

## RESOLUTION NO. 170484

Reaffirming Kansas City's commitment to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change notwithstanding any withdrawal by the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement and directing the City Clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to other local, state, and national leaders.

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri (the "City"), desires to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who currently live, work, learn and play in our community, as well as for our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and that human activity, specifically the combustion of fossil fuels that result in greenhouse gas emissions, is an important driver; 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, and public health; and

WHEREAS, members of our community and others are already feeling the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, and other disruptions that affect our residents, economy, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts all residents and businesses, but communities that already face socioeconomic and health inequities, including our youth, the elderly, minority populations, and other low-income communities, will be the most severely impacted and require an investment in resilience that is proportionate to the threat; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce climate pollution also have the potential to improve air quality, public health, energy security, social equity, our natural environment, and the 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, increasing our long-term economic competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, the City has a legacy of demonstrated leadership against the threat of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Kansas City's Climate Protection Plan in July of 2008, outlining steps the City has committed to take in partnership with others to achieve our climate action goals; and

WHEREAS, the City remains committed to its adopted goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, both in municipal operations and citywide, 30% below year

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2000 levels by 2020, as well as an aspirational goal of reducing emissions 80% below year 2000 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City has already taken many important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the quality of life in our community, including energy efficiency improvements in municipal operations, installing solar panels on the rooftops of municipal buildings, launching a new streetcar, converting much of the City's municipal fleet away from continued use of gasoline and diesel fuel, hosting electric vehicle charging stations on City property, promoting neighborhood food production and urban agriculture, and incorporating green infrastructure into the City's Smart Sewer initiative; and

WHEREAS, the City was one of the first ten (10) cities in the U.S. to join the City Energy Project to promote benchmarking and energy efficiency improvements in public and private sector buildings across the City; and

WHEREAS, the City climbed eight (8) positions in the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard, up to 19th in the rankings of U.S. cities, and was highlighted as one of the most improved cities in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, three hundred twenty-five (325) mayors representing more than 62 million Americans, including Mayor Sly James, have recently re-affirmed their cities' commitments to climate action; and

WHEREAS, the City actively collaborates with other local governments throughout our region, state, nation, and the world to learn from each other and identify opportunities to take action on climate change while simultaneously creating measurable benefits in our communities; and

WHEREAS, one hundred ninety-five (195) countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate change in agreements reached in Paris, France, in December of 2015 (the "Paris Climate Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the lack of any American participation undermines this critical global effort to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our community and communities all across the one planet we all share; and

WHEREAS, focused local leadership is critical in avoiding the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change; and

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WHEREAS, the reality of climate change is not a political issue; it is a challenge to our societal consciousness that provides an opportunity for American cities to lead the way; and

WHEREAS, the City will continue to lead; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the City re-affirms its commitment to taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the goals in its previously adopted Kansas City Climate Protection Plan.

Section 2. That the City continues to support the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement and the participation of the United States as a party to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Section 3. That the City will continue to stand with other public and private sector partners throughout the world to advance action in accordance with the goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement.

Section 4. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation, the Missouri Municipal League, the Climate Mayors, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

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