear weapons in their  
6 lifetime.  
7

8 I have had the incredible opportunity to twice  
9 visit Hiroshima for the World Conference Against  
10 Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and to walk through the  
11 Peace Memorial Museum, where some of the crane that  
12 Sadako folded while in the hospital receiving  
13 treatment for leukemia are memorialized next to other  
14 mementos documenting the horrific bombings and the  
15 day and years that followed.

16 That we even consider possessing and utilizing  
17 these weapons is an insult to the memory of those who  
18 suffered in these bombings as well as the victims of  
19 our nuclear tests. As citizens of the only country  
20 to ever use nuclear weapons in combat, we have a  
21 unique responsibility to ensure they will never be  
22 used again.

23 I'd also just like to share a personal testimony  
24 from one of our students, Carlie Brownell, who is a  
25

1 student organizer at Manhattan College up in the  
2 Bronx.

3  
4 She wrote, nuclear disarmament is an issue that  
5 is very close to my heart because as a child I lived  
6 on the Navaho reservation in Shiprock New Mexico. My  
7 mom was a doctor in the public health service and she  
8 was stationed there at a local hospital. Where I  
9 lived in Shiprock is directly downwind from the  
10 Nevada test site, where the United States government  
11 tested hundreds of nuclear weapons during the 1940's  
12 and 50's and the radiation still affects people to  
13 this day.

14 As a kid, I knew a lot of people who suffered  
15 health defects from the radiation from these tests  
16 and as I got older and learned more about the issue,  
17 I realized that I, myself, also carry this harmful  
18 radiation in my body. I've been passionate about  
19 this issue for years because I never want anyone else  
20 to be in the same situation that I am and so, I've  
21 done countless class presentations on the subject and  
22 will talk to anyone about it who will listen.

23 However, it has always felt so personal, but I never  
24 thought to get actively involved in campaigns against  
25 nuclear weapons. This changed this past fall when I

3 learned about the Treaty on the Prohibition of  
4 Nuclear Weapons. I urge the City Council to adopt  
5 these resolutions.

6 This semester Carlie and the Manhattan Chapter  
7 are organizing anti-nuclear weapons week on campus to  
8 continue to raise awareness on the dangers of nuclear  
9 weapons and nuclear testing and are also working to  
10 divest the Manhattan college pensions from weapons  
11 manufacturers. The bills before the City Council  
12 today set a powerful precedent for not just other  
13 cities and countries across the world but for  
14 universities as well.

15 If we ever want to see an end to these horrific  
16 weapons, we must stop investing in the companies  
17 responsible for manufacturing and modernizing them  
18 and commit to the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear  
19 Weapons. Thank you.

20 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. Thank you  
21 to this panel. We deeply appreciate you coming in to  
22 give testimony today.

23 So, if there's anybody in the room who has not  
24 filled out a form, but wants to speak, now is your  
25 last chance to do so. Otherwise, this will be our

1  
2 last panel. Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, Michele Peppers  
3 and June Tano, John Burroughs and Molly Nolan.

4 Would you like to start? I don't think the mic  
5 is on.

6 JOHN BURROUGHS: My name is John Burroughs; I am  
7 Executive Director of the New York City Based lawyers  
8 Committee on Nuclear Policy and a resident of this  
9 City.

10 At the outset, I want to affirm that the Lawyers  
11 Committee on Nuclear Policy supports the adoption of  
12 the proposed resolution and bill and offers our  
13 assistance in implementation of the measures.

14 Furthermore, we are prepared to work to engage the  
15 New York City Legal Community in implementation and  
16 in related activities to make New York City visible  
17 in reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons  
18 worldwide.

19 Board members of my group and I have in the past  
20 worked through the New York City Bar Association on  
21 nuclear arms control and disarmament. Personally, in  
22 the 1990's, I worked as an attorney to defend and  
23 support Oakland California's nuclear weapon free  
24 ordinance.



3 This City Council in its 1983 Resolution Number  
4 364, proclaiming New York City a nuclear weapon free  
5 zone. This council observed that "common discourse  
6 treats nuclear weapons and nuclear war as wagering  
7 chips for international politics. Instead of as the  
8 instruments of the most horrible death."

9 Over the decade since then, nuclear arms have  
10 gone from being a phenomenon thought of as somehow  
11 outside the realm of law to a military technology  
12 that like others is considered subject to the  
13 requirements of law.

