

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA ("CITY"), OPPOSING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT; REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENHANCE RESILIENCY; AND RESPECTFULLY URGING GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO JOIN THE GROWING LIST OF STATES SEEKING TO MEET OR EXCEED THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, climate change has been the focus of decades of intensive study by scientists worldwide, and has been internationally recognized as one of the earth's most critical problems; and

WHEREAS, at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference ("COP 21"), representatives from 195 countries around the world approved the text of a landmark agreement in Paris that requires long-term global efforts to address climate change by taking steps to avert and minimize the devastating effects of sea level rise by lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions ("Paris Climate Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, since the 2015 conference in Paris, 147 of the 197 parties to COP 21 (including the United States) have ratified the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement's central aim, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is "to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change"; and

WHEREAS, holding the increase in global average temperature to these levels would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, cities and urban areas are in a unique position to combat climate change, because cities and urban areas are responsible for producing 70% of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is an urban leader in addressing and responding to the actual and measurable impacts of sea level rise and other impacts of climate change by amending building and land development codes to increase resiliency standards, including without limitation (i) increased minimum height, open space, and landscape requirements, (ii) new electric vehicle parking requirements, and (iii) a groundbreaking requirement that new construction larger than 7,000 square feet and ground floor additions larger than 10,000 square feet must meet applicable LEED or International Living Future Institute standards, or pay a sustainability fee; and

WHEREAS, the City has committed to investing in stormwater infrastructure projects with an estimated value of \$400 million to reduce flooding in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken steps to aggressively address climate change and renewable energy, and to reduce our community's carbon emissions, by completing the City's first greenhouse gas inventory and providing a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residents and businesses; in addition, the City is in the process of setting greenhouse gas emissions targets and developing a climate action plan; and

WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming body of evidence on climate change and its threats to the environment and humanity, on June 1, 2017, U.S. President Donald J. Trump announced that he would withdraw the United States from participation in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the President's announcement, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach hereby commit to the policies, goals, and standards set forth in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, while acknowledging sea level rise, has not recognized the devastating impacts facing the State due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, in view of the unique vulnerability of the State of Florida to climate change and sea level rise as the nation's third-most populous state, with two-thirds of its nearly 20 million residents living in coastal communities, and due to Southeast Florida's porous limestone geology, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach respectfully urge Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature to join world and local leaders by recognizing and acknowledging global climate change as an immediate concern to the State and to take actions that will protect the people of Florida from the devastating impacts of global warming; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Mayor and City Commission respectfully urge Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature to join the growing list of states seeking to meet or exceed the goals set forth in the Paris Climate Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby oppose President Donald J. Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement; reaffirm the City's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impacts of human activities that contribute to climate change, and enhance resiliency; and respectfully urge Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature to join the growing list of states seeking to meet or exceed the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado
City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

Philip Levine
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

Just Sand for

City Attorney
NK
5-2-17

Date