

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

NO. R-17-303

CITY HALL: June 15, 2017

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAMS, HEAD, GUIDRY, CANTRELL, RAMSEY,
BROSSETT AND GRAY**

WHEREAS, There is an international consensus that global climate change due to human activity is causing our planet to warm at an unsustainable rate; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans' geographical landscape and position make the city especially vulnerable to the ill effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Continued efforts to stop the rise of the global average temperature are needed to prevent a rise of two degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial global average temperature, a level which, if breached, is expected to result in catastrophic consequences including for New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, The current pace of climate change has prompted forecasts of increasingly irregular, severe, and lethal weather patterns, loss of life and land due to rising sea levels, threatening food and water supplies, and global safety, stability and peace; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama, on behalf of the United States, joined 194 other signatories to adopt the Paris Agreement by consensus on December 12, 2015 to embrace a roadmap for climate action that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, Actions to uphold the agreement and achieve the collective goal of the agreement are to be defined and implemented by each participating nation; and

WHEREAS, The United States pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 26% by 2025 from 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's announcement on June 1, 2017 of his decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement has disturbing implications for the spirit of international cooperation in pursuit of this goal as well as our international standing as a nation; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's controversial actions have had the unintended consequence of igniting a groundswell of support for the Paris agreement and an unprecedented depth of commitment to climate action, both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Despite President Trump's decision, cities, states, corporations and other entities in the private sector are committing to continue to work to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change; and

WHEREAS, This Council has made clear it is committed to achieving a sustainable, resilient future with reduced greenhouse gas emissions, through implementation of improved energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and investment in sustainable infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Backing out of the commitment put forth in the Paris Agreement will have devastating long-term effects on our residents, environment, wildlife, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans has an unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with domestic and international partners in resisting this potentially harmful decision; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the New Orleans City Council is committed to continue its efforts to mitigate carbon emissions through promoting and adopting achievable increased energy efficiency measures and use of renewable energy sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby declares its support of and joins with the growing coalition of leaders locally and around the world declaring their intent to continue to adhere to the Paris Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That pursuit and protection of sustainable development goals remains a top priority of this City, and this City Council wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the principles of the Paris Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Brossett, Cantrell, Gray, Guidry, Head, Ramsey - 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Williams - 1

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED
TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Lara W. Johnson
CLERK OF COUNCIL