

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE U.S. SENATE, TO EACH FLORIDA SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep the increase in global average temperature to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by climate change of approximately 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too warm as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of biological life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to climate change and ecological crises, and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition towards a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises; and

WHEREAS, in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions around the globe, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and other biological species, there must be emergency mobilization on scale not seen since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all; and

WHEREAS Just Transition strategies were first forged by a “blue-green” alliance of labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health, and the environment, while also providing just pathways for workers into new livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Just Transition initiatives shift the economy from fossil fuel energy to energy democracy, from funding highways to expanding public transit, from incinerations and landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from car-dependent sprawl and unbridled growth to smart urban development without displacement, and from rampant, destructive over-development to habitat and ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the “justice” component in Just Transition requires that frontline communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort at all levels of government, and that they benefit first from the transition to a renewably energy economy; and

WHEREAS, Just Transition framework includes a guarantee of high-paying, good-quality jobs with comprehensive benefits for all, and many other tenets of a Green New Deal effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the City is joining a nation-wide call for a regional Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization effort focused on transforming its region and rapidly catalyzing mobilization at all levels of government to prevent further climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the “City”) can act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed, and by catalyzing a unified regional Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, as such, the City commits to a citywide Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization efforts to reverse climate change, aiming, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the Miami-Dade County, State, and Federal authorities, to end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2020, to safely drawdown carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City further commits to educating its residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization effort on local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that residents of Miami Beach and community organizations, faith, youth, labor, academic institutions, homeowners associations, and

environmental, indigenous, and social justice organizations and other such allies will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, the City further commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to Just Transition and climate emergency mobilization efforts and inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby declare a Climate Emergency, urge the State of Florida and the U.S. government to declare a Climate Emergency, request regional collaboration on an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate, and direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, to each Florida Senator and Representative in the United States Congress, to the Mayor and members of the Commission of Miami-Dade County, to all municipalities within Miami-Dade County, and to all members of the South Florida Legislative Delegation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**

City Attorney

FA

10-7-19

Date