

RESOLUTION NO. BOS-2022-47

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA CONDEMNING ALL ACTIONS BY THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AGAINST UKRAINE AND THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE; TERMINATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION OF MOSCOW AND MOSCOW CITY; AND DELEGATING ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR DESIGNEE, TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS TO TERMINATE THE RELATIONSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the County's Sister County Program began in 1987 with the mission of promoting friendship and understanding and to build bridges with countries of origin for various ethnic populations residing in Santa Clara County with the acknowledgement that such relationships enhance the region's international profile; encourage mutual understanding and foster cultural, educational, technological and business exchanges between the people of the County of Santa Clara and the people of the Sister communities;

**WHEREAS**, Santa Clara County has a history of friendship and successful cultural exchange with the people of the Russian Federation, and Santa Clara County is the home to many Russians that are members of our community and contribute to making Santa Clara County a dynamic, diverse, and prosperous community;

**WHEREAS**, following a visit by a delegation from the Moscow Region to Santa Clara County in 1991 to learn about construction technology, land use, and transportation programs, and in accordance with County of Santa Clara Charter section 506, the Board of Supervisors ("Board") adopted Ordinance No. NS-300.557 on October 25, 1994 and established the Santa Clara County/Region of Moscow, Russia, Sister-County Commission ("Commission") to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board in promoting, aiding, and encouraging diverse commerce, cultural, educational, and technological exchange with the Moscow Region;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission attempted with limited success to create mutually beneficial partnerships with officials from the Moscow Region Government, but was able to identify a counterpart in the Moscow City Government to work with on partnerships, and on February 24, 2004, the Board adopted Ordinance No. NS-300.725 to expressly recognize the Moscow City Government as a partnering entity for the Commission;

**WHEREAS**, to reflect the partnership efforts with the Moscow City Government, the Commission's name was changed from the "Santa Clara County/Region of Moscow, Russia, Sister-County Commission" to "County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission" by action of the Board on June 20, 2006, Ordinance No. NS-300.747;

//

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has worked to foster close working relationships among the art, commerce, culture, education, technology, and government communities between the County of Santa Clara and the Moscow Region, but has recognized in its most recent Board adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 that increasing tensions between the United States and Russia have made collaborative citizen diplomacy opportunities more difficult to identify and implement;

**WHEREAS**, despite these tensions acknowledged by the Commission, the Commission has hosted Russian delegations in Santa Clara County to educate and share with the Russian delegations on the County's innovative and best practices work for preventing domestic violence and facilitated discussions between the Slavic-Anglo-American School (SAAS) in Moscow and Harker School in San José and Christopher High School in Gilroy;

**WHEREAS**, on September 10, 2013, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2013-146 condemning Russian policy discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and encouraging the United States to protect the rights and safety of participants in the 2014 Olympics and Paralympics;

**WHEREAS**, the Russian Federation has taken other actions to deconstruct the cornerstones of democracy including, but not limited to, freedom of assembly, association, and speech; inclusiveness and equality; consent of the governed; and minority rights;

**WHEREAS**, in 2014 the Russian Federation unjustifiably and in violation of international law annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, which the United Nations has repeatedly found to be an illegitimate occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine;

**WHEREAS**, the recent unprovoked and brutal invasion and assault on the people of the sovereign Ukraine by the Russian Federation is an assault on humankind, a violation of international law, and has been denounced by the United States and many other countries, as well as by the United Nations;

**WHEREAS**, the egregious actions undertaken by the Russian Federation requires the County's termination of any relationship with the governments of the Moscow Region and Moscow City;

**WHEREAS**, Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 3.39 sets forth the adopted policy for Sister County commissions, affiliations with the Sister Cities International (SCI), and the procedures for terminating the relationship with the Sister County, and Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 1.1 reserves the right to the Board of Supervisors to vary from the policies when and if the Board deems such action necessary and in the best interests of the County;

//

//

**WHEREAS**, the Board seeks to continue to promote peace, to foster people-to-people connections, and to work together to build a united and peaceful global community, and directs the Commission to continue our decades-long partnership to promote, aide, and encourage diverse cultural, educational, and related exchanges with the people of the Moscow Region and Moscow City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board affirms its support for Santa Clara County’s Ukrainian and Russian families and their loved ones overseas, mourns the loss of life as a result of the Russian Federation’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, and recognizes a shared commitment to peace, love for our community, and love for humanity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, that:

1. The County of Santa Clara hereby condemns the Russian Federation for its deadly, unprovoked invasion and assault on the people of the sovereign country of Ukraine and calls for an immediate end to the war and attempted occupation of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and its partners.
2. The Sister County relationship between the County of Santa Clara and the governments of the Moscow Region and Moscow City, and administered by Sister Cities International, shall be terminated immediately. In accordance with section 1.1 of the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, the Board hereby waives procedures set forth in Board Policy section 3.39 for terminating a Sister County relationship because it is necessary to terminate the Sister County relationship immediately and is in the best interest of the County given the extraordinary circumstances brought on by the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//  
//

3. The County Executive, or designee, is delegated authority to take such other necessary and appropriate actions to sever the Sister County relationship.
4. The Commission is directed to focus its work to promote, aide, and encourage diverse cultural, educational, and related exchanges with the people of the Moscow Region and Moscow City.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on MAR 22 2022, by the following vote:

**CHAVEZ, ELLENBERG, LEE**  
AYES: **SIMITIAN, WASSERMAN**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

ABSTAIN: **NONE**



MIKE WASSERMAN, President  
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



TIFFANY LENNEAR  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



JAMES R. WILLIAMS  
County Counsel

2595987