

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA ("BOARD"), OPPOSING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF 2015 ON CLIMATE CHANGE; REITERATING COMMITMENT TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS; RECOMMITTING TO THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT; SUPPORTING ACCELERATION OF CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY; DIRECTING STAFF TO EVALUATE, AND RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD, COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Nan H. Rich, Mayor Barbara Sharief, Commissioner Michael Udine, and Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness)

WHEREAS, Broward County has long acknowledged that global climate change, the sustainability of our environment and economy, and our quality of life are affected by greenhouse gas emissions reductions, renewable energy deployment, and adaptation and resilience measures as a part of national, state, and local strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida ("Board"), has a history of leadership on climate change initiatives, including the adoption of two (2) Countywide Climate Change Action Plans, the formation of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, and formal integration of climate change and sea level rise into County policy and planning; and

WHEREAS, Broward County's commitments have included support for the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2007, adoption of an emissions reduction goal of eighty percent (80%) below 2010 levels by 2050 in the 2015 Broward County Climate Change Action Plan and other documents, and resolutions of support in

1 2014 for President Obama's Climate Action Plan and the Clean Power Plan to reduce
2 emissions from existing power plants, among many others; and

3 WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement of 2015 was negotiated by representatives of
4 one hundred ninety-five (195) national parties at the 21st Conference of the United Nations
5 Framework Convention on Climate Change; and

6 WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement represents a significant step forward in global
7 climate action where, for the first time in history, nearly every nation—rich and poor,
8 developing and developed—participated in actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
9 in order to limit the global average temperature increase to well below two degrees (2°
10 Celsius, to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and to foster climate resilience
11 and low greenhouse gas emissions; and

12 WHEREAS, the U.S. Presidential Administration's decision last week to withdraw
13 the United States of America from the Paris Agreement reverses decades of American
14 diplomatic leadership, places our country on the wrong side of history, cedes the
15 development of a clean energy economy to China, Europe, and other nations, and raises
16 the potential for harm to the American people and economy by increasing the likelihood
17 of very costly, damaging climate impacts in the United States, including severe effects in
18 Broward County from flooding, beach erosion, extreme weather, and saltwater intrusion,
19 among other climate-related problems; and

20 WHEREAS, withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is just one of many recent
21 moves by the federal government to reverse previous Administrations' efforts to ensure
22 clean air and water, lower greenhouse gas emissions, diversify the energy supply,
23 increase efficiency of vehicles and appliances, and protect nationally-important
24 ecosystems; and

1 WHEREAS, Broward County recognizes the unique role of forward-thinking local,
2 state; and national governments in providing leadership on climate and energy issues,
3 the importance of a dual approach of reducing emissions and adapting to impacts to
4 achieving long-term climate resilience, and the need for significant and immediate
5 transformation of our energy sector; and

6 WHEREAS, Broward County acknowledges the many regional and international
7 efforts undertaken by local, state, and national governments, private sector entities, and
8 nonprofit organizations to pursue climate action consistent with the Paris Agreement,
9 despite the withdrawal of the U. S. federal government, NOW, THEREFORE,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
12 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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14 Section 1. The Board opposes withdrawal from the Paris Agreement by the
15 United States of America.

16 Section 2. The Board reiterates its previous commitments to reduce operational
17 and Countywide greenhouse gas emissions to at least eighty percent (80%) below 2010
18 levels by 2050.

19 Section 3. The Board recommits to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate
20 Change Compact and urges even closer regional collaboration with Palm Beach,
21 Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties, and other stakeholders.

22 Section 4. The Board supports acceleration of local and regional efforts to
23 advance clean energy resources and the transition to a clean energy economy.

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1 Section 5. The Board directs staff to evaluate regional and international
2 alliances pursuing climate action consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to
3 propose recommendations for County participation in such alliances to the Board for
4 consideration.

5 Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

6 This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

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8 ADOPTED this day , 2017.

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10 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
11 Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

12 By /s/ Michael C. Owens 06/05/17
13 Michael C. Owens (date)
14 Senior Assistant County Attorney

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06/05/17
Paris Agreement Resolution R01.doc
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