14 Details can be found in my longer written  
15 statement submitted by email. But just let me note  
16 quickly a couple of points. In 1996, the  
17 International Court of Justice concluded that threat  
18 or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal.

19 Then, in 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of  
20 nuclear weapons considers in its preamble that any  
21 use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to  
22 international humanitarian law. Just the next year,  
23 the U.N. Human Rights Committee, released a general  
24 comment stating that the threat or use of weapons of  
25 mass destruction in particular, nuclear weapons,  
which are indiscriminate in effect and of a nature to

3 cause destruction of human life on a catastrophic  
4 scale is incompatible with respect for the right to  
5 life and may amount to a crime under international  
6 law.

7 As I say, see my written submission for more  
8 about all of this. The measures under consideration  
9 for adoption by the Council would be a major step to  
10 advance the understanding that nuclear arms are  
11 morally and legally indefensible.

12 Thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. I see we have been  
14 joined by Cynthia Nevanski[SP?], Cynthia, would you  
15 like to go next? Okay.

16 CYNTHIA NEVANSKI: Hi, thank you very much for  
17 this session. It's so important that it's happening  
18 and thank you to the organizers of it. I am a film  
19 maker and I'm working on a very extensive film right  
20 now called, North American Apologue, the moral tale  
21 of the effects of the nuclear industry in all 50  
22 states, visiting nuclear powerplants and sites of  
23 contamination, down winders, every part of the  
24 nuclear fuel cycle, so that there will be also oral  
25 histories about this incredible catastrophe that has  
been created and is sustained.

1           So, this is a very important work that you're  
2  
3 doing right now in New York and New York of course,  
4 should be one of the leaders in America.

5           So, I wanted to read a quote by Arundhati Roy, a  
6 writer that I respect. It is such a supreme folly to  
7 believe that nuclear weapons are deadly only if they  
8 are used. The fact that they exist at all, their  
9 presence in our lives will wreak more havoc than we  
10 can begin to fathom. Nuclear weapons pervade our  
11 thinking, control our behavior, administer our  
12 societies, inform our dreams.

13           They bury themselves like meat hooks deep in the  
14 base of our brains. They are purveyors of madness.

15           CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much and let's go  
16 here.

17           MOLLY NOLAN: My name is Molly Nolan, I'm a  
18 recently retired professor of Cold War History at NYU  
19 and a longtime activist with Brooklyn for Peace, a 36  
20 year old peace in social justice organization from  
21 the other side of the river.

22           There are I think, three main reasons the City  
23 Council should support these very important measures.  
24 First, nuclear weapons are infinitely more powerful  
25 and numerous now than they were when they were used

1  
2 for the first and only time by the United States 75  
3 years ago. Then they caused horrific death and  
4 destruction in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The potential  
5 cause of a nuclear war now are much greater and yet,  
6 we still have the same madness we had during the cold  
7 war when government officials and some military ones  
8 claimed that nuclear war was thinkable and winnable.

9 Second, as long as nuclear weapons are not banned  
10 and such a ban is not observed by all powers, both  
11 those who have weapons and those who don't, the  
12 number of nuclear power in weapons will increase.

13 During the Cold War, we learned that efforts to  
14 limit the number and types of such weapons would and  
15 were passed now and again, but such limits were  
16 repeatedly violated. We're learning that sad lesson  
17 again now as the U.S. and Russia both move to  
18 modernize and expand their nuclear weapons of all  
19 sorts, claiming that the other state has violated  
20 treaties limiting them from so doing. And as long as  
21 states want new and ostensibly ever better nuclear  
22 weapons, businesses will continue to produce them for  
23 profits are to be made.

24 In the long run, only total nuclear disarmament  
25 will end this vicious cycle. In the short run, maybe

1 at least some corporations can be dissuaded from  
2 producing such weapons. If governments like that of  
3 New York divest their pension funds from them.  
4

5 Third, nuclear weapons are very, very expensive.  
6 Both the past and present nuclear arms race cost the  
7 U.S. billions of dollars and contributed  
8 significantly to making military spending account for  
9 60 percent of discretionary government spending. If  
10 we continue to spend this money on nukes and wars, we  
11 can't have the things that we desperately need, more  
12 housing, better schools, improved healthcare, rebuilt  
13 infrastructure and a green new deal.

14 So, I urge the Council to support these very  
15 important measures and make New York an example for  
16 other cities.

17 Thank you.

18 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Okay, next please.

