

December 9, 2020

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 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. 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 City of Dallas is committed to energy efficiency and being a good steward of resources in the procurement of energy for municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to protecting its residents by reducing emissions, improving regional air quality, and addressing the real consequences of climate change; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2014, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 29307 adding Chapter 9C, "Carryout Bags" to the Dallas City Code to provide regulations for single-use and reuseable carryout bags, establishing fees to be collected from consumers who opted to use single-use bags, establishing the Carryout Bag fund and limiting such fees to be used for administration of the Carryout Bag program, and other environmental efforts by Resolution No. 14-0564; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2016, City Council adopted a resolution encouraging the State of Texas to explore changes that would promote "net metering" and the creation of distributed energy districts or additional programs to expand the use of solar power and other renewable green energy sources by Resolution No. 16-0974; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas achieved a 68% reduction of municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 levels by 2017, exceeding a strategic goal of 39% reduction; 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

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WHEREAS, the municipal emissions reductions were achieved in large part through the procurement of renewable energy, municipal energy efficient retrofit projects, and on-site renewable energy projects such as landfill gas capture at McCommas Bluff Landfill and co-generation of electricity at Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is the most populous municipality in the United States to use 100% renewable energy according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partnership Top 30 Local Government list dated February 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted the Landscape and Urban Forest Conservation Ordinance to add additional protection for trees within the urban forest canopy in Dallas through Resolution No. 18-0977; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted the City Park Land Dedication Ordinance (Dallas City Code 51A-4.1002), 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

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution calling for federal action on climate change and continued 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 April 10, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution committing the City of Dallas to clean and efficient energy use through the use of 100% renewable energy for municipal operations, evaluation of feasibility of implementing on- and off-site renewable energy projects at City and other properties, establishing a city-wide energy management system to benchmark municipal energy efficiency, and continuing to explore options to expand the renewable energy use beyond municipal operations in the Dallas community through Resolution No. 19-0484; and

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WHEREAS, on April 24, 2019, City Council adopted the Water Conservation Plan that outlines actions the City will take to reduce water demand and to conserve water, consistent with Texas regulatory requirements through Resolution No. 19-0497; and

WHEREAS, over the last year, the City of Dallas has engaged thousands of residents and businesses in all areas as it used best practices to develop a Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) consistent with Resolution No. 19-0223 and building on existing plans, and has engaged environmental advocates, the business sector, and any other interested parties with all meeting requests accepted; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, City Council unanimously adopted the CECAP directing the City Manager through the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, to coordinate City of Dallas initiatives and partnerships necessary to implement the actions and goals set forth in the CECAP, convene an Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee, towards implementation of a permanent board or commission, and provide annual reporting on progress towards meeting the goals and measurable targets set forth in this plan through Resolution No. 20-0688; and

WHEREAS, C40 Cities is an international organization that connects 96 of the worlds largest and most influential cities, whose mayors are committed to taking bold climate action to create a healthier and more sustainable future for all, by delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), with almost 1,000 cities/states/regions, and 8000+ global corporations disclosing their environmental data to CDP globally, brings expertise and relationships with an enormous breadth of global market actors and stakeholders with a strategic aim of working together to clearly demonstrate alignment with the Paris Agreement by delivering on science based targets; and

WHEREAS, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) a global, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)-led organization of over 200 forward thinking businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world, is working with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues, together leading the voice of business for sustainability: united by the vision of a world where more than 9 billion people are all living well and within the boundaries of our planet, by 2050; and

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WHEREAS, in recognition that cities like Dallas are developing bold, long-term strategies to address climate change, however, they cannot act alone and require considerable private sector support in order to achieve their climate goals, the C40 Cities, CDP, and WBCSD organizations have together formed the City-Business Climate Alliance (CBCA) as a joint initiative aimed at accelerating climate action through city-business collaboration. The CBCA has been designed as a global network of cities and businesses to create systemic change through joint climate action by working with local cohorts of cities, and by connecting new and existing local partnerships to a network providing peer-to-peer support and opportunities to collaborate with climate-engaged global businesses for joint advocacy and scaled-up action; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Eric Johnson signified the city's support of the City-Business Climate Alliance with a Letter of Intent on June 30, 2020, and as contemplated in the CECAP; and

WHEREAS, Dallas has been selected as one of eight initial cohort cities for the three-year program with the CBCA through advancing the CECAP with targets and commitments, political commitment to working with local business community and private stakeholders, the level of resources allocated to the initiative, existing business engagement initiatives, and interest in sharing knowledge and peer-to-peer exchange.

Now, Therefore,

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

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby authorizes City staff to engage with the City-Business Climate Alliance, in accordance with the Mayor's Letter of Intent dated June 30, 2020 and with the Dallas business community, to further the city's Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP) goals. The City-Business Climate Alliance is a global partnership supporting local development of effective city-business partnerships towards implementing their climate action plans, such as the CECAP.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager, through the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, coordinate applicable City of Dallas initiatives necessary to implement the CBCA actions and goals consistent with the CECAP, subject to annual appropriations.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager provide regular reporting on CBCA activities supporting CECAP implementation back to the Environment and Sustainability City Council Committee, or other appropriate City Council Committee.

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.