

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Alison.Simard@lacity.org, (213) 473-7005/ (213) 505-7467 (c)

LA City Council Puts Forward Condemnation of Putin/Russian Invasion *But Urges Support of Local LA Russian Community*

March 1, 2022 – LOS ANGELES, CA – Today Councilmember Koretz was joined by several of his colleagues in introducing a resolution condemning President Vladimir Putin and Russia Federation for the invasion of Ukraine, calling it: “a tyrannical act, and violation of sovereignty and international law.” Joining a growing international uprising against the Russian government, including the historically-neutral Switzerland, the Council resolution, co-authored by Councilmembers Koretz, Martinez, De Leon, Rodriguez, and Raman, and seconded by O’Farrell and Buscaino, underlined the bravery of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the People of Ukraine for standing up to one of the world’s most powerful armies. The resolution was careful to acknowledge that the local Los Angeles Russian community and businesses should continue to be supported and celebrated, as its members should not be confused with the Russian leader.

“With the Russians marching on Kyiv, there is not a moment to lose,” said primary author of the resolution, **Councilmember Paul Koretz**, referring to the 40-mile long convoy en route to the Ukrainian capital city. “We must use every lever at our disposal, financial or otherwise, to tell Vladimir Putin this unprovoked invasion is unacceptable. Particularly after the past two years of COVID, the international community needs to work together to refresh and rebuild our economies, not attack and destroy. Putin must be stopped.”

The resolution also took aim at other countries and entities supporting the Russians, singling out Belarus, whose increasingly rogue President Alexander Lukashenko allowed Russia to amass its military hardware and launch an attack from the Belarusian border.

"What's happening in Ukraine right now is unacceptable and inhumane," said **Council President Nury Martinez**. "There are over half a million refugees who had to walk miles in the freezing cold, families have been separated and may never be reunited, and childhoods will forever be impacted by this senseless war. As a city, we are making it clear that we do not support this show of Russian aggression. Los Angeles stands with the Ukrainian people and supports the brave patriots who are currently standing their ground and defending their country.

“Russia’s unprovoked and unilateral assault against Ukraine represents an international threat beyond what we have witnessed since World War II,” **Councilmember Kevin de León**. No amount of Russian propaganda can remotely justify the graphic images of bombings said on innocent civilians the world sees coming out of Ukraine. These actions fall squarely on the shoulders of Vladimir Putin and the Russian oligarchs that have propped him up.”

“The City of Los Angeles stands with the brave people of Ukraine,” said **Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez**. “The Russian government’s unprovoked attack is an attack on democracy worldwide. We must stand together as a city, a nation and with the rest of the world to show solidarity in opposing unchecked, unmitigated power that has led to this act of military invasion of Ukraine.”

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Councilmember Paul Koretz
200 North Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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"Today, the Los Angeles City Council voted to unequivocally stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and to strongly condemn the murderous and unjustified invasion of a sovereign nation," said **Council President Pro Tempore Mitch O'Farrell**, who represents the 13th District and seconded the motion. "The culturally diverse 13th District is the proud home of several places of significance to the Ukrainian-American community, including the Ukrainian Cultural Center and the first Ukrainian Orthodox Church in California, both located in East Hollywood, and the golden-domed cathedral perched atop a hill in Echo Park. What is happening in Ukraine is an attack on democracies everywhere. We pray for peace and we demand an end to this barbaric aggression."

"Russia has continued to escalate its unprovoked attack - launching missiles at civilian targets, killing children, and threatening nuclear action. Meanwhile, average Ukrainian citizens have taken up arms and are using any means possible to halt Russia's invasion - from using tractors to steal tanks, making Molotov cocktails, altering highway signs, and creating improvised roadblocks," said **Councilmember Joe Buscaino** who seconded the motion. "Los Angeles stands with Ukraine and its citizens as they continue to valiantly fight for their freedom. This is truly a David versus Goliath fight and Los Angeles will do everything in its power to uphold the sovereignty of Ukraine and its people."

"We must not confuse the actions of this feckless thug with our friends and neighbors of Russian origin," **Councilmember Koretz** continued. "I urge Angelenos and all cities across the country to unite against this outrage."

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