

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE U.S. MAYORS' NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA.

WHEREAS, scientific evidence is increasingly clear that human activities are largely responsible for the accelerating changes in the global climate; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses a major threat to the health and livelihood of American cities, with impacts as wide-ranging as increased flooding, drought, reduced water supply, fire, public health impacts, habitat loss, and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, climate change, if unchecked, will have mounting impacts on human health, natural systems, and infrastructure, creating new costs for individuals, businesses, and governments; and

WHEREAS, cities house more than half of the world's population and are responsible for more than 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities have a major impact on carbon emissions through land use planning, transportation systems, building codes, and city services like drinking water, street lights, wastewater treatment plants, and building energy use, and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables has taken a very proactive approach in planning for sea level rise including signing on as a municipal partner of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, developed LIDAR risk maps looking at critical infrastructure elevation that could be vulnerable to sea level rise to develop adaptation & mitigation strategies, conducting a community sea level rise assessment, installing tidal and sediment elevation gauges in the most vulnerable areas, partnered with the FIU Sea Level Rise Solutions Center to host a 3-part educational program, drafted a first-of-its-kind white paper that provides a comprehensive overview of the various sea level rise adaptation policy options available to the City and details key legal considerations and implications surrounding those various adaptation options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is committed to more sustainable practices and has begun to implement them to help mitigate the impact of climate change on present and future generations, such as regulating local business use of polystyrene containers and plastic bags, purchasing electric vehicles, replacing CFL light bulbs with LED, providing recycling bins in every office, and committing that all future public buildings are LEED silver; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables has taken a number of actions to reduce its operational impact on the environment through the development of its Sustainability Master Plan and 3-year Strategic Plan that sets preliminary goals of reducing energy and water consumption along with overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2025 and diverting single family residential and municipal operations solid waste by 75% by 2020; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accord to the detriment of local communities by eliminating realistic sustainable goals for the United States and neighboring nations that will impact future generations and weaken our global and economic leadership; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables supports the Paris Climate Accord and reaffirms its commitment to the goals outlined in the November 22nd open letter; recognizing that the effects of climate change - extreme storms, sea level rise, storm surge and coastal erosion to name a few - are a clear and present danger to American interests both at home and abroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. The City of Coral Gables supports of the Paris Climate Accord and reaffirming the City's commitment to the U.S. Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda.

SECTION 3. That said resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF JUNE, A.D., 2017

RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN