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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB, MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF, VICE
MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, & COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE
GIBSON MCELHANEY

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT, IN
OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW
THE UNITED STATES FROM THE AGREEMENT, AND STATING THE
CITY OF OAKLAND'S COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS AND SPIRIT OF
THE AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE CITY'S ENERGY AND
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland wishes to ensure the survival and continued thriving of all who live and will live in our community, including non-human species for countless generations to come; and

WHEREAS, data from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that 16 of the warmest years on record have occurred since 2001, 2016 was the warmest year since direct record keeping began in 1880, and the earth's average surface temperature has increased 1.1 degrees Celsius since that time; and

WHEREAS, a clear consensus exists among the overwhelming majority of the world's climate scientists that global warming is unequivocally occurring, and that human activity is the dominant cause of our warming planet; and

WHEREAS, the documented impacts of global warming include, but are not limited to, increased occurrences of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and heatwaves, and adverse impacts on ecosystems, public health, demographic patterns and economic value chains; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, and academic leaders as a threat to humanity and the rich biodiversity of the planet, and one of the most significant problems facing the world today, as evidenced

by widespread impacts on economies, public health & safety, quality of life and the environment; and

WHEREAS, members of our community and others are already feeling the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, and other disruptions that affect our residents, economy, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) states that climate change is projected to have the following harmful effects on our city: rising Bay and Delta waters from ice melt, increased vulnerability to flood events, shrinking Sierra snowpack, increased wildfire danger, more extreme heat events with concomitant public health impacts, added stress on infrastructure, higher prices for food and fuels, and other ecological and quality of life impacts; and

WHEREAS, many of these harmful effects are already disproportionately affecting disadvantaged communities, particularly communities of color, and will intensify and continue to have even greater devastating impacts on those communities if we fail to take significant action to reduce our emissions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has been a leader in climate action and has established a mandate of statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction of 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 82129 C.M.S. approved by the Oakland City Council in 2009 established GHG reduction targets of 36% by 2020 and 83% by 2050, relative to a 2005 baseline; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce climate pollution have great potential to improve air quality, public health, energy security, and the health of local ecosystems, as well as overall climate resilience and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, The Paris Climate Agreement, adopted in Paris on December 12, 2015, marked the latest step in the evolution of the United Nations climate change regime and built on the work undertaken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which started in 1992 and included the Kyoto Protocol that was formally adopted in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement charts a new course in the global effort to combat climate change and resulted in a landmark commitment from 195 countries and other members of the UNFCCC representing 97% of the world's climate pollution to take action and enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to 1.5 degrees in the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States, responsible for 18% of the worldwide GHG emissions, is a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, the President initiated withdrawal of the United States from the Agreement, erroneously claiming that it disadvantages the United States, thereby breaking a promise to the people of the United States and the rest of the world and incurring ongoing global condemnation; and

WHEREAS, as of June 1, 2017, two hundred and forty-eight (248) mayors, including City of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, collectively representing more than 56 million Americans resolved to adopt, honor, and uphold their commitments to the goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, although the President has reneged on the federal government's responsibility to current and future generations to work with the rest of the world on combatting the global problem of climate change, the Mayor and this Council will continue to stand firm with cities, states, countries and sub-national governments, as well as other stakeholders throughout the world, to advance meaningful action in accordance with the goals and principles outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to reducing heat-trapping GHG emissions through continued implementation and forward-looking expansion of the City of Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan; and
2. Joins other U.S. cities in the Climate Mayors network in adopting and supporting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement; and
3. Calls upon all cities and states within the United States of America to adopt the goals and principles of the Paris Climate Agreement and join nearly every nation in the world in committing to reduce GHG emissions responsible for global climate change; and
4. Commits to exploring the potential benefits and costs of adopting policies and programs that promote the long-term goal of GHG emissions reduction while maximizing economic and social co-benefits of such action; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council (1) strongly condemns President Donald J. Trump's decision of June 1st, 2017 to initiate withdrawal of the United States of America from the Paris Climate Agreement, (2) admonishes President Trump for rejecting accepted peer-reviewed science, jeopardizing the health of our citizens and environment, harming our country's economic competitiveness, endangering our national security, and abdicating our country's leadership role in the world, and (3) states that willful ignorance by elected leaders of climate change is a stunning moral abdication of our responsibility to future generations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, United State Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, Governor Jerry Brown, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Governor's Association, the Chief Executive Officer of the National League of Cities, and the Executive Director of ICLEI USA—Local Governments for Sustainability.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California