19 MICHELE PEPPERS: Okay, hi, I'm Michele Peppers  
20 with the Ribbon International UN NGO. First, I want  
21 to acknowledge Councilman Perkins, he worked with us  
22 in 2004 with Mayor's for Peace during a UN nuclear  
23 weapons conference and the New York City Council and  
24 they proclaimed April 8, 2004 as Nuclear Weapons  
25 Abolition Day.

3 The Ribbon is a Peace project started in 1982 by  
4 Justine Merit from the US. She had been to the  
5 Memorial Park in Hiroshima on pilgrimage. When  
6 arriving home, it came to her to create an  
7 embroidered cloth panel, calling it a Ribbon, which  
8 would represent the people she loved and cared about.  
9 The theme of the Ribbon, what I cannot bear to think  
10 of as lost forever in a nuclear war.

11 On August 4, 1985, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
12 bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, over 15 miles, 15  
13 miles of ribbons were joined together at the Pentagon  
14 and ribbons surrounded the A-bomb memorial in  
15 Hiroshima as well. Plus, there were tables and  
16 tables of ribbons that were not even used.

17 Ribbon panels came from all over the US and many  
18 countries around the world with the hope and prayers  
19 that nuclear weapons would never be used again. It  
20 is the same hope and prayers today. And I'm taking  
21 from your Intro. of your Resolution. As New Yorkers  
22 devote their careers to making life better for their  
23 fellow New Yorkers, how in good conscience, can  
24 anyone "assist in underwriting the catastrophic loss  
25 of life an environmental ruin that would result from  
nuclear conflict."

1  
2 People creating ribbons find common ground with  
3 each other and they're joined together in interfaith  
4 prayer services, schools, organizations, places of  
5 worship have created the ribbons.

6 Thank you.

7 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you. Next please.

8 Okay, thank you. My name is June Tano, I'm also  
9 from the Ribbon International and if New York City  
10 becomes no nuke city, it will be the first major  
11 event. We are planning to have another event because  
12 this year is 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hiroshima and  
13 Nagasaki. We are planning to start quite march from  
14 42<sup>nd</sup> and to the **[INAUDIBLE 57:10]** Plaza. We sing to  
15 no nuke walk.

16 And after all our statements, if Mayor and  
17 Council Members still doubt, do we really need  
18 nuclear for this city? I strongly recommend them to  
19 visit one of the museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

20 If they see it and ask themselves, do we really  
21 want to have this tragedy to New York City? Do we  
22 want this tragedy for our children, grandchildren,  
23 grand grandchildren? I'm sure their answer is only  
24 one, no. We don't need no nuclear.

25 Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Dr. Sullivan.

4 Dr. KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Well, that  
5 was a wonderful Segway for me because I just want to  
6 start by saying that with Robert Croonquist and other  
7 volunteers with the Hibakusha's Stories project here  
8 in New York, we've brought more than 100 atomic bomb  
9 survivors to more than 40,000 New York City high  
10 school students and those testimonies that you heard  
11 from **[INAUDIBLE 59:30]**, are real live people that  
12 have had effects on real live young New Yorkers such  
13 as my former student and spiritual daughter Jasmine  
14 Infinity who was just speaking before us.

15 I have to say, there have been many times today  
16 that I've been moved to tears. When Johnny Brooklyn  
17 sat and said, that he was around uranium barrels that  
18 were hot and that that had been left in Chelsea where  
19 my husband was a child growing up. That there was  
20 radiation from the Manhattan project in residential  
21 areas in New York City that we weren't handling and  
22 then that the Mayor's Offices dares to come to this  
23 Committee and say that they don't have the expertise  
24 for an advisory committee. Look at this room, this  
25 city is filled with experts that would love to be a  
part of such a committee.



3 Would be cost, would it be jurisdiction, would it  
4 be, you know, this is an international issue.

5 Obviously, the central theme in the brilliant moving  
6 testimony that we have heard today is this, we need  
7 to act before it is too late. We need to act because  
8 it is our responsibility. We need to act because  
9 nuclear weapons were born in this city. We need to  
10 act because right at this moment, everything that we  
11 love and everyone that we love is threatened by the  
12 existence of nuclear weapons. And I like to  
13 challenge Mayor de Blasio because just last week, at  
14 the Brooklyn Academy of Music where Dr. King was  
15 honored, Mayor de Blasio said, the thing that people  
16 forget about Dr. Kings legacy is that he was against  
17 militarism and Mayor de Blasio talked about Dr. Kings  
18 triple evils. The evil of racism, the evils of  
19 poverty, the evils of militarism, all that are  
20 intricately connected. And so, it's very rich to  
21 hear from the Mayor's Office that they can't support  
22 this in the same week that he spoke very clearly  
23 about Dr. Kings work against militarism, racism and  
24 poverty.

