

RESOLUTION NO. 37458

Urge our Federal Government to engage in diplomacy with Iran (Resolution)

WHEREAS, United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, called for a “surge of diplomacy” as being essential at all levels of citizenry and government to address complex international conflicts and prevent the catastrophe of war; and

WHEREAS, in July 2015, the United States along with China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom reached a historic diplomatic accord with The Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter, referred to as Iran) known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); and

WHEREAS, the JCPOA was heralded as a major act of diplomacy greatly reducing four decades of hostility and tension between the United States and Iran and greatly reducing the threat of nuclear proliferation, and enhancing stability for the entire Middle East and the world; and

WHEREAS, in agreeing to the JCPOA, Iran certified that it would restrict its uranium enrichment and nuclear program to be strictly for non-weapons/peaceful use and to accept international monitoring of all aspects of its nuclear program by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and

WHEREAS, in agreeing to the JCPOA, the United States agreed to reduce significantly all nuclear- sanctions that were adversely affecting the people of Iran; and

WHEREAS, On May 8, 2018, President Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States as a party to the JCPOA, despite the objections of all European allies; and

WHEREAS, between the adoption of the JCPOA in 2015 through May 2019, the IAEA has consistently verified that Iran was complying with all provisions of the JCPOA; and

WHEREAS, following the United States unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA, the U.S. Government reinstated severe economic sanctions on the country of Iran, including a full embargo on Iranian oil exports; and

WHEREAS, since the reinstatement of the sanctions, the Iranian economy has suffered greatly, the value of its currency has plummeted, there are shortages of essential items such as medicine, and inflation is soaring, with food costs increasing by over 50% for some basic items; and

WHEREAS, every day people in Iran are shouldering the effects of the sanctions, with the greatest burdens felt by women, children, those with chronic illness and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the current U.S. Administration has made numerous direct threats to use military force against Iran; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military engagement with Iran would be extremely devastating to the safety and interests of the United States as well as other nations in the Middle East; the Iranian people, American troops and people in areas close to Iran, as well as allies in the Middle East would suffer; and

WHEREAS, in the current moment of heightened tension, grassroots diplomacy can play an important role to link local efforts across nations with the potential to contribute to peace; and

WHEREAS, President Eisenhower, in 1956 initiated the concept of "Sister Cities" as a means of increasing people-to-people diplomacy to not just impact the lives of the individuals in the communities, but to support world peace; and

WHEREAS, there are historic relations and civic similarities between Portland, "the City of Roses" and Shiraz, Iran, "the City of Roses and Nightingales"; and

WHEREAS, a group of Portlanders have been working together in the spirit of President Eisenhower's citizen-to-citizen diplomacy to initiate plans for a Shiraz-Portland Sister City agreement; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant population of Iranians in all professions and with diverse expertise who call Portland home, and who have contributed greatly to the cultural mosaic of the City of Roses; and

WHEREAS, on March 21st, 2007 Portland City Council passed Resolution No. 36492 - which "Urges the federal government to seek positive diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States of America instead of escalating tensions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Portland urges the Oregon U.S. Congressional delegation to take the following actions to prevent war with Iran:

- Support for the Iran Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 2007 (H. R. 770), that prohibits the use of funds for "any covert action for the purpose of causing regime change in Iran or to carry out any military action against Iran in the absence of an imminent threat, in accordance with international law; and
- Support Federal legislation that prevents a U.S. President from taking any military action against Iran without the full informing, debate, and approval of the US Congress; and
- Support all efforts in the U.S. Congress to bring the United States back into the JCPOA and any other diplomatic initiatives that will limit nuclear weapons development and enhance dialogue and stability in the region; and
- Support Federal legislation to remove all U.S. imposed sanctions on Iran to allow for Iran to freely trade (imports and exports) with the global community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of Portland will support the local Iranian community and their allies in continuing the efforts to build people-to-people ties between Americans and Iranians through continuing the work to establish a Portland-Shiraz Sister City Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution will be sent by the Office of Government Relations to the US Secretary of Defense, Dr. Mark T. Esper; the US Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo; the US President, Donald J. Trump; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; Oregon Governor Kate Brown; US Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden; US Representatives Suzanne Bonamici, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, and Kurt Schrader; and any other interested parties.

Adopted by the Council: NOV 13 2019

Commissioner Fritz
Prepared by: Yesenia L. Carrillo
Date Prepared: 10/29/2019

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

~~City of Portland Urging our Federal Government to Engage in Diplomacy with Iran (Resolution)~~

<p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Commissioner Fritz</p>	<p style="text-align: right; color: blue;">NOV 05 2019</p> <p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance & Administration – Wheeler</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz <i>Aranda Fritz</i></p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Hardesty</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u><i>Mary Hull</i></u> Deputy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Office of Commissioner Fritz Bureau Head: Tim Crail</p>	<p>ACTION TAKEN:</p>
<p>Prepared by: Yesenia L. Carrillo Date Prepared: 11/5/2019</p>	
<p>Impact Statement</p> <p>Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date November 13, 2019</p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 3:30pm</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 25 minutes (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish	_____	
3. Hardesty	3. Hardesty	_____	
4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly	✓	
Wheeler	Wheeler	✓	