

## Resolution Relating to

OPPOSING THE BASING OF ANY NUCLEAR  
WEAPON DELIVERY SYSTEMS ON THE  
VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AT  
BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (REVISED)

## RESOLUTION\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): Councilors Hanson,  
Freeman, Tracy, Pine

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

## CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Nineteen .....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

- 1 That WHEREAS, the State of Vermont has long been a national leader in opposing the spread of nuclear  
2 weapons; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Vermonters have a long history of leading the nation on banning nuclear weapons; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the F-35 fighter jet was designed with a requirement to carry a nuclear payload;<sup>1</sup> and
- 5 WHEREAS, former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis has spoken of the importance of the  
6 nuclear-armed F-35 as part of the nation's deterrence equation;<sup>2</sup> and
- 7 WHEREAS, the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review states that "a nuclear-armed F-35 is fundamental to  
8 deterring Russia;" and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Pentagon has awarded funding to Lockheed Martin to develop a nuclear-armed F-35  
10 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter as part of a new nuclear strategy;<sup>3</sup> and
- 11 WHEREAS, at Town Meeting in 1982, 88 percent of the 180 municipalities voting on a U.S–U.S.S.R.  
12 bilateral nuclear freeze ballot measure voted in the affirmative;<sup>4</sup> and
- 13 WHEREAS, at Town Meeting in 1999, 33 Vermont municipalities voted to "call upon the U.S.  
14 government and governments of all nuclear weapons states to secure on an urgent basis a nuclear weapons  
15 abolition treaty" that would include a timetable for the early and mutually verifiable elimination of nuclear  
16 weapons; and

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<sup>1</sup> "F-35 Could Carry B61 Nuclear Warhead Sooner Than Planned." *Military.com*, 10 Jan. 2017,  
[www.military.com/defensetech/2017/01/10/f-35-carry-b61-nuclear-warhead-sooner-planned](http://www.military.com/defensetech/2017/01/10/f-35-carry-b61-nuclear-warhead-sooner-planned).

<sup>2</sup> 2018 Nuclear Posture Review.

<sup>3</sup> Carlson, Stephen. "Lockheed Martin Contracted for F-35 Flight Testing and Nuclear Capability." *UPI*, United Press International, 16 Nov. 2018, [www.upi.com/Defense-News/2018/11/16/Lockheed-Martin-contracted-for-F-35-flight-testing-and-nuclear-capability/9711542377314/](http://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2018/11/16/Lockheed-Martin-contracted-for-F-35-flight-testing-and-nuclear-capability/9711542377314/).

<sup>4</sup> Wittner, Lawrence S. "Arms Control Today." *The Nuclear Freeze and Its Impact* / *Arms Control Association*, Arms Control Association, Dec. 2010, [www.armscontrol.org/act/2010\\_12/LookingBack](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2010_12/LookingBack).

WHEREAS, shortly after the 33 towns approved this town meeting question, the General Assembly adopted Acts and Resolves No. R-120, “Joint resolution relating to urgently requesting the U.S. government to immediately enter into negotiations with all other nuclear nations for the adoption of a verifiable treaty to abolish nuclear weapons;” and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, a publication of the U.S. Department of Defense, states that “We [the United States] are committed to upgrading the DCA (Dual-Capable Aircraft) with the nuclear capable F-35 aircraft,” and further that “The United States is also incorporating nuclear capability onto the F-35, to be used by the United States and NATO allies, as a replacement for the current aging DCA;” and

WHEREAS, in a July 2018 interview, an official in the U.S. Air Force’s Financial Management and Comptroller’s office indicated that the variant of the F-35 to be assigned to the National Guard will eventually receive a Block 4 (nuclear capable) upgrade;<sup>5</sup> and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force plans to mount the B-61-12 nuclear gravity bomb on the F-35, thus integrating it into the air-delivered leg of the nuclear triad that also includes sea- and land-based missiles;<sup>6</sup> and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the then Director of the F-35 Program Integration Office stated that the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is slated to be armed with the B-61-12 nuclear gravity bomb “sometime between 2020 and 2022 but could carry the weapon sooner;<sup>7</sup>” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force has also awarded Lockheed Martin \$83.1 million to develop and test equipment for F-35A nuclear capability;<sup>8</sup> and

WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force documentation discussing the type of ordnance that might be deployed on the F-35 stated that “The F-35A would train for and deploy all the types of ordnance it is capable of carrying;” and

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<sup>5</sup> Q and A from SAF-FM (Secretary of the Air Force- Financial Management and Comptroller Office), July 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Carlson, Stephen. supra, n.3.

<sup>7</sup> “F-35 Could Carry B61 Nuclear Warhead Sooner Than Planned” Oriana Pawlyk, 10 Jan 2017, Defensetech, military.com

<sup>8</sup> Carlson, Stephen. supra, n.3.

OPPOSING THE BASING OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON  
DELIVERY SYSTEMS ON THE VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
BASE AT BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (REVISED)

WHEREAS, the Vermont State Senate, Winooski City Council, and South Burlington City Council have all recently passed resolutions strongly opposing the basing of nuclear weapons delivery systems in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, placement of nuclear weapons delivery systems at the Vermont Air National Guard base at the Burlington International Airport would make us a target in the event of war since nuclear targeting strategy is to target the delivery system and base; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Air National Guard Public Affairs Office confirmed that the Vermont Air National Guard does not decide their own mission, and cannot speak to future missions, or for the USAF, DoD or any other larger governing body;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its strong opposition to the basing of any nuclear weapon delivery system at the Vermont Air National Guard Base at the Burlington International Airport; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the Mayor, the Governor, and the members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation inform the Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense that the City of Burlington strongly opposes the basing of a nuclear weapon delivery system on the Vermont Air National Guard Base at the Burlington International Airport.