25 So, I would say to Mr. Mayor, it's 100 seconds to  
midnight, where is your critique of militarism a week

1 later? If you believe in what you say, you admire of  
2 Dr. Kings Legacy, you should be working with all of  
3 us to use your power to proudly support the  
4 disarmament legislation that is before us.  
5

6 When Dr. King was questioned about peace and  
7 civil rights and I'll finish with this. You know,  
8 this is one of many profound things that that sage  
9 man said. He said, for those us who were telling me  
10 to keep my mouth shut, I can't do that. I'm against  
11 segregation at lunch counters and I'm not going to  
12 segregate my moral concerns and we must know on some  
13 positions, cowards ask the question, is it safe?  
14 Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity  
15 asks the question, is it popular but conscience asks  
16 the question, is it right? And there are times when  
17 you must take a stand that is neither safe nor  
18 politic nor popular but you must do it because it is  
19 right and this legislation is the right thing to do.

20 There can be no doubt in this chamber that now,  
21 the urgent now, as Dr. King implored to us, is the  
22 time to do the right thing to vote in favor of  
23 Resolution 976 and Bill 1621 and not to have this  
24 buried in committee. And you know, I just want to  
25 close by really acknowledging the leadership of

1 Council Member Dromm. Your enlightened leadership,  
2 your bringing us forward from writing a letter to the  
3 Comptroller requesting that we divest our pension  
4 funds and shepherding this through to the committees.  
5 It's just been such a job and I learned so much today  
6 from everybody who has been here with us and I have  
7 to say, I am a proud New Yorker. This city is my  
8 home, we all love this city and to have this kind of  
9 legislation emanating from the cultural capital that  
10 is New York is outstanding and I do believe that we  
11 are going to get this done through all of your  
12 commitment and leadership.

13  
14 Danny, thank you so very much.

15 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Indeed, we do thank you  
16 Danny, because Danny really pushed for this hearing  
17 to take place and I have to tell you, I have two more  
18 questions but I have to truly tell you that I've been  
19 in the Council for ten years and I have to be hard  
20 pressed to think about a hearing that we had where we  
21 had so many people from so many fears of life, with  
22 so much expertise as you just mentioned. We did hear  
23 from you today. So, I want to thank you and give  
24 yourself a round of applause and you can really clap  
25 now. You can really clap now.

3 But I do have two questions and I know Council  
4 Member Dromm is going to be happy to announce, don't  
5 mention who it was but, we have a good announcement  
6 for you.

7 I do want to ask you Professor, and I was very  
8 intrigued that your specialties during the Cold War,  
9 whats the impetus for us to wanting to create bigger  
10 bombs? I mean, we're going to create a bomb that  
11 does 3,000 times more than what we saw during World  
12 War II. What are we going to do next, five thousand  
13 more? I mean, like we're beyond, I just don't get it  
14 and then it's so expensive. I don't believe history  
15 repeats itself, people repeat history. What is it  
16 about - there has to be a mentality that we have and  
17 what is that? What is the argument that we have in  
18 our minds?

19 MOLLY NOLAN: Well, I think the argument changed.  
20 Sometimes during the Cold War, it was that you know,  
21 the Soviet Union was going to develop bigger bombs,  
22 so we had to do it first. Sometime it was that if we  
23 only had enough weapons, it would deter the other  
24 side from ever using theirs. Sometimes it was the  
25 hope that if we built bigger bombs, we would make the

1  
2 Soviets spend themselves into self-destruction, which  
3 in part, the US did.

4 So, there's always a new excuse but there's a  
5 kind of, if you have them then the military and the  
6 arms producers think you know, we need more, we need  
7 bigger for the business associates, incredibly  
8 popular for the military its status and prestige.

9 So, there's this perverse logic, you always have  
10 to have more even if you never use them.

11 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, what's the excuse now?

12 MOLLY NOLAN: I wouldn't claim to speak for what  
13 Trump has in his mind with this expansion.

14 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Gotcha.

