

Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

City Clerk File No. Res. 17-517

Agenda No. 10-Z-23

Approved: JUN 14 2017



TITLE:

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING JERSEY CITY'S COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

COUNCIL Offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in December 2015, 195 countries, including the United States, met in Paris to develop and commit to a comprehensive strategy to address climate change (the "Paris Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, strategies meant to reduce environmental pollution also have potential to improve air quality, public health, energy security, social equity, our local natural environment, and quality of life for our residents; and

WHEREAS, taking steps to increase energy efficiency and resilience can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jersey City has already taken a variety of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance quality of life in our community, including, but not limited to, maintaining certification as a Sustainable Jersey Community, establishing the Year of Water initiative in order to educate and empower residents about water-related environmental issues within the City, developing bicycle infrastructure, enhancing the pedestrian environment, supporting dense transit-oriented development, committing to planting 5,000 trees over the next five years, and adopting green building standards for municipal projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jersey City is in the process of adding a Resiliency Element, Adaptation Element, and Green Infrastructure Element to the City's Master Plan, and adopting changes to the City Code to make the City more resilient to future storm events and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's recent announcement that the United States of America will withdraw from the Paris Agreement undermines this critical global effort to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our world; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 mayors representing more than 40 million Americans have recently re-affirmed their cities' commitments to climate action; and

WHEREAS, the absence of federal leadership increases the importance of local leadership in avoiding the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change, especially in coastal cities like Jersey City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Jersey City commits to taking action to reduce environmental pollution by joining the Compact of Mayors and completing, within three years, an inventory of the City's climate emissions, establishing aggressive municipal and citywide GHG-emissions reduction goals and creating an action plan for implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Jersey City continues to support the principles of the Paris Agreement, and will continue to stand with cities and other public and private sector partners throughout the world to work towards the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM _____

APPROVED: _____

Business Administrator

Corporation Counsel

Certification Required

Not Required

APPROVED 9-0

| RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE 6.14.17 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|---------------|-----|-----|------|---------------|-----|-----|------|
| COUNCILPERSON | AYE | NAY | N.V. | COUNCILPERSON | AYE | NAY | N.V. | COUNCILPERSON | AYE | NAY | N.V. |
| GAJEWSKI | ✓ | | | YUN | ✓ | | | RIVERA | ✓ | | |
| GADSDEN | ✓ | | | OSBORNE | ✓ | | | WATTERMAN | ✓ | | |
| BOGGIANO | ✓ | | | ROBINSON | ✓ | | | LAVARRO, PRES | ✓ | | |

✓ Indicates Vote

N.V.-Not Voting (Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City N.J.

Rolando R. Lavarro, Jr., President of Council

Robert Byrne, City Clerk

RESOLUTION FACT SHEET -- NON-CONTRACTUAL

This summary sheet is to be attached to the front of any resolution that is submitted for Council consideration. Incomplete or vague fact sheets will be returned with the resolution.

Full Title of Ordinance/Resolution

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING JERSEY CITY'S COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Initiator

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Department/Division | Council Office | |
| Name/Title | Rolando Lavarro | Council President |
| Phone/email | (201) 547 5268 | RLavarro@jcnj.org |

Note: Initiator must be available by phone during agenda meeting (Wednesday prior to council meeting @ 4:00 p.m.)

Resolution Purpose

This resolution reaffirms Jersey City's commitment to environmental sustainability, citing specific examples of programs already in place, and committing to continue to adhere, to the extent possible, to the principles of the Paris Climate Accord of 2015.

I certify that all the facts presented herein are accurate.



Signature of Department Director

June 7, 2017 _____
Date