

CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO

RESOLUTION No. R17-11 CMS

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OBERLIN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DONALD J. TRUMP IN OPPOSITION TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, climate change is occurring, and human activities have been the dominant cause of observed warming; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC is concerned that widespread and substantial climate change impacts are already evident in natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stresses that all countries should accelerate the transition to net zero Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and climate resilience, as agreed in the Paris Climate Agreement, to avoid the worst impacts of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the UNFCCC urges developed countries to drastically reduce their GHG emissions beyond current pledges in order to avoid, as far as possible, the large-scale occurrence of negative consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is a landmark achievement in combating climate change and for multilateralism representing an ambitious, balanced, equitable and legally binding agreement; and

WHEREAS, data from both NASA and NOAA 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 that the earth's average surface temperature has increase 1.1° C since that time; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of all countries to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels does not guarantee that significant adverse impacts will be avoided; and

WHEREAS, the serious consequences of inaction are often irreversible and affect all regions around the world in different but highly damaging ways, resulting in migration flows and loss of lives, as well as economic, ecological and social losses; and

WHEREAS, reduced emissions of heat trapping gasses goes beyond CO₂ and must also consider shorter-lived climate pollutants including black carbon, hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs) and methane, to help slow the rapid rate of warming; and

WHEREAS, climate-related investments require a stable and predictable legal framework and clear policy signals; and

WHEREAS, research and innovation into climate change and adaptation policies, and into

resource-efficient and low-emission technologies, employs millions of Americans and is essential to addressing climate change in a cost-effective way, reduces dependence on fossil fuels, and should promote the use of secondary raw materials; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement lays a framework for broad-based pricing of carbon to be a globally applicable instrument for managing emissions and the allocation of emissions trading revenue to climate-related investments; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, responsible for 18% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, is a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement in solidarity with 195 countries representing 97% of the world's climate pollution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, five-sevenths (5/7ths) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Paris Climate Agreement represents a defining turning point in human civilization whereby countries recognize and accept the imperative of reducing heat trapping gas emissions. While not a "solution" to climate change, the agreement will help spur greater action by cities, states, provinces, companies, and financial institutions and to create a virtuous cycle of increased ambition over time.

SECTION 2. That the Oberlin City Council strongly condemns President Donald J. Trump's decision of June 1st, 2017 to withdraw the United States of America from the Paris Climate Agreement. Further, we admonish 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. The willful ignorance of climate change is a stunning moral abdication of responsibility to future generations.

SECTION 3. That the City of Oberlin stands in solidarity with all signatories to the Paris Climate Agreement and reaffirms our commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions below zero no later than 2050 as adopted in the 2013 Oberlin Climate Action Plan.

SECTION 4. That the Oberlin City Council calls upon all cities and states within the United States of America to adopt the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and join nearly all other nations in reducing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global climate change.

SECTION 5. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 6. That a copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States Senate Mike Pence, the President of the National League of Cities Matt Zone, the President of the United States Conference of Mayors Mick Cornett, the President of the National Governor's Association Terry McAuliffe, and the Secretary General of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Gino Van Begin.

SECTION 7. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for

the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the citizens of the City of Oberlin to wit: to authorize a resolution indicating the opinion of the Oberlin City Council on a matter of great importance to the citizens of the municipality in a timely manner”, and shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED: 1st Reading: June 5, 2017 (E)
2nd Reading: _____
3rd Reading: _____

ATTEST:



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL



RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 06/06/2017

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/05/2017