

January 23, 2019

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and leading the region in addressing climate change and environmental efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas remains similarly committed to reducing emissions, improving regional air quality, and addressing the real consequences of climate change through local, state, and federal action; and

WHEREAS, climate change has the potential to lead to disruptions in the City of Dallas' operations and poses risk to infrastructure, built environment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arne Winguth (UT-Arlington) described our region's significant vulnerability to climate change-driven heat and flooding risks in *Climate Change/Extreme Weather Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure in Dallas and Tarrant Counties* (2015); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brian Stone (Georgia Tech) found that Dallas' significant urban heat island effect is amplified by climate change, and that Dallas is warming at a rate that is the third highest in the nation in a 2017 report for the Texas Trees Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth National Climate Assessment – released on November 23, 2018 and the work of over 300 scientists and 13 federal agencies – reports that climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities; and

WHEREAS, 72% of Dallas County residents support regulating CO₂ as a pollutant and 72% of Dallas County residents think that global warming will harm future generations (2016 Yale University community survey); and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is a climate leader in the region and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 68% from 1990 levels, consistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and Mayor Mike Rawlings' commitment to the Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to mitigate climate change can also have the effect of improving regional air quality and otherwise providing better quality of life for current and future generations of Dallas residents; and

WHEREAS, the *Resilient Dallas* plan, adopted by Dallas City Council on August 8, 2018, identified efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change as part of the strategy to make Dallas neighborhoods and our community thrive; and

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WHEREAS, the Dallas City Council directed the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability to begin a comprehensive environmental and climate action plan in FY18-19, and OEQS hosted the inaugural North Texas Climate Change Symposium on March 9, 2018, at the historic Belo Mansion in downtown Dallas; and

WHEREAS, the C40 Cities is a network of the world's largest cities committed to addressing climate change, and serves to connect 96 of the world's greatest cities to take bold climate action, leading the way towards a healthier and more sustainable future for the planet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas would benefit from joining C40 Cities because it is similarly committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a global phenomenon, and the City of Dallas cannot effectively mitigate climate change without legislation from the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and meaningfully on climate change in a manner that does not economically burden the City of Dallas or Dallas residents; and

WHEREAS, a carbon fee and dividend proposal as put forth by Citizen's Climate Lobby greatly helps to address climate change, protects Dallas residents from the effects of climate change, and is a net economic boost to Dallas residents.

Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability shall continue its efforts to develop a comprehensive environmental and climate action plan with goals that will ensure that the City of Dallas is addressing climate change in a manner that is effective and equitable.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager through the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability take actions necessary to join and participate in C40 Cities.

SECTION 3. That the City of Dallas urges the U.S. Congress to enact a carbon fee and dividend that benefits working families, significantly reduces emissions, and employs a carbon-content based border adjustment to protect the competitiveness of American businesses.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

