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2005 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS ENVIRONMENT

ENDORING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sealevel rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to track progress and implementation of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting.

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U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**JULY 23, 2007**

Good evening Mayor, Council, Mr. Muehlenbeck and Ms. Wetherbee.

I was asked to provide information that relates to the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. It is my understanding the City of Plano has been asked to sign on to this agreement thereby endorsing its policies and philosophy.

First allow me to provide some background.

Scientific evidence and consensus strongly suggests that climate disruption (global rises in sea level, melting of polar ice caps, floods, erosion, heat and cold waves, drought and pollution to name a few) is an impending threat to communities in Texas, the country, and around the globe.

On February 15, 2005, 141 countries committed to strong policies and programs guided by the Kyoto Agreement – an international consortium intended to address climate disruption. The United States did not sign-on to the agreement.

Independent of Federal leadership, a number of Mayors from around the United States, elected to commit to Kyoto Protocol philosophy and practices. By May

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2005, more than 500 Mayors, marshaled by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, had committed to reducing climate disruption. In May of this year, 600 cities had signed-on. Sixteen cities in Texas have signed-on to participate in the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. These sixteen include Arlington, Austin, Dallas, San Antonio and others throughout the state.

In a nutshell, state and local governments throughout the country are adopting green and sustainable initiatives intended to reduce the human impact on climate. Many cities, including Plano, have already initiated programs to reduce global warming pollutants that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as lower energy bills, green and smart space development, transportation benefits, reduced traffic congestion and conservation. Many City of Plano departments, and especially with guidance from Nancy Nevil's group in Sustainability and Environment, have implemented initiatives in municipal buildings, in energy reduction, vehicle modification or green purchasing and construction.

If the city elects to sign-on to this agreement, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement contains 15 actions in 3 areas the city would commit or continue to undertake:

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- A) We would urge the federal and state governments to enact policies that would reduce global warming pollution by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 (5 years);
- B) We would urge Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes timetables and limits with market trading allowances;
- C) We would strive to meet Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking the following actions:
1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan. This would require purchase of specific software for the inventory and considerable staff time.
 2. Adopt and enforce land use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create compact, walkable urban communities.
 3. Promote alternative transportation using bicycles, trip reduction programs, car pooling and public transit.
 4. Increasing use of clean alternative energies.
 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building codes, retrofitting and energy conservation.
 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment.

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7. Practice and promote LEED programs.
8. Increase fleet fuel efficiencies.
9. Evaluating opportunities to increase pump efficiencies in water and wastewater systems.
10. Increase recycling rates.
11. Maintain urban forests, promote tree planting.
12. Educate the public about reducing global warming pollution.

If you choose to adopt the protocol, the next step would be to approve a resolution that endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, sign off on the agreement, forward it to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and implement specific strategies to address areas I have outlined.

Finally, adopting this protocol and agreement will commit substantive resources, time and staff, and if I was to be asked my opinion – I would simply say – it is the right thing to do for us, for our children and for the planet.

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ENDORISING THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date; 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

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WHEREAS, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, reads:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes
1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a

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- flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and

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12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

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