15 MOLLY NOLAN: We certainly hope he will never use  
16 them but it's really terrifying.

17 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: And then my last question  
18 was regarding to broken arrows and by that I mean,  
19 missiles that had gone wrong and I know we have a few  
20 out there, what are the changes that that would  
21 happen again and to your knowledge what is being done  
22 about this nuclear warheads that are still out there  
23 you know, jet plane was malfunction. I know we have  
24 nuclear warheads under the sea. Do you know anything  
25 about -

3 MOLLY NOLAN: There have been serious nuclear  
4 accidents. There have been plane crashes, there's  
5 been no you know, major contamination or explosion as  
6 a result but these certainly have happened. There is  
7 a danger that they will happen. That's why I think  
8 you know only total nuclear disarmament. If you  
9 can't get everybody to stop then those who have them  
10 will want more. New powers will do it or will come  
11 very close. There are several countries that have  
12 what is called the Japanese option. They have  
13 essentially the technology and some enrichment and  
14 they could build a bomb pretty quickly.

15 Most of them have not so far but until you really  
16 get the nuclear powers to abolish nuclear weapons,  
17 we're in a very dangerous situation. Most of the  
18 other countries in the globe around the world are in  
19 favor of abolishing nuclear weapons. It's only those  
20 who have them that want to keep them.

21 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, before I turn it to the  
22 Co-Chair to close today. I want to thank all the  
23 staff. They really put a lot of work, they debriefed  
24 us, they prepared us. Come on you can give it up for  
25 them to, they did a fabulous job. And I want to say  
that we're going to get this bill to the finish line

1 and the fact that the Administration came in and  
2 basically, we just got to say, you know, it's going  
3 to happen. We're going to get in the right agency.  
4 So, do be expecting that but with that, to my Co-  
5 Chair, thank you. Thank you for your leadership,  
6 thank you and I mean it from the bottom of my heart,  
7 for being a champion. This is not a fad for you,  
8 this is a point of conviction in your heart. You're  
9 a man of principle and for the next generation of  
10 young people, I remember being a little kid living in  
11 LA and they used to do those drills which when I was  
12 a little kid, I would say, we'll wait a second you  
13 know, being under the desk when an atomic bomb  
14 explodes here, we will be dead. This ain't going to  
15 help me but we did live under that fear. That  
16 constant fear and that was part of our discussion as  
17 a little kid. May we live one of these days in a  
18 generation where kids won't have to speak of the  
19 potential dangers that could occur as a result of  
20 nuclear warheads.

22 So, thank you and with that, I will turn it over  
23 to the Co-Chair.

24 CO-CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much. I remember  
25 finding myself underneath the desk one time too and

1  
2 that was when a plane broke, like the sound barrier  
3 or something and Sister Kathleen told us, hurry up  
4 and get under that desk. Think of it, just think you  
5 know, how mad it was actually you know, to actually  
6 be under that desk and thinking we're going to be  
7 under nuclear attack or whatever.

8 But anyway, I do want to thank you Chair Cabrera  
9 as well for your time, for your patience, for your  
10 wisdom, for your questions, for your support. You  
11 know, Council Member Cabrera is also a pastor and I  
12 think he takes these issues to heart as well. As a  
13 man of the cloth, as a man who believes deeply in God  
14 and I thank you very much for all of your support  
15 here today.

16 He really, really is a really good friend and I  
17 thank you for that. I also want to thank staff as  
18 well for the time that they put into this for the  
19 preparation that they did for us. I want to thank my  
20 staff, Sebastian McGuire who has been wonderful on  
21 this. Thank you, Sebastian, for doing everything.  
22 Michael Mallon whose over there. Thank you, Michael  
23 Mallon and Robin Forst, whose over there as well. I  
24 want to thank Bill Perkins because Bill Perkins, he's  
25 been a leader on so many progressive issues. You



1 know, from voting rights for our immigrant  
2 communities to nuclear proliferation and disarmament.  
3 He has been a champion. Bill, thank you for being  
4 with us all afternoon. Thank you.  
5

6 I also want to thank Kathleen and ICAN and all of  
7 the advocates who came in here today and gave  
8 testimony. It was really moving and we had almost 60  
9 people who came in to give testimony today. I think  
10 that's almost a record for a hearing like this and  
11 because of that, we now have a 35<sup>th</sup> Sponsor on the  
12 Legislation. So, we have even more than a veto proof  
13 majority and we're going to work to get even more  
14 people. I have a feeling you might know who he is,  
15 our 35<sup>th</sup> sponsor.

16 So, everybody, thank you so much for coming and  
17 giving us your time today. This meeting is now  
18 adjourned at 5:29 in the afternoon. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 1, 2018