

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-31664

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY, AND APPROVING THE CITY'S JOINT EFFORT WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ACTION GOAL TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050.

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of biological life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep the increase in global average temperature to "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius"; and

WHEREAS, Special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that carbon dioxide emissions must be reduced by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050 in order to stabilize a 1.5 degree Celsius temperature increase to prevent disastrous effects on global climate, ecosystems, and human societies; and

WHEREAS, counties, cities and urban areas are in a unique position to combat climate change, because cities and urban areas are responsible for producing 70 percent of climate-changing greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions worldwide; and

WHEREAS, any and all efforts possible must be made to prevent a 1.5 degree Celsius increase in average global temperature, and cities must play a major role in reaching this goal; and

WHEREAS, holding the increase in global average temperature to these levels would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, by taking positive steps to reduce GHG emissions and otherwise mitigate the effects of climate change, cities can improve their quality of life, enhance their economic prosperity, and protect the livability of our cities; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the major role of cities and local governments in the mobilization to address climate change, the United Nations General Secretary recognized the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (formerly, the "Compact of Mayors") in September 2014 in New York; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami Beach (the "City"), and City of Miami, are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with highly likely predicted changes which include temperature increases throughout the year, greater likelihood of stronger and severe storms an extended drought, rising sea level and increased frequency, and severity of heat waves; and

WHEREAS, the City is an urban leader in addressing and responding to the actual and measurable impacts of climate change by amending building and land development codes to increase resiliency standards, including without limitation (i) increased open space, and landscape requirements, (ii) new electric vehicle parking requirements, and (iii) a groundbreaking requirement that new construction larger than 7, 000 square feet and ground floor additions larger than 10, 000 square feet must meet applicable LEED or International Living Future Institute standards, or pay a sustainability fee; and

WHEREAS, the City is reducing the risks from climate change through ambitious quality of life investments in public infrastructure improvements through neighborhood improvement projects that include road elevation, upgrading the stormwater, water and sewer infrastructure, blue and green infrastructure, shade trees, and improved mobility through walking and biking safety; and

WHEREAS, the City has already taken steps to aggressively address climate change and renewable energy, and to reduce our community' s carbon emissions, by completing an annual citywide and government operations GHG emissions inventory, streamlining the permitting process for solar installations, and providing a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program for residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2015, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2015-29156, joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and pledging to reduce GHG emissions, track progress towards GHG reduction goals, and enhance the City's resiliency to climate change; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2017-29872, supporting the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100%" campaign, which challenges cities across the United States to set a target of 100 percent clean, renewable energy, and supporting the Sierra Club's "Mayors for 100% Clean Energy" campaign; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-31040, declaring a Climate Emergency, urging the State of Florida and the U.S. government to declare a Climate Emergency, and requesting regional collaboration on an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-31575, endorsing several pledges (Under2 Coalition, United Nations (UN) Climate Change's Climate Neutral Now, and C40 Race to Zero) to further commit to GHG emissions reductions while planning for the challenges of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the City, along with Miami-Dade County and City of Miami, have a unique partnership referred to as Greater Miami and the Beaches and are implementing Resilient305, a shared resilience strategy to address resilience challenges prioritized through intergovernmental and community collaboration; and

WHEREAS, in order to benefit all communities within Miami-Dade County, we must maintain our commitment to climate action, climate resilience, and sustainability policies that address the specific experiences, vulnerabilities, and needs of the most vulnerable communities, by engaging such communities in climate mitigation and climate resilience planning; and

WHEREAS, actions to reduce community GHG also improve community resilience to climate disruption and provide multiple ancillary benefits such as reduced risk through a diversified energy portfolio, reduced air pollution and associated health benefits, and increased mobility choices; and

WHEREAS, the costs of addressing the climate crisis are far less than the costs of not addressing the climate crisis and that solving the crisis will take significant public investment, education, and commitment; and

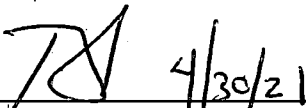
WHEREAS, as such, the City is developing a Climate Action Plan which includes guidelines for actions that should be implemented to reduce GHG emissions, and further sets short-term GHG emissions reduction targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of City of Miami Beach and City of Miami, to establish a climate action goal to achieve a net zero gas emissions by 2050.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby recognize the effects of climate change caused by human activity, and approve the City's joint effort with the City of Miami, Florida to establish a climate action goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 29 day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:

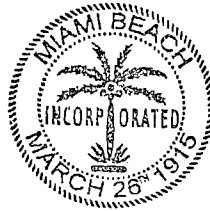


Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



Dan Gelber, Mayor

(sponsored by Vice-Mayor Michael Gongora
Co-sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)



**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**



City Attorney

4-13-21

Date

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Raul J. Aguila, Interim City Manager
DATE: April 29, 2021

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY, AND APPROVING THE CITY'S JOINT EFFORT WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ACTION GOAL TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami Beach, and City of Miami, are vulnerable to the effects of climate change given its geography and topography. Scientific models indicate highly likely predicted changes, including temperature increases throughout the years, greater likelihood of stronger and severe storms, an extended drought, rising sea level and increased frequency and severity of heat waves. The City of Miami Beach, along with Miami-Dade County and City of Miami, is implementing Resilient305, a shared strategy to address resilience challenges prioritized through intergovernmental and community collaboration.

To benefit all communities within Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, and City of Miami Beach must maintain their commitments to climate action, climate resilience, and sustainability policies. Actions to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions improve community resilience to climate disruption and provide multiple ancillary benefits such as reduced risk through a diversified energy portfolio, reduced air pollution and associated health benefits, and increased mobility choices.

The City of Miami Beach has an extensive legislative history of adopting policies that support community-wide GHG emissions reduction and is currently developing a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP includes guidelines to actions that should be implemented to reduce GHG emissions and further sets short-term GHG emissions reduction targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

On March 24, 2021, the Land Use and Sustainability Committee unanimously passed a motion supporting a resolution recognizing the effects of global warming caused by human activity and

establishing a climate action goal to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

ANALYSIS

As per the Paris Climate Agreement, to limit the adverse impacts of climate change, it is imperative that GHG emissions be reduced to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Furthermore, a special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that carbon dioxide emissions must be reduced by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 in order to stabilize a 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature increase to prevent disastrous effects on global climate, ecosystems, and human societies.

Cities and urban areas are in a unique position to combat climate change because they are responsible for producing 70% of climate changing GHG emissions worldwide. The County, City of Miami, and City of Miami Beach are using the same assumptions and shared data for their emissions inventories and forecasts. It is imperative to have cities and counties collaborating on their efforts to reduce GHG emissions and to set interim targets to be able to achieve aggressive long-term targets for GHG emissions reductions.

Through Resilient305, Miami Beach, together with City of Miami and Miami-Dade County, is identifying actions and complementary strategies, that will reduce emissions. Emissions reduction actions from Resilient305 focus on energy and water consumption in buildings (BE305 program), electrifying infrastructure and fleets, prioritizing alternative modes of transportation and evaluating actions on climate and energy justice. By working together and having a unified approach, the City of Miami and City of Miami Beach will accelerate and amplify their climate change mitigation actions.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

Less than half of Miami Beach residents are satisfied with the City's efforts to be a green or sustainable city. Reducing GHG emissions is an important step to increasing satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends the adoption of the Resolution.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Strategic Connection

Environment & Infrastructure - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and heat.

Legislative Tracking

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor

Vice-Mayor Michael Gongora and Co-sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Resolution