

June 9, 2021

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 related environmental efforts; and

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

WHEREAS, the ecosystem services and direct environmental benefits that trees provide, along with the extent of the current urban canopy are quantified in *The State of the Dallas Urban Forest* Report completed in 2015 for the Texas Trees Foundation; 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 second only to Phoenix, Arizona, and that expanding the tree canopy is the most effective strategy available for heat management in Dallas in the 2017 Urban Heat Island Management Study for the Texas Trees Foundation; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 30929, the Landscape and Urban Forest Conservation Ordinance to add additional protection for trees within the urban forest canopy in Dallas, and including section 51.A-10.10.135 relative to developing and implementing an Urban Forest Master Plan to guide replanting efforts towards increasing overall canopy through Resolution No. 18-0977; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 30934, the City Park Land Dedication Ordinance that expands green space in the City of Dallas by requiring park dedication as a part of development planning efforts, through Resolution No. 18-0981; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2018, City Council adopted the *Resilient Dallas* plan, that 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 by Resolution No. 18-1026; 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. Chapter 23 (Great Southern Plains) identifies potential flooding, heat, drought, extreme temperature and storm events, and food supply risks for the region that includes North Texas; and

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WHEREAS, on January 23, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution calling for federal action on climate change and initiated local efforts to develop a comprehensive environmental and climate plan with goals that will ensure that the City of Dallas is addressing the environment and climate change in a manner that is effective and equitable through Resolution No. 19-0223; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, City Council unanimously adopted the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) consistent with Resolution No. 19-0223 and including actions supporting implementing an Urban Forest Master Plan outlined in Section 51.A-10.135 (h) (2) of the Tree and Landscape Ordinance (Article X) through Resolution No. 20-0688; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, City Council adopted revisions to the Landscape and Urban Forest Conservation Ordinance to allow purchase of trees for private residential property affected by a natural deforestation event impacting the urban forest canopy in Dallas through Resolution No. 20-1617; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to mitigate climate change, such as enhancing the urban tree canopy in Dallas can also have the effect of improving regional air quality, reducing urban watershed flood impacts and otherwise providing better quality of life for current and future generations of Dallas residents.

Now, Therefore,

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

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby authorizes the adoption of the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), and implementation of the UFMP, subject to annual appropriations.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager coordinate with the UFMP Staff Task Force to identify and convene an UFMP Citywide Task Force formed of a diverse and representative group of the external urban forest stakeholders, to support implementation of the UFMP, development and implementation of an Emerald Ash Borer Plan, evaluation of carbon credit programs available to the City, and other issues as they arrive. This UFMP Citywide Task Force shall be in place on, or before October 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager identify and convene an internal UFMP Staff Task Force formed of senior leadership from the city departments tasked with tree-related operations and maintenance. The UFMP Staff Task Force will be charged with implementing the UFMP as coordinated through the City Manager's Office. This internal UFMP Staff Task Force shall be in place on, or before June 1, 2021.

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SECTION 4. That the City Manager provide the regular reporting concerning progress on UFMP implementation to the Environment and Sustainability Committee or other designated City Council Committee through the Environmental Commission.

SECTION 5. 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.