

PROCLAMATION

- Nuclear weapons are the most devastating weapons ever created by humankind, posing an intolerable risk to human survival. The threat of their use is increasing.
- Ashland's public commitment to end the threat of nuclear catastrophe dates to 1982, when its citizens passed a ballot measure declaring the city a Nuclear Free Zone.
- Ashland became a Mayors for Peace city in 1998, responding to a global invitation from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons. There are currently 7,909 Mayors for Peace cities in 164 nations and regions, including 218 in the U.S. and 7 in Oregon.
- Mayors for Peace enthusiastically supports the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted in July 2017 under United Nations auspices. It will enter into force when it has been ratified by 50 states parties. 40 have ratified thus far.
- In June 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Joint Memorial 5, calling on the President and Congress to lead global efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear war.
- In June 2020, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted its 16th consecutive annual resolution urging the President and Congress to provide leadership to prevent nuclear war and enter into negotiation to eliminate nuclear weapons.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors' resolution calls for a reconceptualized interest in human-centered security; a redirection of funds that are currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending; support for safe and resilient cities to meet human needs. It urges support for the UN Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire, helping the world community to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During August 6th through the 9th, concerned citizens from civic organizations and faith communities in Ashland and the Rogue Valley will commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This will begin a 12-week period of public education and action to renew our commitment to prevent such weapons from being used again.

NOW THEREFORE, THE City Council and Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, hereby proclaim August 6, 2022, as:

"Hiroshima Day"

and hereby proclaim August 9, 2022, as:

"Nagasaki Day"

in the City of Ashland, and invite all citizens to participate in the Hiroshima - Nagasaki Vigil activities.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2022

Julie Akins, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder